

Source of the War of Civil Fort

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Abstract

The battle of Civil fort was a turning point in the history of Ming Dynasty, which had a great influence on the political system and military reform of Ming Dynasty. In fact, Emperor Yingzong's attitude on going out to battle by the emperor himself has always been a hot topic worthy of discussion. In this paper, the author thinks that Yingzong has a great initiative on expedition in person, not caused by Wang Zhen's instigation. The purpose of this paper is to point out the true facts of "imperial motivation and expedition".

Keywords

The War of Civil Fort; Emperor Yingzong of Ming Dynasty; Wang Zhen; Oirat.

1. Causes of War

Esen succeeded to his father, Chorros Dehuan, became the head of the oriad ministry, in the fourth years in Zhengtong (1439). He nominally submit to the Mongolian khan (Tayisun qayan), but continue to occupy eastward territory on the basis of his father. He conquered the Jurchen in the northeast, the Uliangha in Liaodong, and extended his force to the north of Korea, and then break Kumul in the west. That was the time oriad reached the peak period since the founding of the Ming Dynasty (the territory ran northwest-northeast through China). In addition, tribal alliances with Shazhou, Chijin Mongol Wei strengthened the power. The local officials of Ming Dynasty border repeatedly wrote to the court to state the pros and cons of the rise, hoping to send troops to fight, which did not get the attention from the court.

In February of the fourteenth year in Zhengtong, the Mongolian Taishi also sent more than 2,000 people to pay tribute to the Ming Dynasty, and falsely called the number of missions more than 3,000 people, hoping to get more favors from the Ming Dynasty. But a eunuch called Wang Zhen refused to give more reward, only to give the reward according to the actual number of people, and minus four fifths of the horse price, which did not meet its requirements. He also withdraw his previous remark to request marriage privately, which the court did not know. In his words, horses for tribute, were called, " Betrothal presents." [1] But the court had no intention of marrying, and Esen was angry. As a consequence, at the beginning of July of the same year, the Mongolian ministries were forced by Esen, to lead their troops to attack the Ming Dynasty.

2. Imperial Expedition

The main responsibility for the imperial driving pro-invasion is historically thought to be borne by Wang Zhen. The Ming History records, "July in Autumn, Esen launched a large-scale invasion

of Ming, and Wang Zheng put pressure on the emperor." The "blackmail" mentioned in it shows the meaning behind the imperial driving. More is reflected in that Wang Zhen want to realize his dream to lead the army as a eunuch. Such as "Longzhong Dialogue ":" take the son of heaven to make princes ." "blackmail" reflects the active and passive relationship in this event.

Before the revolution of civil castle, Wang Zhen's power and status had no one can reach, even Yingzong would call him Mr. Wang. And as old saying goes:" give Zhen pardon, very praise beauty. Zhen increasingly accumulated power, dukes and earls would call him respectabl." [2] But for this incident, in lunar July, fourteen-year of Zhengtong, Esen sent troops to attack Datong, and the reasons for the expedition in " History of Ming Pre-imperial period of Yingzong" are different related : " General Wu Hao died, the imperial edict says fight by the emperor himself. The official ministry of personnel Wang Zhi led group minister to remonstrate, which did not convince. In this historical record, it is more pointed out that at that time, Yingzong was eager to learn from his father Xuanzong in the battlefield to build meritorious service for the country, for its frontier stability. In July 8th, Esen attacked on Datong, resulting that all the surrounding castles fallen. Subsequently, the court also actively made military appointments and movements, and arrangement for the four generals, including the emperor's son-in-law Jingyuan, each led 10,000 troops to defend ." also," After the generals' departure, eunuch Wang Zhen instigated the emperor to go into battle." [3] It seems that the eunuch Wang Zhen still dominated, and finally Yingzong decree: two days later, the Lord Protector Zhang Fu and Zhu Yong with the entire army, would go along with the emperor to fight. The news shocked the court, there were:" The official ministry of personnel Wang Zhi and the ministers, be down on the steps of the palace, did not get the acception." [4] It can be seen that Yingzong's attitude is clear.

In the "Memoir of Yingzong", the emperor's attitude to personally led fight also mentioned , " the majesty did not approve the advice, and ordered that all the retinues, civil and military officials should start off in no more than two days." The emperor set out such a practice from the capital ,is actually encouraged by the director of the eunuch Wang Zhen, so the group of officials' joint letter would not be accepted. This shows that Wang Zhen was also only one kind of encouragement and promote in the process of expedition, which is not like the previous thought that Yingzong was Wang Zhen's puppet in the whole war.

