

On Jingzhou and Kingdom of Shu Han Regime

Tang Xinzhao

School of History and Culture, Sichuan University, Chengdu, Sichuan 61000

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Abstract: Possession of Jingzhou was originally the established policy of the Shu-Han dynasty group, that is, under the premise of uniting with the Sun-Wu group, the Cao-Wei regime was northern expedition from Jingzhou and Yizhou to achieve the goal of seizing the central plains and realize Liu Bei's Wang Ba career. However, for Liu Bei, the sun Wu clique headed by sun quan is not a reliable ally. For Jingzhou region, sun quan and his advisers are also salivating over it and have included possession of Jingzhou in their strategic plan. With the success of the Sunwu Group's attack on Jingzhou and the failure of Liu Beidong's conquest of Wu, the entire Shu-Han regime finally had to adjust its strategic objectives. From then on, it no longer needed to occupy Jingzhou, but was satisfied with its own occupation of Yizhou and took the northern expedition from Yizhou to the Cao-Wei regime.

1. Introduction

Possession of Jingzhou region was originally a strategic goal put forward by Zhuge Liang when he met Liu Bei in Longzhong in his early years. Therefore, Liu Bei Group actively occupied Jingzhou region after the Chibi War. After seizing Yizhou and Hanzhong, Liu Bei Group's strength also grew. However, with its ally Sun Quan backing the alliance and attacking Jingzhou, Liu Bei's power was damaged. After Liu Bei's failure and death in cutting Wu, Shu Han Dynasty gave up its possession of Jingzhou and repaired the alliance with Sun Quan. Looking at the academic research, most of them started from the point of view of criticizing the Shu-Han dynasty group. They believed that they could not effectively unite Sun Quan and lead to the fall of Jingzhou, so they could only send troops to the Northern Expedition from Yizhou. Therefore, they could not overthrow the Cao-Wei regime and made it difficult for them to take over the throne. Admittedly, this view has its rationality. However, from the perspective of documentary records and the political situation at that time, with the growing development of the "tripartite confrontation" situation, the ambition of the sun Wu group will inevitably expand, so that it covets Jingzhou region. In addition, the counsellors within the Shu-Han dynasty group also voiced their opinion of giving up possession of Jingzhou. Therefore, from the perspective of literature research, this paper discusses the dispute between Sun and Liu over Jingzhou, in order to seek advice from the academic community.

2. Liu Bei Group's Demand and Possession of Jingzhou

In his early years, Liu Bei lived a life of dependency and exile. Under the background of the tangled warfare among warlords in the late Eastern Han Dynasty, Liu Bei was a weak warlord. His life began to change only after he met Zhuge Liang in Longzhong during his official career in Jingzhou. This is how the famous decision of "Long Zhong Dui" was born and became the strategic plan of Liu Bei Group to seize the world. "Three Kingdoms, Shu Book zhuge liang biography" records: "Zhuge Liang replied: '.....Jingzhou depends on Han River and Mianshui River in the north, and supplies can be obtained all the way to the South China Sea. It is connected to Wu County and Huiji County in the east, and connected to Ba County and Shu County in the west. This is the place everyone wants to compete for, but its owner has no ability to hold on to it. This is probably the reason why Heaven used it to subsidize the generals.....If we can occupy Jingzhou and Yizhou, hold

on to the dangerous places, make peace with the various ethnic groups in the west, appease the ethnic groups in the south, unite with Sun Quan externally and reform politics internally. Once the world situation has changed, send a general to lead Jingzhou's army to the central plains. General, you personally lead Yizhou's army to attack from Qinchuan.....If this can be done, then the cause of hegemony can be successful and the Han Dynasty can be revived".

