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Student Name: Jiahe Zhang		
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Module code: SICH6019	Student ID number: 2304995	Educational support needs: Yes/No
Dissertation title: A Study on the Ideology of “Loyalty 忠” in <i>Zuo Zhuan</i> 左傳 as Collected in <i>Qunshu Zhiyao</i> 群書治要		
Supervisor: Prof. Kao-Ping Chang	Word count:	
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BA Dissertation Approval Form

Student Name	Jiahe Zhang
Degree Scheme	BA Sinology
Start date	16/02/2026

Title of Dissertation:

A Study on the Ideology of “Loyalty 忠” in *Zuo Zhuan* 左傳 as Collected in *Qunshu Zhiyao* 群書治要

Aims and Objectives:

This paper focuses on *Zuo Zhuan* as collected in *Qunshu Zhiyao*. It sorts out the types and connotations of loyalty 忠 in the selected texts, and combines historical cases, original sources, and the conception of loyalty in *The Analects* to examine the practice of loyalty in these excerpts. It demonstrates how historical records and moral principles verify each other, revealing how *Qunshu Zhiyao* selects, interprets, and reconstructs the thought of loyalty in *Zuo Zhuan*. This essay aims to provide a meaningful examination of the concept of loyalty in *Zuo Zhuan* excerpts collected in *Qunshu Zhiyao*.

Abstract (approximately 500 words):

Abstract (400 words)

Qunshu Zhiyao was compiled by Wei Zheng (580—643) and other scholars under the order of Emperor Taizong (598—649) of Tang Dynasty (618—907). It collects the essence of classics, histories and various philosophical schools, with the purpose of “drawing lessons from former kings to govern the present age 取鑒前王，資治當世.” The book’s selections from *Zuo Zhuan* underwent strict screening. The excerpts from *Zuo*

Zhuan in *Qunshu Zhiyao* were originally divided into three volumes, of which the first volume is now missing. The excerpts concerning the virtue of loyalty from *Zuo Zhuan* in *Qunshu Zhiyao* reflects a deliberate choice by the compilers, based on the political needs and ethical construction of the early Tang Dynasty. Academic research on “loyalty” in *Zuo Zhuan* has mostly been based on the full text of *Zuo Zhuan*, without taking into account the governance-oriented purpose of *Qunshu Zhiyao*. Focusing on the passages concerning “loyalty” in *Zuo Zhuan* as collected in *Qunshu Zhiyao*, this paper systematically classifies the types of loyalty, making the scattered ideas of loyalty in the texts more focused and coherent. This study categorizes loyalty into four positive types and one negative types, which forming a complete logical system.

This essay is divided into four chapters:

Chapter1 The compilation Background of *Qunshu Zhiyao* and an Overview of Its Excerpts from *Zuo Zhuan* (12000)

During the chaotic final years of the Sui Dynasty(581—618), the historical lesson that “the sovereign loses their way, and ministers lose their loyalty 君失道，臣失忠” led the early Tang rulers to recognize the importance of “taking history as a mirror.” *Qunshu Zhiyao* does not reproduce *Zuo Zhuan* in its entirety, but selects passages consistent with its purpose of providing political guidance. Its selection emphasizes state governance, the relationship between ruler and ministers, and the rise and fall of dynasties.

Chapter 2 The Evolution of the Idea of Loyalty from the Pre-Qin Period to the Early Tang Dynasty (1500)

The major Pre-Qin works that discuss loyalty are *Zuo Zhuan* and *The Analects*. In the late Spring and Autumn period (722—476), the meaning of loyalty began to extend to the state and people, and gradually shifted toward the obligation of subjects to serve their rulers. In Han(202BCE—220), Wei(220—265) and Six Dynasties(206—589) marked a stage in which the virtue of loyalty evolved from a public-oriented virtue to a personal one, forming the historical background for the ethical conception of loyalty in the early Tang Dynasty.

Chapter 3 Types and Connotations of Loyalty in *Zuo Zhuan* Excerpted in *Qunshu Zhiyao* (6100)

This chapter is divided into five sections. Each section draws on specific cases of loyalty from *Zuo Zhuan* collected in *Qunshu Zhiyao*, combined with Confucius’ interpretations of loyalty in *The Analects*, to demonstrate the diversity and systematic nature of the thought of loyalty in *Zuo Zhuan* as collected in *Qunshu Zhiyao*.

