

## **The Stigma of ‘Trickery for Official Job’: the Influence of the Abolition of the Traditional Examination System in the late-Qing Dynasty over the Legal Education of Modern China**

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### **Abstract**

From the late Qing period on, a trend of learning western jurisprudence and government rose among Chinese intelligentsia. The heat of this trend did not cool down until the 1930s under Republican rule. There after this trend was constrained by the same government. This constrain-policy was derived from an idea that learning jurisprudence and government was a trick to obtain an official position rather to serve the purpose of a modern state. The combination between the traditional exam system and modern school system was built during the reform of late Qing Imperial court, when it bestowed official positions to students who completed western style education. Institutionally, the graduates thus became equivalent to those intellectuals who were selected through the imperial exams. Although this arrangement did not serve students of jurisprudence and government exclusively, most of the official positions were taken by them. General impressions to contemporaries judged it as an usual channel to access official positions. This impression resulted to the enlargement of the school attending in the courses of jurisprudence and government around revolutionary era, while triggered the constrain-policy

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of republican government later on.

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