



**RESEARCH PAPER**

**Concept of Medieval Studies: Definition of concepts, differences in use across Regions, Non-applicability**

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**ABSTRACT**

The goal of this research is to comprehend various aspects of medieval culture and how it has been conceptualized throughout history by various cultures. The qualitative methodology and the historical analysis method are the most suitable methodologies and techniques for this research study. Since the concept of the Middle Ages has been introduced, it has influenced global historiography, and with the influence of modern European colonialism and European centralism, almost all studies in the history of the world have been divided into the historical stages of the Middle Ages. However, a careful examination found that medieval concepts are not necessarily applied to historical studies in various places. Although some countries have used medieval concepts, the concept of the Middle Ages has slowly disappeared over time.

**KEYWORDS** China, Europe, Feudalism, India, Middle Ages, Russia

**Introduction**

The concept of the Middle Ages, which sprouted in the Renaissance, was first proposed by the 16th century Italian scholar Biond, and has been used by Western academic circles since the 18th century. Some scholars believe that the staging of the Middle Ages was counted as the opening of new routes in the late 15th and early 16th centuries, and some scholars believed that the British bourgeois revolution in 1640 was terminated. If counted from the demise of the Western Roman Empire (476 years), then in general, the Middle Ages in Europe existed for about 1200 years.

The general expression is that the Western Middle Ages were defined as a long period from the 5th century AD to the 15th century AD. Scholars believe that the social vitality of the Middle Ages is insufficient, the hierarchy is clear, and the social structure is closed and solidified. American scholar Lindberg in his book "The Origins of Western Science" believes that there has not been a specific and precise definition of the ages in the Middle Ages. He believes that "inaccuracy is sometimes an advantage, because historians themselves do not agree on the meaning of the word (Lindberg, 2008). The concept of the Middle Ages was first proposed by Italian humanist scholars in the 14th and 15th centuries. These scholars believe that there is a dark intermediate period between the brilliant achievements of ancient times and the cultivation of their own times. Now we use this "dark age" to express this derogatory view. However, this view has almost been abandoned by professional historians with neutral opinions. He believes that the "medieval" actually makes a unique Western culture. The important contribution should be fair and unbiased research and evaluation.

The other division is that history is divided into three stages. In the second half of the 17th century, the medieval concept in the modern sense was formally established. What really conceptualized this history is the German Christopher Keller (1638–1707). He "divided European history into three stages: ancient, medieval, and modern and used it as the guiding ideology for compiling history textbooks (Liu, 2012).

Therefore, we can see that in addition to the unclear concept of the Middle Ages, the two ends of the Middle Ages contain both ancient and modern stages.

### **Literature review**

With the global expansion of British colonialism, the original concept of medieval history in Europe gradually gained universal recognition, forming a world medieval history, which is a part of the world history discipline.

Japanese scholar Chuan Shengpingtai's book "Civilized Ocean History" believes that if Braudel is the most outstanding historian in the second half of the 20th century, then the Belgian scholar Henri Pirenne (1862–1935) is the greatest historian in the first half of the 20th century. In a famous "Muhammad and Charlie the Great", Pirena refuted the idea that the northern barbarian invasion and destruction of Roman civilization, "pointing out that the external pressure from the south caused a decisive break between ancient and medieval"(Kawakatsu, 2014). The external pressure mentioned here refers to the Islamic forces.

The Mediterranean was "the lake of Rome" in ancient times, but it later became the "Islamic Lake" to shut out Europe. "The Christian army led by Charles Martel defeated the Islamic army in the Battle of Tours Poiteirs (733), and the two sides formed a confrontation across the les Pyrénées. Europe was thus blocked on land, but instead formed a cultural unity, which was the Middle Ages. So, we can also say that the Islamized Mediterranean has produced Europe as a cultural unity. Without Islam, there would be no Frank Empire. Without Mohammed, there would be no Charlie the Great. It was in a blockade from the 9th to the 11th century. Naturally, it established an economic model with land as the sole source of wealth. It is also a feudal system (Kawakatsu, 2014).

