

The Sprout of Foreign Contact Reflected in "*The Secret History of Mongolia*"

The Contact with Other Tribes and Neighboring Countries

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Abstract—In the Mongolian classical literature "*the secret history of Mongolia*", it can learn about the sprout of foreign relations in the original Mongolia tribes - and other tribes, the contact between the neighboring countries was the main clue to the diplomacy during this period. Among it, the people who have served as the bridge and bond between the tribes and the countries was the "*Elechi*" envoy.

Keywords—*the history of Mongolia; foreign relations; Elechi*

I. INTRODUCTION

Human beings are the social group, and their diplomatic activities have a long history. Some people consider that there was a sprout of diplomacy before the country was born.

British diplomats Harold · Nixon considered that: if the diplomatic is regarded as the normal behavior of dealing with relationship between a group of people and another group of people, it has existed before the human has history [] In the primitive societies of human childhood, it had some form of communication and negotiation among the tribes. From the history of written records, it can be known that Yao, the ancient Chinese tribal leader had met the special envoys of the neighboring countries. Through the discovery of archaeology, we can know that there is also a cultural exchange and interaction between the relatively remote tribes.

II. "THE SECRET HISTORY OF MONGOLIA" AND THE NAME OF "ELECHI"

"The secret history of Mongolia" is known as the classical document of the Mongolian Nationality, is an important source for researching Mongolian historical culture. The information about the early foreign contact in Mongolia is limited, and the information we can rely on is mainly the "*The secret history of Mongolia*", which is a vivid picture of Mongolian early society which draws the outline of the way of thinking, communication standard, social criterion, and way of life of the people of Mongolian, and also provides the most solid materials for us with reviewing

relevant Mongolian tribes foreign relations. In many historical books, the only book which was written in the thinking of Mongolian language is "*the secret history of Mongolia*", which is not only describing the early Mongolian prairie social life style of the heroic epic, but also we know that the original data of the foreign relation activity in that time. If we trace the origin of the origin of foreign relations in Mongol-Yuan period, we must begin with the relevant records and narration in "*the secret history of Mongolia*". "*The secret history of Mongolia*" described the origin of the Mongols in detail, the story of Lord Genghis khan and Cuy kaan period, and the establishment of the Mongol khanate, the unity of the Mongolian and the process of foreign conquest and social life customs and etc., is the real reflection of the early Mongolian society. in book, it in detail recorded the external contact of Mongolian with the outside world, at that time, the most prominent performance was to communicate their own thoughts, intentions, to coordinate the relationship between the tribes, and those who passed the thoughts and intentions were called " Elechi ", " messenger", "informer". In the language of the northern nomadic people in China,, the vocabulary of envoy and emissary has existed in the early time. "*The secret history of Mongolia*" is the earliest record the most trusted information on the foreign contact of Mongolia tribe to dispatch "*Elechi*". "*Elechi*" is the generic term of representative personage of the foreign contact of Mongolian tribes. The envoys in "*the secret history of Mongolia*" and other relevant Mongolian foreign relations, the envoys were named as "*Yilizhi*" or "*Elichen*" and etc. In today Mongolian language, it is also to name it to the representative personage of foreign contact. According to "*dictionary of Chinese history*", the entry "*Yilizhi*" in Mongol a dictionary means envoy. "*Elichen*" is recorded in "*The Secret History of Mongols*", and *Yilizhi* is recorded in "*history of Jin*" [2]. The word of "*Elichen*" is likely early originated from Turki language, and later was specially referring to envoy or emissary. In "*the secret history of Mongolia*", the site translation of the "*Elechi*" is envoy, which can see that as the word of envoy, this words is relatively standard in the pronunciation of Chinese characters

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III. "ELECHI" RECORDED IN "THE SECRET HISTORY OF MONGOLIA"