With the continuous in-depth study of the eunuchs system in the Ming Dynasty in recent years, the academic circles believe that in the end of the Ming Dynasty, eunuchs were at most the spokesmen who conveyed the emperor's will, and did not themselves control the emperor's power. In the course of the change and defeat of the whole civil castle, Wang Zhen has great responsibility, mainly for the following reasons:

Firstly, wang zhen acted arbitrarily. Since time is tight, people rush out for war, exposed a lot of problems. When the army came to the Juyongguan pass, the military ministry Kuang Ye, the Ministry of Residence Wang Zuo proposed to ask the emperor back to the place, substituted by military generals. Wang Zhen assumed that it was disobedience, and then ordered the officials:" kneeling grass as punishment", this undoubtedly caused chaos to the morale.

Secondly, Wang Zhen lacks military literacy. "Be chosen to enter the library in eraly age, be allowed to serve in Yingzong's palace, as Julang "[5] is describing Wang Zhen' genius before the war." from Confucianism as the instructor, after nine years into inner palace, Zhen teaches people in palace from entering the palace, palace people call him "Mr. Wang ." [6] After the great army went to Datong, Wang Zhen saw the dead body all over the earth, and was frightened ." In the record of the "Memoir of Yingzong", " Wang Zhenshan wanted to go norther, guard eunuch Guo Jing secretly reported to Wang Zhen said: 'If still march, we will certainly be in Zhongwala's plan.' Wang Zhen began to feel afraid, withdraw and went out of Juyongguan, then encountered a continuous storm weather," [7] when being near Datong, met sudden rain; people are

surprised, Zhen had to discuss the division. Wang Zhen did not make a sober analysis of Guo Jing's proposal, and declined because of the weather.

Thirdly, Wang Zhen command improperly. Ming army in the retreat intended to return to the original road, on Xuanfu-Juyongguan, but Wang Zhen wanted to make Yingzong to visit his hometown Wei Zhou, to show the prestige, then changed to Wei Zhou-Zijinguan. Also being afraid of the army to step on the hometown crops, he repeatedly changed the route, resulting in soldiers exhausted.

Emperor Jingtai was also ambiguous about it, in the "Li Chao record" recorded: "I am the second prince of our father, and administrate the country by order. The villains are invading our country, my brother is worrying about the people and territory then have to fight by himself." This sentence records that after the capture of the Yingzong in Korea, King Jing declared his accession to the throne because that his brother continued to be captured for the national army for their country. Although this sentence has beautified the matter fact, the court also believed that they eventually need an emperor to bear the responsibility for the affair and consequences. As for the revolution of civil castle, Gu Yingtai, a scholar of the early Qing Dynasty, wrote: "and Yingzong is easily persuaded by others, and cannot get his plans go well. If not the King Wen conquered oriat, they would not have accustomed the fact. Also, the King xuan guarded the border well, which means the two brothers had not seen the war in person!" [8] It was considered that Yingzong live in the imperial palace since young, unlike Xuanzong, which had never seen wars with his own eyes, but only obeyed Wang Zhen's command. Regarding the war as a trifling matter was the biggest fought.

3. Actions After Restoration

"August, 23rd in the first year of King Emperor Jingtai, the emperor from the north, into the South Palace. All the ministries can go to the court and then back home. Announce amnesty later." [9] In October of winter, Wang Ji was arranged for guarding the South Palace. After eight years, Zhu Qi zhen finally went back to the palace, and at this time he seems to become more calm, accepting nor congratulations from ministers, nor visits. Others regard his calmness to the experience of eight-year captive life, his heart was hit, only to be a stable assumed emperor. But "the first spring of the first year of Tianshun, in the first month, dawn, Shiheng, Zhang Ni, Zhang Yue, Yang Shan, Xu Youzhen, eunuchs Cao Jixiang meet the emperor in the South Palace with troop, at Tianmen, meet all the officials." [10] When King Emperor got serious illness in the southern suburbs, Shi Heng and Xu Youzhen and others welcomed the Yingzong, the restoration in success. After the restoration, Yingzong's attitude towards Wang Zhen was the same in all kinds of historical records. Yingzong buried Wang Zhenhou, and built a temple for him, and gave him a posthumous title of "Jing Zhong", while also reusing his fellow party Cao Jixiang. It can be seen from this that the main fault of the failure was caused by his own determined to build merit; Wang Zhen in the war of command error did not get too much concern.