The closure of Europe comes from the isolation of Islam from the Mediterranean, which is also the source of the Middle Ages. Similarly, when Europe proposed a "commercial renaissance" to regain the Mediterranean, "it was accompanied by trade between Venice and East Rome, and business between the city-states of Flanders and the cities of northern Italy. Later, with Venice as the center, once again across the Mediterranean, the Mediterranean once again became the focus. Europe's control of the Mediterranean region ended the history of the European Middle Ages and began to enter modern society (Lindberg, Park, Numbers & Porter, 2003).

### **Medieval Staging**

The definition of the century is difficult and ambiguous. The American scholar Lindberg's book *The Origins of Western Science* argues that if there is a need for a point in time, then the Middle Ages can be considered to contain the Roman civilization in Latin (about 500 AD, 476) to 1450. a period of time.

The revival of art and literature in 1450, the so-called "Renaissance", is certainly already under way. "We may wish to further subdivide this period into the early Middle Ages (about 500-1000), the transition period (1000-1200), and the medieval period or the late period (1200-about 1450) (Lindberg,2008). This is not a standard division (the "prevalence" and "late" of the Middle Ages are often distinguished), but it is more convenient for us. It is clear that this division pattern is different from the divisions cited above.

### **Different historians define the beginning and ending time of the Middle Ages**

American scholar Hendrik Willem Van Loon (1882—1944) published his views on different stages of the Middle Ages in his work. In his writings, he quoted the views of

Renaissance historians and disagreed with this view. Hendrik Willem Van Loon pointed out that a Renaissance historian divided human history into three stages: ancient, medieval and modern, which were divided to facilitate the narrative and display of academic achievements. Among them, "modern" refers to his own era. Read this, there may be questions in everyone's mind: Why didn't the prehistoric era be drawn? The reason is that he had never heard of "prehistoric people" in his time, so please forgive him. The demise of the Roman Empire was categorized as the end of ancient times, and Constantinople was conquered by Turkey as a sign of the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of modern history. It is necessary for us to make a comprehensive revision of this division method.

" The destruction of Rome is an illusion that Rome has never been destroyed. The end of the Middle Ages was not marked by the conquest of Constantinople by Turkey. Compared with the successful invasion of Europe by Suleiman the Magnificent, other things have a greater impact on the concept of life in the Middle Ages. . . My point is that the Middle Ages ended on January 5, 1769 on this continent. This day also reminded the world of the name of another person. He is James Watt who just made a "steam machine" and received a patent license (Loon, 2016). Compared with the bigtime events, Hendrik Willem Van Loon pays more attention to the role of science and technology, and uses Watt to invent the steam engine as a symbol of the end of the Middle Ages. According to Hendrik Willem Van Loon, science may be an important symbol of modernity. This method of staging is different from the above several stages. Or in his view, the industrial revolution represents the beginning of modern society.

### **Understanding the medieval way**

Therefore, for the concept definition of the Middle Ages, we can see the different opinions mentioned above, which contain different historians' understanding and interpretation of the medieval concept, which are reflected from different aspects as historical research. Medieval" problem. In a sense, different concepts in the Middle Ages have brought us different perspectives on understanding. However, we have a relatively consistent recognition of the basic historical facts corresponding to the concept of the Middle Ages, indicating that the concept of the Middle Ages has its own academic legitimacy. Specifically, we want to understand the Middle Ages, we need to choose the most effective way of understanding. As for the Middle Ages, the best way to understand may not be the surviving medieval chronicles, but the work of 20th century historians.

