



Respected provost, good afternoon. Miss Deng and Mr. Zhang good morning:

My name is Yujie Chen.

Today I want to discuss the analysis of the article, *Zhangguoce Muluxu* 戰國策目錄序 which is written by Mr. Zeng Gong 曾鞏, from three aspects: the first part is the background to the article. The second part is the analysis of the article. The third part is the conclusion.

Ok, now let's look at the first part.

*Histories of the Warring States* was compiled by Mr. Liu Xiang 劉向 through collecting and sorting the things on the warring states period. The content mainly records strategies which strategists of the Warring States provided for their kings. While this article was written by Mr. Zeng Gong 曾鞏 in the Northern Song dynasty, when he reorganized *Histories of the Warring States* and it is based on the preface by Mr. Liu Xiang 劉向.

Now, let's move on to the second part.

This article consists of three parts, Preamble, main body and Ending.

First, Let's move on to the preamble.

This is the preamble, in this part, the author introduced the cause, the process and the result of Proofreading. Some of the chapters from *Histories of the Warring States* were missing in the Northern Song dynasty, so the author visited many places to find missing chapters and revise them. In the end, through Mr. Zeng Gong 曾鞏's efforts, *Histories of the Warring States* was able to complete.

Next, let's move on to the main body.

This is the part of the main body.

Well, this part also has three parts: introduction, body and conclusion.

now, let's look at the introduction,

In this part, the author evaluated the preface which was written by Mr. Liu Xiang 劉向. He had the point that he agreed and disagreed. What did he say about it?

First, he thought it is very good that 'in the early years of the Zhou dynasty, the states were greatly ruled because of the prosperity of education and the revision of laws, but later, strategies are used to rule the states, which cause benevolence and righteousness were lost. Therefore, the states were plunged into chaos.' While he disagreed the point is that 'The strategists of the Warring States offered their strategy because they thought that this was all the kings could do, so they had to do it'. The author thought that this is the performance that they were affected by the social environment and did not believe their own nature.

In conclusion, this section is a critique on the preface written by Mr. Liu Xiang 劉向 and the author's argument.

Then, let's move on to the body.

In this part, the author used the example of Confucius and Mencius as a contrast to strategists of the Warring States to prove his view is correct.

In analysing the example of Confucius and Mencius, the author first introduced the context of their time, and then commented on the aim of their lobbying. They just hoped the teaching of the great kings of the past could be practiced rather than forcing and asking for the rulers to do/ what they could not do.

After that, the author described what they did/ to achieve the aim. According to the different times and social backgrounds, they just adapted to them and set the laws and regulations which were suitable for the present generation, so that the original intent of the great kings of the past was not lost.

The author then cited the example of the Two Emperors and Three Kings. Although the social backgrounds and legal systems of the Two Emperors and Three Kings were different, a heart to serve the country and people, as well as their principles and priorities were the same. Therefore, the author concluded the legal system can be changed according to different eras and social backgrounds, but Dao is the foundation of the state and cannot be changed. This explains why Confucius and Mencius had to practice the teaching of the great kings of the past. Finally, the author praised the behaviour of both Confucius and Mencius just is the performance of not being affected by the social environment and being true to their own nature.

After praising Confucius and Mencius, the author then evaluated the strategists of the Warring States.

First, he evaluated their nature. They didn't believe in Sages' teachings. They just hoped their lobbies could be successful and put all their energy and attention into their strategies to achieve their own goals.

Then, by citing the death example of the five strategists of the Warring States, Su Qin 蘇秦, Shang Yang 商鞅, Sun Bin 孫臏, Wu Qi 吳起, Li Si 李斯 and the fiefdoms that used them, the author demonstrated that using strategy can only lead to bad results.

Finally, by comparing both Confucius and Mencius with the strategists of the Warring States, it is concluded that only the teachings of the great kings of the past are faultless.

That's all there is to the body.

Next let's look at the conclusion.

After the above discussion, the author concluded that although *Histories of the Warring States* is relatively negative, it still has its value. The author used a question to elicit this paragraph to illustrate it.

After proving that the strategies were evil, perhaps someone would ask if *Histories of the Warring States* should be exterminated. The author answered 'no'.

There are two reasons:

First, by making them public, the public would be better informed about the dangers of evil, and thus better cautioned people and banned it.

Secondly, because *Histories of the Warring States* covers a period of 250 years from the Spring and Autumn Period to the Chu and Han Dynasties, it is of historical value and cannot be abolished.

The above is an analysis of the main body.

Next, let's look at the ending.

This is the part of the ending. In this part, the author stated the recovered situation of *Histories of the Warring States* in the Song dynasty.

In the end, let's move on to the final part, conclusion.

The beginning and end of the article are about the remaining situations of *Histories of*

*the Warring States* in the Song Dynasty. In the middle part of the article is a discussion of the author's view. The article is not only principled, convincing and having solid evidence, but also the tone is unhurried. Particularly, the author discussed how to treat history books with erroneous views, such as *Histories of the Warring States*, which is also of great value to us today.

This is the end of my presentation. Any feedback and suggestion would be appreciated. Thank you for listening.