In "the history of Mongolia", Elechi was appearing in the various kinds of external affairs of Mongolian tribes. In Section 53 of "the secret history of Mongolia", it recorded that when the leader of Mongolian Tribe. Anbahai Hehan was caught by Tataer people with plot and was dispatched to the emperor place of Jin dynasty. Before putting to execution, Anbahai Hehan dispatched Biesutishi people, Bacihechi as the envoy. To pass on a message to Hutuci who is one among the seven sons of hābūlēhēhān Habule Hehan and said to his son, Hedaan: Even the five fingers of you are all bald and even the ten fingers of you are all worn, you have to revenge for me! [3]. This is the earliest record about "Elechi" in "the Secret History of the Mongols", which recorded that one of task envoy task of Bacihechi was that before Anbahai khan dead, he conveys the news for Anbahai khan, and informed the words of the deceased to Hutuci khan and hedaan. It was also the first book which recorded the diplomatic relations and dispatching envoy between the Mongol tribes and the Jin dynasty. Also, because the this event made Mongol tribes and Tataer bribe becoming family feud, and due to Tata tribe son tribal had powerful strength and was dependent on Jin dynasty government as the backup force, and the strength of Mongolian tribes was relatively weak, so did not beat Tataer, and paid off old scores for Anbahai khan. In Section 105, after Beertie was captured by Merkit people, Genghis Khan dispatched two persons of Hesar, Bielegeta to the place of Zhamuhe to seek the assistance. In Section 110, Temujin dispatched the person to say to the Tuowolin khan, Zhamuheanda: I have found out the the people I wanted to find, we are not needing to travel at double speed, we pitched a camp here" and in Section 126, when Jenghiz Khan was crowned as the khan of the supreme ruler, he dispatched two persons of Dahai, Suhe as the envoy to inform Tuowolinle khan of Kelieyiti. In Section 127, [Genghis khan] dispatched two persons of Aerhai · Hesaer, Chawuerhan as the envoy, to inform Zhamuhe. At that time, Mongolia tribe had not created words, so all relation between the tribes should be coordinate, with unified action, to notice that the affair department of all prairie tribes must dispatch the specially-assigned person to the various places to convey information in oral way. In Section 132, Genghis khan had a conflict with the Zhuerqinshi People. Afterwards, Zhuerqinshi people actively asked negotiation, then returned two captured men of Kendun, and the two parties exchanged envoys. It can be seen that "Elechi" is the main role the negotiation mechanism of the settlement between the various parts of the prairie[4].In Section 133, after Genghis khan knew the message that Jin dynasty would attack Tataer people, dispatched the "Elechi" "to Tuowolinle khan department to liaison about allied assault Tataer people and then dispatched an envoy to Tuowolinle khan department and the envoy said that: "It is said that the king of Jin dynasty, Wang Jing prime minister will come to Suwolezha river, to attack Tataer people Mieguzhen · Xuewuletu. We're going to attack the Tartar people who killed our fathers! Tuowolinle khan father please come quickly!" After contacting Tuowolinle khan, two persons of Genghis khan, Tuowolinle khan also dispatched people to Xueche · Bie and

Tai Chu and Zhuerqin people said: Tartar people previously killed our father, and now let's take this opportunity together to dispatch troops to attack them! "Here, "Elechi" has the function on behalf of this tribal chief to unify the action with other tribes. In Section 151, due to impoverishment, Wang Han defected Genghis khan and to dispatch two persons of Tahai · Baatuer, and Sukegai · Zhewen as the envoy to go the [meet him], Genghis khan also from Kelulian river headwater to meet him in person. "For the allies who previously have favor to Mongolian tribes, Genghis khan not only dispatched people to meet them, but also went to meet them in person. In Section 153, Genghis khan due to postwar, the three persons of Aletan, Huchaer, Dalita did not abide by the agreed military order, (Genghis khan) dispatched two persons of Zhebe, Hubilai to all confiscate the grazed property, herd horse and etc. "Here, Genghis khan specially appointed Hubilai as "Elechi" to represent him to punish the people who violated the military discipline, to purge military discipline, and dispatch people to punish the internal high-ranking military officer who did not conform to the military orders, reorganized the military discipline, set up the stateliness, that was the important function of the envoy. In Section 163, Wang Han dispatched envoy to ask Genghis khan to rescue him: after getting pillaged by Kexuewu Sabu Lahei, Wang Han dispatched envoy to say to Genghis khan: "Our people, population, wife, son are captured by the headhunter. I asked my son to dispatch your four heroes to save our people and population!". It is recorded that Wang Han asked Genghis khan for help. In the 176th, Genghis khan made Zhuercheda going to Wengjiciti to persuade him to induce to capitulate. In Section 1771-181, Genghis khan dispatched envoy Wang Han, which was a very important move. In this fight, Genghis khan dispatched his envoy that played great effect. After the breakdown with the alliance of Wang Han, Genghis khan dispatched his envoys to explain that it is Wang Han first destroyed the alliance. In Section 183, Genghis khan dispatched Geliwudaer of Zhaowuyetishi people, and Chahuer khan of Wulianghetishi people as the envoys, in the name of his brother Hesaer to come to the Wang Han place to pretend to surrender, obeyed to the intention of Genghis khan, used the tone of Hesaer to say to Wang Han, "my wife and my son are in the place of Fu khan place, if Fu khan trusts me, I will come to the place of Fu khan. "Wang Han believed it to be true, also dispatched secret emissary to meet him. In Section 189, Naimatayang khan dispatched envoy to cut the head of Wang Han. In Section 190, Tayang khan dispatched the envoy named Tuorbi · Tashi to go the Wangguti place, ācihūshī Acihushi · Dejiti · Huli place to persuade go out to battle, but was being rejected. Acihushi · Dejiti · Huli dispatched the envoy named Yuehunan to notify this news to Genghis khan. It shows that Wang Gutu tribe considered the situation in the multilateral relationship in that time, and finally stood on the side of Genghis khan. In Section 245, Wotichinayan dispatched the envoy named Shahuoer to get back of the own people there. It is a bid for power between the internal Mongolian tribes and the ancient shaman and the Mongolian secular khan. In Section 275, Batu (Batu Khan) dispatched envoy to Wogedai · Hege (Ögedei Khan) to ask to adjust the contradiction between him and Guyuke (Güyük Khan). It can