The book "History·American History" lists the most worthwhile books on medieval studies. For example, the Belgian historian Henri Pirenne is a modern outstanding historian who wrote about the history of the Middle Ages, especially his "Muhammad and Charlemagne", and his short work "The City of the Middle Ages", which is a great achievement. deep impression. Eileen Powers (a British female writer) in her book "Medieval People" skillfully and vividly painted a portrait of several people, depicting their daily lives. Dutch historian Johan Huizinga is perhaps the best historian of the 20th century. He is the author of *The Decline of the Middle Ages*. " This very good book contains a very novel method of historical description, including some Time to reshape the psychological inclination of the characters. and many more (Lukacs & McClay, 2015). Of course, in the Middle Ages, you can find suitable readings from many other related studies. The most important way is to retrieve the latest research results and to synthesize existing relevant research, make a more comprehensive analysis, and draw meaningful conclusions

### **European Medieval Spirit**

For the overall world view of medieval Europeans, we can find from the research that this discovery is not later generalized and imposed, but originally from the Europeans

themselves to the world and life. Similarly, for example, when I talk about the concept of time in the Middle Ages, I am not saying that the Middle Ages we talked about were not December 31, 476. The Europeans suddenly gathered together and cheered. The Roman era was over and began to enter the medieval life. The concept of the Middle Ages contains the most important factor in thinking, that is, people's views on the problem.

Medieval people never see themselves as self-motivated and can change their destiny through their own efforts. Contrary to this idea, they have a fixed understanding of the structure of society, emperors and serfs, heroes and hooligans, popes and heretics. The poor and the rich, the jealousy and the thieves are all members of this social structure. And all of this is God's arrangement.

For the general public of the 13th century, the paradise of happiness and the hell of terror are not the fascinating myths created by theologians, but the facts that exist. Medieval knights and peasants have spent most of their lives preparing for the post-mortem world.

But in the Middle Ages, the horrible death god always laughed and entangled people's minds. Sometimes he used the horror tone on the violin to scare the world. Sometimes he sat quietly around when people were dining. Sometimes he hid behind the woods and gave a cold laugh to the men and women who were walking. The topics faced by children in the Middle Ages generally have the above factors. Reflected in graves, coffins, diseases... It symbolizes the judgment of death. This makes them humble and pious to death and the world when they are small. However, this situation will produce the opposite thing. They will often become cruel murderers, killing the conquerors, men and women, and then praying to God with bloody hands and asking for forgiveness. This kind of prayer is often full of tears and full of truth, but the next day, there will be a possibility of a new massacre (Loon, 2009).

### **European Medieval Mathematics**

The rational logic of the Middle Ages is not as developed as imagined. For a long time, the mathematics research in the Middle Ages basically stayed in the application of reality. From the existing research data, the mathematics of medieval Europe rarely had its own invention. In comparison with other countries in various regions of the world, medieval Europe is not ideal in terms of mathematical rationality research. This may be related to the era in which the Middle Ages lived. The Middle Ages did not have a good scientific research environment as well as an enlightened academic discussion space. Europe in the Middle Ages was called the Dark Ages because of the decline of the Roman Empire and the return of the European continent to the era of tribal struggle and prevalence. However, as far as the relevant medieval studies are concerned, this period has also developed from other aspects. For example, Bede (672-735), as a historian, he is well known, but he also has a status as a mathematician. He made his own contribution to the advancement of mathematics, and his work was spread. Bede is widely known for the date of Easter calculations. The calculation of the wrong Easter is considered to have missed the mass and was expelled from the church and punished into hell. Easter before Bede is based on the date of the life of the incumbent national army. In addition, one of the important positions of Aurillac introduced the Indian-Arabic counting system to Europe and introduced the abacus again. After the end of the Roman era, it was used by people.

Leonardo Pisano Bigollo (1170-1250), who came into contact with Arabic mathematics, and with his own knowledge, wrote a very creative book based on his own discovery, called "The Book of Computing", or "The Book of Abacus, Fibonacci's way of writing books shows that he has a flexible business mind – he not only clarifies the advantages of an Arab counting system in India, but also directly applies the system to

finance and accounting. Leonardo Pisano Bigollo's book has received great repercussions from medieval scholars and businessmen, and his success has earned him the favor of the Holy Roman Empire. This is a complete success, and Fibonacci continues to carry out mathematical studies in geometry and trigonometry. Fibonacci's name is famous for a sequence named after him. This series is due to a rabbit-related question he raised in the *Book of Computing*.