It can be seen from this that after Zhuge Liang joined the camp of Liu Bei group, under his planning, Liu Bei group began to define its own goals, namely, to occupy Jingzhou and Yizhou, to form an alliance with sun quan in Jiangdong, to jointly fight against Cao Cao, and then to choose the right opportunity to send troops from Jingzhou and Yizhou to attack Cao Cao group in order to realize hegemony. "Records of the Three Kingdoms, Shu Book, Zhu Geliang Biography: Hearing this, Liu Bei said, "You spoke well!" As a result, Liu Bei and Zhuge Liang became more and more friendly, getting closer day by day. Guan Yu, Zhang Fei and others were not happy. Liu Bei comforted them and said, "I have kongming, just like fish have water. I hope you don't complain any more." Guan Yu and Zhang Fei stopped their disgruntled words and deeds. From the records in the literature, it can be seen that Zhuge Liang's strategy was praised by Liu Bei and Zhuge Liang himself was appreciated by Liu Bei. Then, there is no doubt that Zhuge Liang's strategy of "Long Zhong Dui" has naturally become the strategic plan for Liu Bei Group to grow stronger.

Therefore, under the background of Liu Biao's death and Cao Cao's invasion of Jingxiang region, Liu Bei followed Zhuge Liang's advice and became an ally with sun quan in Jiangdong. Sun Liulian's defeat of Cao Cao in the battle of Chibi temporarily relieved Cao Cao's military threat, which gave Liu Bei the chance to win the Wuling, Changsha, Guiyang and Lingling counties in Jingzhou region, and also obtained the Nanjun County from sun quan. This enabled Liu Bei to occupy most of Jingzhou, and since then he has his own foothold. The goals in the strategy of "Long Zhong Dui" have begun to be initially realized.

However, when Liu Bei obtained the profit, sun quan began to demand Jingzhou from Liu Bei, and Liu Bei refused it by delaying, "the biography of the three kingdoms, Wu Book and Lu su" recorded: "After Liu Bei pacified Yizhou, Sun Quan asked him to return Changsha, Lingling and Guiyang counties. Liu Bei did not answer this request." From the point of literature, sun quan did not ask Liu Bei for the whole Jingzhou, but only some parts of it. so, what was Liu Bei's reaction, as recorded in the biography of Liu Bei, the book of the three kingdoms, Shu Book : "Liu Bei said: "If you want Liangzhou, you must exchange Jingzhou." What is Sun Quan's reaction to this? "Three Kingdoms, Wu Book, Wu Guojun Biography" records:Sun Quan said: "This is to borrow but not return, and to stall for time with empty words." So he set up prefects of three counties in the south of Jingzhou, and Guan Yu turned them all out. Sun Quan was furious and sent Lu Meng to command Xian Yu Dan, Xu Zhong, Sun Gui and other soldiers to lead 20,000 troops to capture Changsha, Lingling and Guiyang counties. Lu Su was sent to garrison Baqiu with 10,000 troops to defend Guan Yu.

It can be seen from this that after the Red Cliff War, with Cao Cao's military threat to Sun Quan gradually decreasing, Sun Quan also began to show his ambition for Jingzhou, occupying the strategic position of Jingzhou, which was also a major strategy of Sun Wu Group. As early as Lu Su saw Sun Quan in his early years, he had proposed to Sun Quan that he should occupy Jingzhou occupied by Liu Biao, so as to dominate the Yangtze River and realize the imperial occupation. "Three Kingdoms, Wu Book, Lu Su biography" records: "Lu Su replied: The Han court cannot be revived, nor can Cao Cao be removed at once.....Because the north is a troubled time. You just took advantage of this change to wipe out Huang Zu, invade Liu Biao, try your best to occupy all the places south of the Yangtze River, and then proclaimed himself emperor to build a name so as to capture the world. This is the great cause of building with the Emperor Gaozu of the Han Dynasty. "Therefore, taking Jingzhou was also a strategic goal of the sun Wu group. When Cao Cao's threat was too great, sun quan had to give up Jingzhou area to Liu Bei to resist Cao Cao in order to prevent the east and west from being attacked. Therefore, the sun Liu alliance would be more stable. However, as Cao Cao's military threat to sun quan decreased and Liu Bei strengthened his own power by gaining profit, sun quan began to ask Liu Bei for the three counties of Jingzhou, but sun quan did not ask for all of Jingzhou, which indicated that Cao Cao's threat still existed at this time. Therefore, sun

