

From Anchasi to Tifasi-A Glimpse of the Judicial Reform in Late Qing Dynasty

Zhang, De-Mei

Abstract

In 1907, the government of Qing Dynasty reformed the local bureaucracy, and renamed Anchasi to Tifasi. Tifasi conducted judicial administration, supervised court and prosecutors' offices and prisons, including all levels in each province. The reform was aiming at the independence of the judiciary. However, Tifasi became higher authority of the judicial bodies to control the power to shuffle personnel and finance, moreover to determine the abolition of the court in each level. As the result, to each level of courts Tifasi became the top authority. Meanwhile, Tifasi had the right to conduct legal explanation, also dealt with some special cases as competent government agency. Therefore Tifasi interfered with the normal operation of new judicial organ at the fields of legal explanation and system of appeal etc. Originally, Tifasi was judicial administrative organ, even though it had inherited the tradition of judicial supervision, and exercised its authority on supervision and judgment. The above proved that the judiciary and the administration were combined as one system even in late Qing Dynasty.

Keywords: Tifasi, judiciary, administration, supervision