

# **A New Inquiry on Zhang Baogao's Activities Himself in Tang Dynasty**

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Zhang Baogao(张保皋), a famous general and merchant in Silla, had ever held a post in Tang Dynasty at the age of thirty. In recent years, Chinese and Korean scholars (especially Korean scholars) are paying close attention to him. However, the scholars have hardly been studying Zhang Baogao's(张保皋) activities himself in Tang Dynasty. This article, having analysed and studied Chinese and Korean historical records, draw the relevant conclusions.

## **1. A Study on the historical records of Zhang Baogao's activities in Tang Dynasty.**

At present, historical materials concerning Zhang Baogao's(张保皋) activities in Tang Dynasty is only the Chinese records Fan Chuan Wen Ji(樊川文集), Xin Tang Shu(新唐书), and the Korean records San Guo Shi Ji(三国史记), San Guo yi shi(三国遗事). In these records, the Fan chuan Wen Ji(樊川文集) had come out before the year 852, the Xin Tang shu(新唐书) had come out in 1060, the San Guo Shi Ji(三国史记) in 1145, and the San Guo yi shi(三国遗事) in the 13th century. Comparatively speaking, the records of the Fan chuan Wen Ji(樊川文集) is closer to the time when Zhang Baogao(张保皋) lived, so it should especially be pay attention to.

Analysing the historical materials above-mentioned, we can know Zhang Baogao's(张保皋) condition in Tang Dynasty:

a. According to the Fan Chuan Wen Ji(樊川文集), The Xing Tang Shu(新唐书) and the San Guo Shi Ji(三国史记), Zhang Baogao(张保皋) had acted mainly in the area of Xu Zhou(徐州).

b. In the light of the records of the Fan Chuan Wen Ji(樊川文集), Zhang Baogao(张保皋) was already thirty years old when he held a post in Xu Zhou(徐州).

c. According to the Fan Chuan Wen Ji(樊川文集) and the Xin Tang Shu

(新唐书), Zhang Baogao's(张保皋) talent was so superb that he was a quite well-known in Xu Zhou(徐州).

On the basis of the three clues above-mentioned, we analyse Xu Zhou's(徐州) condition so as to observe and study Zhang Baogao's(张保皋) activities himself in Tang Dynasty.

2. The relations between the changes of Wu Ning Jun Jie Du Shi(武宁军节度使) and Zhang Baogao(张保皋) returning to the Silla.

2.1 Zhang Baogao's(张保皋) active time in Xu Zhou(徐州).

About Zhang Baogao's(张保皋) definite active time in Xu Zhou(徐州), there aren't the direct records in the Chinese and Korean historial materials. However, by analysing three indirect records, we also can infer the upper and lower limit of time when Zhang Baogao(张保皋) acted in Xu Zhou(徐州): first, Zhang Baogao(张保皋) was the thirty old in Xu Zhou(徐州); second, Zhang Baogao(张保皋) had been on the Qing Hai Zhen Da Shi(清海镇大使) in Silla at 828; third, Zhang Baogao(张保皋) was assassinated in 846.

In the light of the indirect historial materials above-mentioned, the time when Zhang Baogao(张保皋) acted in Xu Zhou can be calculated. If Zhang Baogao(张保皋) lived in Xu Zhou(徐州) at 810, his dead age would be the sixty-six years old ( $846-810+30=66$ ). If he lived in Xu Zhou(徐州) at 805, his dead age would be the seventy-one years old ( $846-805+30=71$ ). Seeing that the living conditions in Tang were so poor that average life-span was less than 55, and Zhang Baogao(张保皋) died in his boots, so we think it untenable that Zhang Baogao(张保皋) was in Xu Zhou(徐州) at 805. Similarly, it is rather a little possibility that Zhang Baogao(张保皋) was in Xu Zhou(徐州) at 810. However, for avoiding to omit the object of study, even more for viewing the object at a wide angle, we may enlarge the range of our study, take the 810 as the uppermost time limit of Zhang Baogao's activities in Xu Zhou and the 828 as the lowest time limit. So the time when Zhang Baogao((张保皋) lived in Xu Zhou may be a period from 810 to 828.