quan did not dare to let the sun-Liu alliance break down completely. But when Sun Quan was rejected by Liu Bei, the two sides began to fight each other. This also shows in fact that Liu Bei will never give up Jingzhou. Possession of Jingzhou was originally an established strategy of Liu Bei Group, serving its Northern Expedition and unifying the world. The result of the battle for Jingzhou between the Sun and Liu families was that Cao Cao forced the surrender of Zhang Lu in Hanzhong and the opportunity to forge ahead in the northern part of Yizhou, forcing Liu Bei to compromise with Sun Quan. "Three Kingdoms, Wu Book, Wu Guojun Biography" records: "When Cao Cao marched into Hanzhong, Liu Bei was afraid of losing the profit, so he sent an envoy to make peace with sun quan. Sun Quan sent Zhu Gejin to pay a return visit. The two countries forged a new alliance and split Jingzhou equally. Areas east of Changsha, Jiangxia and Guiyang belonged to Sun Quan, while areas west of Nanjun, Lingling and Wuling belonged to Liu Bei." After the "demarcation of Xiang River", the Sun and Liu families divided Jingzhou equally to ease the contradiction. Later, Liu Bei led his army to fight Cao Cao in Hanzhong. Liu Bei defeated Cao Cao, gained Hanzhong, and named himself the "King of Hanzhong".

It can be seen from this that the Jingzhou region will not give up on Liu Bei lightly. Therefore, Liu Bei refused even Sun Quan's demand for some counties and counties in Jingzhou, even though he did not hesitate to fight Sun Quan's troops. However, as Cao Cao's army moved south and threatened Liu Bei's profit region, Liu Bei was forced to compromise with sun quan, and the two families were able to divide Jingzhou equally. Then it can be seen that, for Liu Bei, the profit is Liu Bei's core interest area. If the profit is lost, Liu Bei will find it difficult to gain a foothold in the "tripartite confrontation" situation, thus forcing Liu Bei to compromise with Sun Quan. However, this compromise did not make Liu Bei completely lose Jingzhou, and Liu Bei won the battle of Hanzhong and captured the Hanzhong area. For Liu Bei, Hanzhong is not only the northern barrier of profit, but also an important place for Liu Bei's northern expedition to send troops to Cao Cao. for the importance of Hanzhong, the book of the three kingdoms, Shu Book fa Zheng Biography, recorded fa Zheng's suggestion for Liu Bei to seize Hanzhong: "Fa Zheng urged Liu Bei to say:When we defeat them, we will develop agriculture, accumulate grain and look for opportunities to wipe out the enemy and respect the royal family. We will gradually seize Yongzhou and Liangzhou, expand our territory, and then we will stick to the strategic position and make long-term plans." After Liu Bei got Hanzhong, he quickly became the king of Hanzhong. It can be seen that for the long Zhong Dui strategy put forward by Zhuge Liang, the focus of the expedition is to attack Qinchuan from Yizhou, while the northern expedition to Caowei from Jingzhou is to cooperate with the northern expedition to Caocao from Yizhou. Therefore, for Liu Bei and the whole Shuhan Dynasty Group, Yizhou is its core interest area.

3. Sun Wu's Ambition to Jingzhou and Sun Liu's Game

Although the two Sun and Liu families split the Jingzhou area equally through the "demarcation of the Xiang River", this did not completely ease the contradiction between the two Sun and Liu families. On the contrary, Liu Bei's group occupies the three counties of Jingzhou in the west with the south county as the center, and is located in the upper reaches of sun quan's group, which makes sun quan's group feel the threat all the time. "Three Kingdoms, Wu Book, Lv Meng biography" records: "After Lu su's death, Lu Meng stationed at Lu kou in the west. Lu su's troops numbered more than 10,000, all under Lu Meng's command.....Adjacent to Guan Yu's area of jurisdiction, Lü Meng knew Guan Yu was good at fighting and had always wanted to annex the kingdom of Wu. Moreover, he was stationed in the upper reaches of the kingdom of Wu and would certainly not last long." Moreover, in the long-term game between Sun Quan and Cao Cao, Sun Quan and his advisers also discovered that the north was not profitable and turned their goal to Liu Bei. Three Kingdoms, Wu Book, Lv Meng biography" records: "Lv Meng answered and said: Cao Cao is far away in Hebei ... now that you have Xuzhou, Cao Cao will definitely come to compete with you in half a month. Although you use 70,000 to 80,000 troops to guard, you still need to worry. It is better to attack Guan Yu and occupy all of the Yangtze River. This situation is more favorable to you. Sun Quan thinks this is very true. " Therefore, when Guan Yu attacked Xiangfan area under the control of Cao Wei regime in the 24th year of Jian