be known from the content of "the secret history of Mongolia" that the contact of the envoys was very common, had become the liaison between tribes and the important medium of making covenant, resolving disputes, and reconciling contradiction.

In Section 238, the Weiwer Yidouhu dispatched envoy to meet Genghis Khan, and expressed the wish of coming over and pledge allegiance. This is the beginning that Gaochang Uyghurs broke away from the governing of western Liao and submit to the authority of Mongolian nation. In Section 247, 248, Genghis Khan Yangernian went out to battle to Jin state in 1211 year. Since Anbahi Khan was killed by Jin dynasty, the Mongol tribes had been vowing to pay off old scores, but due to the force cannot able to compete with the Jin dynasty, they endured the hardships to accomplish the ambition to offer the tribute to Jin as the small country to offer the tribute to the big country. With the unity of Mongolia tribes, and the power increased, they first refused offering the tribute, and then continuously started the war in Mongolia border with the border of Jin dynasty. Beginning from 1211, the prologue of Mongolian war was opening. The initial battle was winning victory. Through conducting peace negotiations, Mongolian army acquired abundant property and then returned the country. In Section 249, Mongol army conquered the Western Xia regime. The king of Western Xia regime offered his daughter to Genghis Khan and gave up a large number of camels. The Mongol army had attacked the western summer in 1205, but it was the first attempt at a siege of a domiciled castle. In Section 256, it introduced that before Genghis Khan was west-conquest; he dispatched the envoy to contact Buer Khan of Tangwuti to go out to battle, but was rejected by him. This also has become the reason that Genghis Khan returned from west-conquest in 1227. In Section 251, in the Gou'er year, Genghis Khan dispatched envoy leader Bo Khan to communicate well with the Song, which was blocked by the Jin dynasty, so they conquered Jin dynasty again. This is the earliest record in the book about the Mongol dispatched envoy to the Southern Song Dynasty. The scholars who research on the relationship between Song dynasty and Mongolia have paying attention to it. Seem from geopolitics, Jin dynasty did not want to see the diplomatic relations establishment of the northern valiant Mongolia and the prosperous the Southern Song Dynasty, which was naturally disadvantage for it. In Section 254, Wuhuna and hundred emissaries dispatched by Genghis Khan were retained and killed [5]. The original intention of Genghis Khan was establishing friendly relations and interflow of commodities between Khwarizmi country of Western Regions, and then he dispatched 100 enormous Muslim trade team to go to the Khwarizmi country, but unfortunately, Khwarizmi country robbed the trade team, and the businessman were killed. Genghis Khan sent the envoy to Khwarizmi country again, but Khwarizmi country killed the envoy. This is the direct cause of the Mongol conquering Khwarizmi country, which was the beginning of the Mongolian army conquering to central Asia, west Asia, Russia and Eastern Europe. In this foreign conquest, the figures of the envoys constantly were shuttling between opposing parties, to convey the declaration

of war, peace, bargaining, surrender and other information, played the vital role in it.

IV. CONCLUSION

Through the content recorded in "the secret history of Mongolia", it can be known that before the establishment of the Mongol Khanate, between the tribe or alliance, due to the nomadism economy, it determined that the space distance between the various tribes was relatively far, it needed through the form of word of mouth between the tribes, to transmit out the overall intention of the tribe or tribal alliance of tribes, to play the role of coordinating the various actions, agreement and contradiction between tribes and tribal alliance. So, it is said that in the germination period of foreign relations, there was a great variety of "Elechi" emissary which transferred the information between tribal alliances. The purpose of "Elechi" was different. With varied form, it was the true portraiture of foreign relations in the era. In the foreign relations recorded in "the secret history of Mongolia", due to in that time, it was still in the embryonic period of foreign contact, "Elechi" rites system was still in creation stage, with very simple and crude form, the envoys had no sign and official seal to not prove their identity. Therefore, the most reliable envoys in the tribal leaders served as envoys. They were dispatched to the other tribes to truthfully convey, dictated the intention of tribal leader. Some were seeking help to the other side, and asking alliance, unifying the military action, reconciliation and so on.

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