The following is a brief description of the Ming Dynasty eunuchs system.

In the early Ming Dynasty, Ming Taizu said to the ministers around him that he had read the book Zhou Li, less than a hundred eunuchs, and then, although there were thousands of eunuchs, it was necessary to make clear that eunuchs could only be used for routine work such as cleaning. Even if then can get the appointment, the emperor should make him afraid of the decree, can not make him meritorious and arrogant, can not let him read, the rule was cast in a iron card in the 17th year of Hongwu. The book says, "eunuchs can not involve in politics. Violators should be beheaded and hang on the palace gate." [11] It can be seen Chengau's hatred. In the period of Ming Chengzu, although it has been adhering to Taizu's policy of eunuchs, but began to relax the appointment of eunuchs, began to deliberately cultivate the ability of

eunuchs to participate in political affairs, many eunuchs began to be sent to the affiliated countries for diplomatic exchanges. Many also responsible for supervising the army and inspecting the cities. Until the period of Xuanzong, he set up a school to select small attendants to teach eunuchs to read and write, so the traditional system were officially abolished. In the early Zhengtong period, Wang Zhen also set up a school in the inner palace, taught by the bachelor of Hanlin, and the literary cultivation of the eunuchs in the Ming Dynasty began to improve greatly, which can also show that the eunuchs of Ming Dynasty were in the forefront of their cultural level as a whole compared with other dynasties, and that the eunuchs system in the early Ming achieved great development.

In the eunuch system, there are twelve supervisors, four Si and eight Ju. These twenty-four departments are responsible for the daily living expenses of the palace. Among them, the Si of the imperial court is in charge of the internal and external regulations, approving according to the cabinet vote is "no prime minister's name, has the prime minister's right." At the same time there is a governor Dong Chang, governor Xi Chang, governor Jing Ying. in the Zhengtong, all provinces and towns got guard eunuchs." [12] Penetration on the military side was obvious.

However, unlike the previous eunuch system, the power of the Ming eunuchs reached a peak, but in the conflict with the imperial power, it was always succumbed to the imperial power, in the early Zhengtong period, although Wang Zhenshen was favored by the Yingzong, faced with the older senior Yang Fu, Yang Shiqi, Yang Rong and other prestige ministers, as well as the then Queen Mother Sun, he did not dare to do anything with impunity. It can even be said that Wang Zhen did not plot treason until death. At the same time, all the rights of eunuchs are given by the emperor, and their status is in an illegal state, the emperor can take back it at any time, in the face of the emperor's guard against other ministers, they are more inclined to give power to their closest, most credible people. If the minister is given power, there will be opposition to the bureaucracy, which will lead to unnecessary conflict in the face of important decisions. At the same time, eunuchs have a keen sense of politics. When power changes in the court, they often leave opportunities for the eunuch dictatorship. For example, "the seventh year of Zhengtong, the Queen Mother collapsed, (Yang) Rong had died first, (Yang) Shiqi did not go on the court because of his son's death, (Yang) Pu was old with disease, new cabinet minister Ma Yu, Cao Shu got few power, (Wang) Zhen then could be bossy without control." [13] When the new and old alternating, they can always seize the opportunity to expand their power. After the emperor succeeded the throne, " [14] the son of heaven is young and impulsive, and his mother does not control, the power will return, so Wang Zhen can make his authority gush. Only when the new emperor was young and officials were not particularly trusted can the eunuch jumped up, to the peak of power.

4. Conclusion

The main reason for expedition by the emperor was that Ming Yingzong was young, lacked political experience, eager to follow the example of his father and grandfather to build military merit, which did not have a clear understanding of the importance of this war. Too much trust for Wang Zhen but ignorance for the views of the generals, eventually led to a number of major command mistakes in the entire battle, resulting in the capital three major battalion elite defeat. After that, Ming Dynasty could no longer organize a tight defense on the northern border, and was forced to undertake "prevention" policy. At the same time, this war also made Ming Yingzong himself a certain reflection. The Ming History of the evaluation of the Yingzong said: "Before and after the reign of 24 years, there was no very bad government. As for matters like the respect for predecessors, respect from offsprings; the interpretation of the common people of the system; the dismissal of imperial concubine; the institution for funeral, etc. can be matter

of virtue imitated by later generations ." It can be said that Yingzong is not the king of failure, but the war of civil castle is his life-long stain which can not wash away.

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