2.2 The change of Xu Zhou(徐州) area

Xu Zhou(徐州) had been an important place in the Chinese history. After An Lu Shan and Shi Si Ming Rebellion(安史之乱), Tang Court considered Xu Zhou(徐州) as the frontline of attacking the rebellious North governor and

defending the South economic centre, and promoted gradually Xu Zhou's (徐州) status: from the prefecture to the capital of Xu Hai Xi Mi Guan Ca Shi (徐海沂密观察使) in 782; from the capital of Xu Hai Xi Mi Guan Ca Shi (徐海沂密观察使) to the capital of Xu Si Hao Jie Du Shi (徐泗濠节度使) in 788; from the capital of Xu Si Hao Jie Du Shi (徐泗濠节度使) to the capital of Wu Ning Jun Jie Du Shi (武宁军节度使) in 805. Xu Zhou (徐州), Si Zhou (泗州), Hai Zhou (海州) and Su Zhou (宿州) were under Wu Ning Jun Jie Du Shi (武宁军节度使).

Xu Zhou (徐州) had been upgraded to the capital of Wu Ning Jun Jie Du Shi (武宁军节度使) and had the powerful military strength when Zhang Baogao (张保皋) held the post in Xu Zhou (徐州). It should have given Zhang a chance to put his extremely ability to good use.

2.3 The relations between the change of Wu Ning Jun Jie Du Shi (武宁节度使) and Zhang Baogao (张保皋) returning home.

From 788 to 828, the seven men had successively held the post of Jie Du Shi (节度使) in Xu Zhou (徐州): Zhang Jianfeng (张建封, 788—800), Zhang An (张暗, 800—806), Wang Shao (王绍, 806—811), Li Yuan (李愿, 811—818), Li Shuo (李朔, 818—820), Cui Qun (崔群, 820—822) and Wang Zhixing (王智兴, 822—832). In the time sequence, Zhang Baogao (张保皋) should have held the post of officer under one or more of Jie Du Shi (节度使) who included Li Yuan (李愿), Li Shuo (李朔), Cui Qun (崔群) and Wang Zhixing (王智兴). The event that Zhang Baogao (张保皋) returned to his motherland should have occurred during Wang Zhixing (王智兴) holding the power.

Wang Zhixing (王智兴) was a famous general in the late Tang Dynasty. According to the historical records, he was a soldier of Xu Zhou's (徐州) troop in his youth. Afterwards, he had been promoted to be Zhen Jiang (镇将), Dou Ya Ya (都押衙) and Jie Du Fu Shi (节度副使) step by step. In 822, Wang Zhixing (王智兴) launched a mutiny, the Court was forced to appoint him Wu Ning Jun Jie Du Shi (武宁军节度使). From then on, Wang Zhixing (王智兴) had ruled Wu Ning Jun (武宁军) until 832. Why did Zhang Baogao (张保皋) return to his motherland during Wang Zhixing (王智兴) holding the power? Through studying Chinese historical materials carefully, We can know

that there is a hidden relation between Zhang Baogao(张保皋) returning home and wang Zhixing(王智兴) coming to the power :

First, according to historical records, Wang Zhixing(王智兴) held the office in Xu Zhou(徐州) from 780 to 832. When Zhang Baogao(张保皋) held the post of the officer in Xu Zhou(徐州), Wang Zhixing(王智兴) would have worked together with him. But it is strange that Zhang Baogao(张保皋) who was famous for the superb talent hadn't been promoted by wang Zhixing(王智兴).

Secondly, Wang Zhixing(王智兴) had the narrow-minded disposition. During his term of Wu Ning Jun Jie Du Shi(武宁军节度使), Wang had ever expelled a general named Shi Xiong(石雄) from the Wu Ning Jun(武宁军) for Shi Xiong(石雄) cherished the soldiers and was brave in battle. So it is natural that Zhang Baogao(张保皋) have been suppressed and push out by Wang Zhixing(王智兴).

Third, according to the records of the Fan Chuan Wen Ji(樊川文集), Zhang's friend Zheng Nian(郑年) lost the post of Wu Ning Jun(武宁军) and was put in a tight spot when Zhang Baogao(张保皋) returned home. It seems that Zheng Nian(郑年) was forced to leave the office. Why didn't Du Mu(杜牧, writer of Fan Chuan Wen Ji) told clearly the cause that Zhang Baogao(张保皋) returned home and Zheng Nian(郑年) Left the office? It is because that Wang Zhixing(王智兴) and his sons had also held the important post during the Fan Chuan Wen Ji(樊川文集) Coming out, So Du Mu(杜牧) hid the fact that Zhang Baogao(张保皋) and Zheng Nian(郑年) were treated unjustly by Wang Zhixing(王智兴). Actually, Tang emperor also know Shi Xiong(石雄) to be framed, but the emperor didn't promote him for Wang Zhixing(王智兴). In view of this, Du Mu's(杜牧) writing on Zhang Baogao(张保皋) is understandable.