Chapter 4 Conclusion (800)

Based on an examination of the texts concerning loyalty in *Zuo Zhuan* as collected in *Qunshu Zhiyao*, this paper focuses on the selection and editing of the texts, the collation of relevant documents, and an analysis of the five types loyalty thought. It clarifies how *Qunshu Zhiyao* reconstruction and interpreted the conception of loyalty in *Zuo Zhuan*, which essentially served the political governance purpose of the early Tang Dynasty.

Short Introductory Bibliography:

Books:

- 1.Zuo Qiuming 左丘明, Du Yu 杜預, Kong Yingda 孔穎達, *Chunqiu zuozhuan Zhengyi* 春秋左傳正義, Beijing: Beijing university press, 2000.
- 2.He Yan 何晏,Xing Bing 邢昺, *Lunyu Zhushu* 論語注書, Beijing: Beijing university press, 2000.
- 3.Wei Zheng 魏徵 and others, *Qunshu Zhiyao* 群書治要, Beijing: Zhonghua Shuju, 2011.
- 4.Wang Zijin 王子今, *Zhongguannian yanjiu* 忠觀念研究, Changchun: Jilin jiaoyu press, 1999.
- 5.Yang Bojun 楊伯峻, *Chunqiu zuozhuanzhu* 春秋左傳注, Beijing: Zhonghua shuju, 1990.
- 6.Zuoteng Jiangzhi, *Zhongguogudaide zhongsixiang yanjiu* 中國古代的忠思想研究, Taipei: Guolitaiwan university press, 2010.
- 7.Tong Shuye, *Chunqiu zuozhuan yanjiu* 春秋左傳研究, Shanghai: Shanghai renmin press, 1980.

Journal:

- 1.Qu Delai 曲德來, ‘Zhongguannian xianqin yanbiankao’ 忠觀念先秦演變考, *Shehuikexue jikan* 社會科學輯刊, 3(2025).
- 2.Lin Chaocheng 林朝成, ‘Qunshuzhiyao yuzhenguanzhizhi: cong junchenhudong tanqi’ 群書治要與貞觀之治：從君臣之道談起, *Chengda zhongwen xuebao* 成大中文學報, 67(2019).
- 3.Hao Yijie 郝逸杰, ‘Xianqinshiqi zhongdeyihan yuzhuanhua’ 先秦時期忠的意涵與轉化, *Huagang shixue* 華岡史學, 8(2021).
- 4.Zhang Gaoping 張高評, ‘Chunqiu zuoshizhuan kuangjiannajian zhizijianjiazhi—jianlun qunshuzhiyao yanjiuzhi shijiaoyufangfa’ 春秋左氏傳匡諫納諫之資鑑價值——兼論群書治要研究之視角與方法, *Chenggongdaxue zhongwenxi* 成功大學中文系： *Diliujie qunshuzhiyao yuzhenguanzhengyao guojixueshu yantaohui lunwenji* 第六屆群書治要與貞觀政要國際學術研討會論文集, 2025.
- 5.Zhang Gaoping 張高評, ‘Qunshuzhiyao chunqiu zuoshizhaun yuzhengshuzijian’ 群書治要春秋左氏傳與政術資鑑, *Wenxuexidu* 文學細讀, 2024.

6. Zhang Suqing 張素卿, 'Qunshuzhiyao junchenguan qujianzhi zuozhuanyaoyi' 群書治要君臣觀取鑒之左傳要義, *Chengda Zhongwenxuebao* 成大中文學報, 74(2021).
7. Pan Mingji 潘銘基, 'Qunshuzhiyao yinshijianjiu' 群書治要引史記研究, *Furen zhongwenxuebao* 輔仁中文學報, 50(2020).
8. Wu Gang 吳剛, *Cong qunshuzhiyao kanzhenguanjunchen dezhiguolinian* 從群書治要看貞觀君臣的治國理念, 2009.
9. Guo Fang 郭芳, *Chunqiu zuozhuan zhongguannian yanjiu* 春秋左傳忠觀念研究, 2012.
10. Luo Jiayu 羅嘉羽, *Qunshuzhiyao xuanxianrenneng sixiangyanjiu* 群書治要選賢任能思想研究, 2023.

Proposed Supervisor:

Chang kao ping

Please indicate whether ethical approval for project is needed – NO

Please indicate whether sufficient resources are available for the project – YES

The above topic, proposal, and supervisor have been agreed:

Signed : *Chen, Su Fan* ..Programme Director

Date: 26/02/2026.....

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