Successione di Fibonacci cites previous knowledge, and Indians know about it before. Through related research, we can see that the problems of the medieval series and the mathematical problems are actually very simple. In terms of mathematical notation, the simplistic expression of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division is expressed in this period, such as plus (minus), respectively, with "p" and "m". In 1489, the German mathematician Johannes Vader began. Man used the symbols of + and -, the 1631 "×" symbol was used, and the 1659 "÷" symbol was used.

Other medieval European math problems, according to the present view, are very simple. The level of mathematics in the medieval era of Europe was not high. The mathematics and other knowledge that gradually came from the East made the Europeans slowly catch up with the Islamists of the same period (Waring, 2012).

### **European Medieval Concept of Disease**

In general, the pursuit of health by the ancient Greeks is regarded as a noble goal. In the Christian doctrine, there is disagreement about the pursuit of health. It can be seen from the statues of ancient Greece that people generally think of the human body during this period. Beauty and health are beautiful and solemn. In Christianity, the body is a symbol of desire, but the body is also the residence of the comprehension or the temple of God, so the body is worthy of attention. It is a love behavior to treat the body. It is good, but if it is not for the treatment of God or the servant of God, then it is not necessarily a good thing. Medically, the health of the religious sense and the health of the non-religious sense coexist at the same time. The ordinary people will not give up the pursuit of health, but people will not give up the traditions other than religion. Therefore, people in the Middle Ages did not escape the scope of religion for their understanding of disease and health. When we put our body and soul aside, we can imagine whether medicine is also an art that God has given to human beings. Then, under the guidance of this understanding, medieval doctors can think that the body is also God-given. Medicine is also God-given, and medicine has a certain degree of independence, or professionalism, but at the same time, doctors have to attribute the healing condition to God (Magner, 1992).

However, it is worth mentioning that hospitals have also appeared in the Middle Ages. The hospitals in the early Middle Ages were very simple and not equivalent to the hospitals in our modern society. However, medieval hospitals played an important role in social functions. But the hospital is religious, not scientific. As far as the discussion is concerned, the medieval hospital is not like a hospital, it is more like a charity, or a place of psychological comfort. The end of the patient here is often death. Obviously, the hospital has a church Nature and function. There is ample evidence that bishops, priests, and farmers will seek ways to heal their pain. In disrespectful words, everyone wants to go to heaven, but no one wants to die. Theologians have recorded many magical stories about the cure of the disease of devout and sacrificial saints after the inability of human medicine. Medieval scholars believe that the universe is governed by the general laws of God, but theologians play an important role in creating miracles. The priest may take good care of the patient and acknowledge the medical value of the drug, but each recovery will ultimately be a miracle (Magner, 1992).

## **European Medieval Literature**

Islam will surround the western Mediterranean, and Carolingian culture will therefore return to the selective farming era. Civilians spend time on farming, and reading and writing give up. The Caroline people had to find a well-educated person among the priests, and the educated people had to cooperate with the church. So in the Middle Ages there was a cleric class that could play a role in the destiny of the country. At this point, Latin became the language of scholars and throughout the Middle Ages. The Carolingian Renaissance restored ancient traditions and escaped the dying Roman culture. The new culture became the Romanic culture of Rome; of course, its birth was attributed to the Christian Church. From the current point of view, the contribution of the Germanic people is mainly in the aspect of feudalism, that is, the legal and political structure of the medieval world. Of course, this is the general trend under the system of land possession and trading.

With the change of time, after the 12th and 13th centuries, the development of popular literature marked the defeat of Latin literature. However, the 12th and 13th centuries were the main periods of Latin poetry and scholarship. Latin literature and language from Central Europe, Southern Europe, and Northern Europe affect Iceland, Scandinavia, Finland and other places. At the same time, Latin entered the Palestinians from the southwest. At this time, most people, both civilians and scholars, know both languages. However, there are people who think that Latin is the language of creation and setting of sages, which cannot be changed. Therefore, some people have translated popular articles into Latin during this period. In this way, Latin has been used as a practical language in many fields such as education, science, government documents, and diplomacy for centuries. Similarly, as a literary language, Latin has been used in the Middle Ages.