### 3. The military activities of Xu Zhou's(徐州) troop and Zhang Baogao's experience in Tang Dynasty

Xu Zhou(徐州) troop was more famous for its military strength. It is the one of the reason why foreigner Zhang Baogao(张保皋) may hold a officer of Xu Zhou(徐州) troop by the skillful martial arts alone.

#### 3.1 The mutiny in the Xu Zhou(徐州) troops.

From 800 to 830, the mutiny occurred for three time in Xu Zhou(徐州):

In 800, several thousands of Xu Zhou's soldiers mutinies and forced the Court to appoint Zhang An (张暗) Jie Du Shi(节度使).

In 822, Wang Zhixing(王智兴) as Jie Du Fu Shi(节度副使) launched a mutiny, expelled Jie Du Shi(节度使) from the Wu Ning Jun(武宁军), robbed the royal prosperity, and forced the Court to appoint him Jie Du Shi(节度使).

In 829, Jie Du Shi(节度使) Wang Zhixing(王智兴) expelled a general named Shi Xiong(石雄) from the Wu Ning Jun(武宁军), killed a hundred of officers and men who maked friends with Shi Xiong(石雄).

Zhang Baogao(张保皋) didn't take part in the mutiny in 800 and 829, for he lived in silla at that time. However, Zhang Baogao(张保皋) Should have a hand in the 822 mutiny as the officer. On the supposition that Zhang Baogao(张保皋) was expelled by Wang Zhixing(王智兴), he might Join the camp against Wang Zhixing(王智兴) in the mutiny of 822.

The mutiny above-mentioned had all the character that the lower lever insulted the higher lever. Zhang Baogao(张保皋) could have been influenced imperceptibly by the mutiny. As a matter of fact, It had demonstrated this influence that Zhang Baogao(张保皋) had ever used military forces to the Silla royalty twice in 838 and 846.

### 3.2 Xu Zhou(徐州) troop suppressing the rebellious governor.

In the late Tang Dynasty, Xu Zhou's(徐州) troop took part in a series of wars to suppress the rebellious Jie Du shi(节度使):

In 815—817, Xu Zhou's(徐州) troop suppressed the rebellious Huai Xi Jie Du Shi(淮西节度使) named Wu Yuan Ji(吴元济).

In 818—819, Xu Zhou's(徐州) troop suppressed the rebellious Zi Qing Jie Du Shi(淄青节度使) named Li Shidao(李师道).

In 821—822, Xu Zhou's(徐州) troop attacked the rebellious Lu Long Jie Du Shi(卢龙节度使) and Cheng De Jie Du Shi(成德节度使).

In 822, Xu Zhou's(徐州) troop suppressed the rebellious Xuan Wu Jie Du Shi(宣武节度使).

In 827—829, Xu Zhou's(徐州) troop suppressed the rebellious Heng Hai Jie Du Shi(横海节度使).

It happened to be the Yuan He Ping Fan<sup>①</sup>(元和平藩) when Zhang Baogao(张保皋) held the post in Xu Zhou(徐州). At that time, Xu Zhou's troop set often out and performed deeds of valour to the Court in battle. Zhang Baogao(张保皋) who was famous for superb talent should take part in the suppressive troop as the officer, and enrich his experience of military. In addition, military activities above-mentioned fall in with people's wishes and defend the Tang's unity, so Zhang Baogao(张保皋) who joined these activities had contributed to Tang and should be respected by Chinese people.

#### 4. The Conclusions

4.1 The time when Zhang Baogao(张保皋) lived in Tang Dynasty should be a period of time from 810 to 828.

4.2 Xu Zhou(徐州) is the main area where Zhang Baogao(张保皋) lived. At that time, the position of Xu Zhou(徐州) had been promoted from a prefecture to a capital of Wu Ning Jun Jie Du Shi(武宁节度使), and given Zhang Baogao(张保皋) a chance to put his ability to good use.

4.3 Zhang Baogao(张保皋) should have ever held the post of officer under one or several of Jie Du Shi(节度使) including Li Yuan(李愿), Li Shuo(李朔), Chui Qun(崔群) and Wang Zhixing(王智兴).

4.4 The reason that Zhang Baogao(张保皋) returned to his motherland should be Wang Zhixing's(王智兴) Jealous of Zhang talent and discharged Zhang Baogao(张保皋) from his officer.

4.5 Zhang Baogao(张保皋) had ever taken an active part in Wu Ning Jun's(武宁军)military operations. In the course of that, Zhang Baogao(张保皋) had accumulated a wealth of experience and laid a foundation for his success afterwards.

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① a large-scale attack on the rebellions governor during the emperor Xian Zong (ie 805—821)