'an, Sun Quan did not hesitate to back the alliance and turned to the Cao Wei group, and ordered Lu Meng to send troops to attack the three counties in western Jingzhou and capture Guan Yu. Since then, Sun Quan claimed vassal status to Cao Cao and his son Cao Pi, which eventually led to the breakdown of the Sun-Liu alliance. For Sun Quan, after taking possession of the three counties of Jingzhou, which belonged to Liu Bei, he finally relieved his inner worries about Liu Bei and Guan Yu and temporarily gave up his ambition for the northern region, allowing him to separate the Yangtze River to become his own ruler.

However, Sun Quan's move undoubtedly angered Liu Bei, and also angered most of Liu Bei's advisers. To Liu Bei's group, it was a blatant betrayal of the alliance and a naked provocation. It should be noted that many of Liu Bei's advisers are Jingzhou scholars, who, like Liu Bei, cannot tolerate Sun Quan's alliance. Zhu Shaohou pointed out in his article "On the War of Yiling in Wu Shu": "Specific to Liu Bei's Crusades, Jingzhou scholars are undoubtedly support him. This is not difficult to understand, because the loss of Jingzhou means, first of all, the loss of their native land and, secondly, the separation of their home and country. Liu Bei came to Shu with a Jingzhou army and they were in the same situation." Therefore, Liu Bei did not hesitate to send troops to the east to fight for Jingzhou with Sun Quan, so Liu Bei was able to lead tens of thousands of troops and share the same hatred. "Records of the Three Kingdoms, Shu Book, Biography of the First Ruler" record: "Sun Quan sent messengers to ask for peace. The first Lord refused in great anger. Wu sent Lu Yi, Li Yi and Liu A to garrison Wuxian and Zigui. Shu sent Wu Ban and Feng Xi from Wuxian to defeat Li Yi and others and march to Zigui. The Wuxi Mang tribe in Wuling County sent messengers to ask for troops."

However, the army of the East Crusades, who are united in their enemies, did not take the initiative in the war. In the ensuing stalemate, Liu Bei was unable to conquer the stronghold of Wu Jun. The commander in chief of the Sun Wu Group, Tracing the cause, also understood Liu Bei's purpose in this crusade, which was to capture Jingzhou. According to Records of the Three Kingdoms, Biography of Wu Book and Lu Xun, In the battle of Yiling between the two sides, "Lu Xun said: 'Yiling is very important and is related to national security. Although it is easy to obtain, it is also easy to lose. If it is lost, Jingzhou will not be safe.' The result of the stalemate was Lu Xun's crushing defeat of Liu Bei, which is recorded in the Biography of Lu Xun, the Book of Three Kingdoms. "Chop the heads of Zhang Nan, Feng Xi and Hu Wang Sha Moke, and break up the remaining 40 camps ... fall to pieces, with tens of thousands of dead."

The battle between Sun and Liu for Jingzhou ended with Sun Quan's victory and Liu Bei's defeat. However, the contradiction between the Sun Wu Group and the Cao Wei Group gradually escalated and intensified, resulting in opposing armies. This in turn helped Sun Quan and Liu Bei's son, the Shu Han Dynasty Group, to mend their alliance and played a promoting role.