## **Dark Medieval**

In the Middle Ages of Europe, in AD 330, the Emperor Constantine built the Byzantium (later known as Constantinople). " At the end of the 4th century, the Roman Empire formed an eternal split between the East and West. The Byzantine Empire formed in the east, and the West entered the famous dark age, but some historians refused to use the concept of "dark age." It is also claimed that between 100 and 1250 AD, some places have undergone major changes in economic, political and social organizations (Magner,1992). It is clear that darkness refers to the Western Roman period, and it may not be appropriate to replace the entire Middle Ages with Western Romans.

The tide of national migration has impacted the Western Roman Empire, and the history of Western Europe has entered the darkness of the Middle Ages. The Germanic civilization is still underdeveloped and lags behind many of Rome. Therefore, their invasion has destroyed both the political entity of a large empire and the devastating destruction of the civilization of the empire. The Western Roman Empire was ruined, the Germans won the military conquest, and they established a series of small kingdoms. The turmoil in society has led to constant fighting between small kingdoms. From the 5th to the 9th century, as a small country, the Frankish kingdom, a rising country, is the most important feudal state in Western Europe. Its founders converted to Christianity, formed a cooperative rule with Christianity, established the European feudal system and the power of the king. The formation has far-reaching effects.

Beginning in the 5th century, the United Kingdom was ruled by several branches of the Germanic. In the 7th century, seven countries on the island fought each other. In the 9th century, Wessex became the hegemon and the Kingdom of England was born. Since then, after a long-term invasion, English has been ruled by the Danes. Although English has risen again, it was later conquered by the Normans.

Therefore, some historians believe that the Middle Ages in Europe is chaotic, backward, and there is no politically unified country, and sovereign states have not appeared. Aristocratic politics established its own military armies for its own territory. This is an important feature of the Middle Ages.

### **Disintegration of the Middle Ages (philosophical understanding)**

The disintegration of the Middle Ages Between 1300 and 1500, the powerful torrent of medieval thoughts changed the flow and split it into independent streams, each looking for its own new direction. These philosophical changes are what we care about here; the occurrence of these changes is not unrelated to the social, economic and political changes that have affected the lives of Europeans in all spheres. By the 13th century, the Pope's spiritual prestige and political power had declined. A series of chasing popes and cardinals who tarnished the ideals of the church made many believers resentful.

The church's excessive wealth and privileges evoke the desire of some people to reform, while among others, it evokes the idea of returning from a formed church to personal piety. At the same time, Aristotle's "Politics" rediscovers " that the state is a natural entity based on morality and rationality, not an institution that derives its authority from God and the Pope (Lawhead,2017). As the philosophers continued to innovate in philosophy and epistemology, there was a gradual separation between the pope and the secular regime. At the same time, because it is believed that reason has the cognitive function of guiding God's creation of the world, if there is no rationality, then the world is chaotic, accidental, and in a certain sense, it also provides a new way for European scientific rational thought.

### **Medieval Africa**

The medieval continent of Africa is dotted with villages, towns and small countries. Many live near the coastline and the Sahel region south of the Sahara Desert and north of the tropical jungle. In West Africa, the rise and fall of the big empire has developed, and the wealthy city-states have developed along the East Coast. Most of the African people south of the Sahara are agricultural or grazing. Farmers plant a variety of crops, and new crops in Asia and elsewhere are quickly spread to Africa. The herds graze cattle, sheep and other animals in different regions and in different climatic conditions. Most of the African kingdoms are small, but several powerful kingdoms have gradually conquered neighboring countries and established huge empires. There are three main empires in West Africa, but they did not appear in the same period - when an empire declines, another empire replaces it. The first empire in Africa was the Ghanaian Empire, the most powerful country in Africa in the 10th century.

The source of wealth of West African rulers is gold, and people use gold to exchange salt in the Sahara salt fields - salt is difficult to extract under the conditions of the time. So the price is very high, almost the same as gold. Merchants in North Africa used cloth, flatter, iron, weapons to cross the Sahara to exchange gold and slaves, and then to sell them in the Mediterranean. This led to the fact that Africa did not make gold coins, but used shells and iron sheets as currency. It can be seen that there is still slavery in this region (Zhi, 2017).

