

The Contributions and Characteristics of the Legal Works of Liang Qichao

Fan, Zhong-xin

He, Peng

Abstract

Liang Qichao, an encyclopedic scholar in Chinese modern history, was a famous statesman for modern political revolution and legal reform, also made a great contribution to Chinese legal theory. This thesis is to disclose his outstanding status as a jurist, to points out his tremendous influences on succeeded theorists, and to summarizes as well as analyses his thoughts on Chinese jurisprudence. It concludes that Qichao's jurisprudence reflected the spirit of the age, which focused on searching approaches to save the nation and fight for independence. His theory introduced a wide range of topics in western jurisprudence, including the rule of law principle, the sources and the development of law, the concept of law, the concept of freedom, and natural law, etc. Many of them, however, were apprehended incorrectly because of the exclusive emphasis on the purpose and utility of law.

Keywords: Liang Qichao, jurisprudent, modern legal reforms in China, legal thoughts