

A Study on Divorcing and Abandoning Wife- Focusing on Chi-Chu and Yi-Chueh in Statutes of T'ang Dynasty

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Abstract

This thesis aims to explore the statutes of T'ang Dynasty in the 7th and 8th centuries with emphasis in divorce codes and ordinances, such as “Chi-Chu” – seven causes of divorcing one’s wife, a typical divorce at husband’s discretion – or “Yi-Chueh” –conviction of any of the following crimes: violence to, adultery with, and assaulting in-laws or relatives, a compulsory policy dominantly enforced by government agency, in order to examine the various aspects of the divorce codes and ordinances by discussing the cases of invalidated marriage and divorce to decree.

Furthermore, the thesis also explores the marriages in T'ang Dynasty in which codes or ordinances imposed by the public authority compelled married parties to divorce. And how was the invalidation of a marriage officially recognized? What were the exceptional cases to the normal divorce act? Finally, this thesis also discusses issues such as legal proceedings to file a divorce and the situations that divorced woman had to face.

Keywords: T'ang code, statute system, divorce law, abandoning the wife, Chi-Chu (7 causes of divorce) and Yi-Chueh (Conviction of crimes affecting in-laws)