### **Russian Medieval**

" The feudal separatism opened the prelude to the Russian Middle Ages, comparing medieval Russia with Europe, and Russia is clearly in a backward position. It is believed that the invasion of the Mongols in Mongolia led to the decline of the Oulus culture (Skovazova, 2003). Early Russian culture and art, especially architectural art, reached an extremely high

level. Later, this level could not be reached. " [19] Until the mid-nineteenth century, Russia still stubbornly preserved barbaric and backward serfdom. The peasants' personality and self-respect were ruthlessly ruined. Russia has long been under the rule of the backward feudal serf system.

The peasants worked for the landlord free of charge all day, and even were mortgaged as goods. A large amount of labor is tied to the manor. The peasants have long been oppressed by the oppression of serfdom and their ideology, and they have strong imperialism. Although the serfs often launched a struggle against the bureaucracy, they never thought that the tsar had any problems, even advocating and admiring the good tsar. In the eyes of the peasants, the Tsar seems to be the necessary master of humanity. The injustice and resistance of serfs to society are not concentrated, but scattered, without theoretical consciousness. It is clear that there are some differences between the concept of medieval feudalism in Europe and the system of Russian serfdom.

### **Medieval India**

Materialism and science existed in the Middle Ages in India, but in general, during the period of feudalism, religion was the dominant ideology. All other forms of social consciousness, legal, moral, artistic, scientific, political, and philosophical, are basically religious. Anti-feudal movements are also often carried out under the religious banner.

In the book "Ideas and Institutions in Medieval India", the concept of medieval India comes mostly from colonial historiography. In fact, medieval India is not a unified country. On the South Asian subcontinent, there are many states, and the northern region is long, in the rule of the Mughal Empire. North and South India cannot be completely regarded as feudalism in terms of institutional form, because in the concept of time, medieval India has different forms of skilled workers while relying on land finance. And through the inscription we can know that medieval India is also a small area of business. It is not a financial system that relies on land in its full sense. But what we also need to add is that Medieval India basically relied on land finance. Medieval India and other countries such as China also have exchanges in trade (Seshan,2013).

" Compared with medieval Europe, medieval India has many discoveries that have been ahead of European science for centuries. Indian science has achieved great success in the fields of astronomy, mathematics, physics, chemistry, and doctors (Anikeyev, 1958). Without the development of mathematical knowledge, astronomical achievements are impossible to achieve. Indian mathematicians use fractions and find square roots and cube roots. The merits of using letters to represent unknowns and using them and numbers to calculate are for Indians, that is, they lay the foundation for algebra. The most outstanding mathematicians in the Middle Ages of India, Brahmagupta (seventh century) and Chamberi (eighth century) have studied the theory of solving primary and secondary certain equations and indefinite equations, and made general solutions for higher-order equations. No need to talk about other operations, only the use of symbols proves the high development of abstract thinking. As early as the eleventh and twelfth century, Indian mathematicians have studied the principles of differential and functional dependencies (Seshan,2013).

### **Middle Ages of East Asian countries such as China, Japan, and North Korea**

Japanese scholar He Tian Qing's "Toyo History" called China's Warring States period formerly known as the ancients, and later called the Middle Ages. However, Wada Sei believes that ancient China was a feudal system. Since Qin Shihuang unified the country, it was no longer a feudal system, but a county system. This understanding is accurate. However, we can also see that Wada Sei's concept of the Chinese Middle Ages is only based on the division of time (Sei,1963).



Wada Sei believes that the princes under the county system no longer exist, and the masters of the feudal territories are all abolished. Only the emperor is supreme, and the rest are equal. Anyone with talents can become a minister and the general, the difference between the door and the birth is gone. This is of course a revolution (Sei,1963).