4. Shu Han Dynasty Group's Abandonment of Jingzhou

After the defeat of Yiling, Liu Bei did not retreat to Chengdu, but to Baidi City, which made Sun Quan feel very panic. Liu Bei refused to return to the capital of Yizhou, which frightened Sun Quan for a reason. On the one hand, Sun Quan and Cao Cao's successor Cao Pi began to make enemies at this time. On the other hand, Sun Quan was also afraid that Liu Bei would take this opportunity to attack again, so he had to ask Liu Bei to make peace with him. It was recorded in "Records of the Three Kingdoms, Shu Book and Biography of Liu Bei": "Sun Quan was very frightened when he heard that his predecessor was stationed in Baidi City. He sent messengers to demand peace. Liu Bei allowed peace and sent Taizhong doctor Zong Wei to discuss and complete the mission. "Liu Bei agreed to Sun Quan's request for peace. On the one hand, Liu Bei was defeated in Yiling and was unable to continue the Crusades. At the same time, Liu Bei also began to realize that it was impossible to retake Jingzhou. The immediate priority was to keep the profit and prevent Sun Quan's ambition to attack the profit. Therefore, Liu Bei would stay in Baidicheng and force Sun Quan to ask for peace.

As a matter of fact, some people in the Liu Bei clique have objected to the long-term occupation of Jingzhou region, including Pang Tong. In the book of the Three Kingdoms, Shu Shu, ·Biography of

pangtong, Pei Songzhi quoted from *Kyushu Spring and Autumn Annals*: "Pang Tong persuaded Liu Bei: 'Jingzhou is devastated and its characters are exhausted. There are Sun Wu in the east and Cao Shi in the north. The plan to form a tripartite confrontation is difficult to realize. Pang Tong realized that taking possession of Jingzhou under the premise of "three pillars" would expose Liu Bei to double pressure from Cao Cao in the north and Sun Quan in the east, so he suggested Liu Bei to give up Jingzhou and rely on the profit to seize the world. When Liu Bei wanted to invade Sun Quan, Zhao Yun also advised Liu Bei not to fight with Sun Quan. "According to Pei Songzhi's Annotation and Quotation of "The Biography of Yun Bie" in "Records of Three Kingdoms, Shu Shu and Zhao Yun Biography": "Zhaoyun persuaded:.....Now it is time to fight against rebellion by occupying the upper reaches of the Yellow River and Weishui according to the wishes of the soldiers ... We should not put Wei aside and go to war with Soochow first."Zhaoyun against liu bei's crusade, in fact, is also against liu bei took jingzhou.

With the success of Sun Quan's peace invitation and the death of Liu Bei, after Liu Chan acceded to the throne, Zhuge Liang sent Deng Zhi to visit Sun Wu and repaired the relationship with Sun Quan, eventually bringing the Sun and Liu families back into alliance. However, even so, the Shu-Han regime did not ask Sun Wu Group for Jingzhou any more, even for the former three counties of Jingzhou, which belonged to the west, it gave up.

5. Summary

Jingzhou is a strategic place for Liu Bei Group. In its early strategic planning, Jingzhou was regarded as an important base for Cao Cao in the Northern Expedition. However, Jingzhou is also a piece of fat meat in the eyes of its ally sun quan, so when Cao Cao's military threat was reduced, sun quan and Liu Bei started a competition for Jingzhou, which eventually led to the loss of Jingzhou by Liu Bei group. Therefore, Guan Yu cannot be blamed for the loss of Jingzhou, nor can Liu Bei and Zhuge Liang be excessively blamed for not paying attention to uniting sun quan.

After Liu Chan, son of Liu Bei, acceded to the throne, the Shu-Han Dynasty Group gave up Jingzhou on its own initiative in view of the high cost and risk of running Jingzhou. From then on, relying on Yizhou, it actively dispatched troops from Hanzhong and launched the Northern Expedition with the goal of seizing the Guanzhong area under the control of Cao Wei Group. At the same time, the rapprochement between the Shu-Han dynasty group and sun quan also enabled it to avoid the threat from sun quan in the east during the later northern expedition, thus reassuring the Cao-Wei group in the northern expedition.

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