In the East Asian countries, in the Han Dynasty, because the Han Wudi was famous, he vigorously developed traffic and dispatched Zhang Qian to the Western Region. The influence was very extensive. At that time, the messenger was also sent to North Korea. After the Han Dynasty, the Han people began to understand the situation in Asian countries. The countries of East Asia were still very backward in the period of Emperor Wu of Han Dynasty. Many places were in the state of tribes, and they were successively established as unified countries by the influence of Emperor Wu of the time. Japan's establishment of its own country was also indirectly influenced by Emperor Wu of the Han Dynasty.

During the Tang Emperor Taizong and Tang Gaozong, almost all countries in Asia were settled. Most countries in eastern Asia were conquered by the Tang Dynasty. The policies of the Tang Dynasty were also very broad. They generally treated each other equally, and there was absolutely no oppression. And the Tang Dynasty government also accepted many foreigners to be officials. Many military commanders in the Tang Dynasty, most famous military commanders are Turks, Mongolians, " and Manchurians. Japan's A Buhongmalu and He Tengyuanqing Kiyoshi once served as officials in the Tang Dynasty, and the last king of Persia also fled to the Tang Dynasty (Sei,1963).

From the above simple discussion, it can be seen that the Asian countries after the Tang Dynasty, especially the East Asian countries, were influenced by the Chinese Han Dynasty after the political model, especially the influence of the Tang Dynasty, and there was a situation different from the pure feudal system in the European Middle Ages. Although Wada Sei believes that the tribute to the Tang Dynasty is not an affiliation, but a relationship between the two countries, Japan's influence by the Tang Dynasty can be said to be very broad. This also shows that the concept of using the Middle Ages in Asian countries is problematic.

Wada Sei believes that although the Tang Dynasty and the Song Dynasty belonged to the Middle Ages, they needed to count the post-Song Dynasty China as an ancient period. In general, the history of East Asia is the history of two nationalities, namely the history of the northern and southern nations. The problem between the nomadic people of the North and the farming people of the South.

It can be clearly seen that Wada Sei's medieval conception of China and Asia, especially East Asia, was limited to the period when Qin Shihuang unified the country (221 BC) to Song (the Southern Song Dynasty ended in 1279). And the situation in China during this period is two different things from the Middle Ages of the European feudal system we have learned before. In terms of time, it is also far from the medieval Europe.

On the other hand, in the "Asian History" by American scholar Murphy, believe that Japan was internationally famous for its pirate activities in the Middle Ages in the Ashikaga era. The pirates of Japan and North Korea are based on the southern (western) islands of Japan. Japanese pirates even ransacked the capital of the North Korean capital. After the North Korean Li Dynasty dynasty and the Japanese samurai family clan business trade, the Japanese pirates have been contained. " In 1592, the pirates also participated in the attack on China (Murphey, 2013). Japanese pirates are also active in Southeast Asia, even in the Philippines and the South China Sea. Japan's prominent pirate culture has made its country show its injustice in foreign trade.

As far as North Korea is concerned, as early as the second century AD, during the Han Dynasty occupation, North Korea was influenced by China, and corresponding civilizations and new things appeared. A period of time before Emperor Wu of Han Dynasty conquered North Korea, a Chinese rose around Pyongyang. Country. " In 220 AD, after the retreat of the Han dynasty, three kingdoms were raised, Baekje, Silla, and Goguryeo, which inherited the Confucian culture and conquest management model in China, and later accepted the Chinese Buddhism (the source of Chinese Buddhism in the ancient Pakistan area) (Murphey,2013). Like Japan, North Korea used a hereditary aristocratic system in a hierarchical society. It is not as open as China, and it is fair to choose to conquer managers in the form of imperial examinations. Therefore, although the national governance model of Asia in this period follows the tradition of Confucian culture, it also has different manifestations in different countries and regions. If the Middle Ages is expressed as a pure time period, then the Japanese scholars only borrowed the Western medieval concept from the Qin Dynasty to the Song Dynasty, instead of applying it. This is quite different. In the Middle Ages, it was also called the Middle Ages. The Latin language was generally used as the medium. It was originally intended to be the middle stage. Later it generally referred to the history of Europe from before and after the fall of the Western Roman Empire to around the end of the 15th century. It can be seen that the later concepts are specific, as the article begins with (Jubara, 2010)

### **Conclusion**

More and more studies have shown that the evidence of feudal society in China, Japan, India, Russia, Africa and other countries and regions is not sufficient, at least not in the traditional sense of feudalism in Western Europe, that is, the medieval concept in the general sense. Even if we look closely inside Europe, the system itself is not universal. It should be said that the concept of the Middle Ages or the three-point method in the study of historiography in the Middle Ages is a globally shared historical concept produced under the influence of modern European and Central colonialism. In a sense, the medieval concept itself is also a colonial topic. As far as the existing analysis is concerned, after comparing the different concepts of the medieval concept, the medieval concept we have drawn is a multi-level and multi-angle. This illustrates the richness of the medieval concept and also shows that there is no uniform standard for medieval concepts, or that the medieval concept itself is not universally valid for global historiography. This also fully reflects that the concept of the Middle Ages has some theoretical deficiencies in nature.

Before the founding of the People's Republic of China, Chinese academia used more non-Marxist theories to confine the Middle Ages to Europe. The courses of medieval history were also limited by European or Western qualifiers. Even with the study of Marxist historiography, there is no medieval concept. "Revolution and History: The Origin of Chinese Marxist History" elaborates on the birth of Chinese Marxist historiography. Even if Marxist theory is used to study Chinese history and divide Chinese history, there are also several Different perspectives and no use of medieval concepts.

" In the late 1950s, the Soviet Union model was fully introduced in the field of history. Several textbooks written during this period reflected this feature, such as the name of ' world medieval history ' or ' middle Ages history ' , and the medieval and feudal Social equivalent. " [30] Since then, Chinese historical expressions have often represented most of the time before modern times as feudal society. Judging from the notion of feudalism and religious governance in the form of land ownership, the concept of the Middle Ages is not suitable for all regions of the world. With the development of society, in recent years, more and more Chinese historiography studies have avoided the term "feudal society" in China for a long time. In fact, Qin Shihuang has abolished the feudal system since the

reunification of the Six Kingdoms. Even though the Han Dynasty has part of the system of separation, it is not enough to affect the social progress system since the beginning of the county system.

In fact, as mentioned above, American historians do not have much interest in medieval concepts. They use the appearance of steam engines as a sign of the end of the Middle Ages, and actually follow a mode of thinking in which the industrial revolution replaces the agricultural revolution. And believe that this substitution not only brings changes in the structure of social productivity, but also affects the traditional agricultural social thinking. British scholar Maitland has publicly criticized the use of the so-called French feudal system to measure British history; Southern has never used the term "feudal" in his book "Formation of the Middle Ages". This is the disapproval of the medieval concept.

American historian Elizabeth Brown believes that feudalism is "a standard that was artificially coined" without any credibility. Chinese scholars also have the problem of diluting the concept of dealing with medieval issues, and they no longer use the concept of the Middle Ages to study Chinese history. The three-stage division of history under the influence of the medieval concept is no longer used. In fact, Africa, Russia, India, Japan, North Korea and other places all have similar problems. The Middle Ages itself is not fully applicable to these areas. Africa and Russia have slaves in the Middle Ages, not feudal systems. Japan, North Korea, etc., because of the influence of China's political system and culture, also showed different connotations from the European Middle Ages. Although India used the land feudal system as the main form of expression in the Middle Ages, there were many states in ancient India, and its Islam had its own theoretical creation in terms of justice and equality. Ancient Indian civilization was also developed and there was a certain trade.

With the increasingly obvious changes in the world's pattern and the clarification of historiography, medieval problems are becoming more and more problematic. The concept of European medieval history with colonial historiography will gradually return to the study of Europe itself. Historical research from all over the world will use its own historical development and ideology as a clue to start from the problems of each place. However, it is not excluded that some scholars use the accurate method of studying the history by using the medieval three-point method. The three-point method must be a pure time segmentation. Important historical factors have always been hidden in the mind behind historical events.

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