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A BRIEF SURVEY OF SONG DYNASTY STUDIES IN CHINA OVER THE PAST DECADE

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The Song dynasty was an epoch-making juncture in Chinese history, marking a turning point in the period beginning with Han-Tang and ending with Ming-Qing. During the 320 years of the Northern and Southern Song, the central government underwent great development. Agriculture, crafts, commerce, and an urban economy reached unprecedented heights. Scholarship, philosophy, literature, history, education, art, science and technology, and woodblock printing flourished. At the same time, Song and Liao, Xi, Jin, and the Mongols established themselves one after another—this is all worthy of study and, indeed, for the first time has become a subject upon which Chinese scholars are concentrating attention. From the latter half of the 19th century, Song studies gradually have become an important field in Chinese and foreign academias. According to partial figures, during just the eighty year period from 1900-1980, more than 3,500 works were published in China (including Taiwan). In October 1980, a Song Studies Association was established in Shanghai, with the well-known Song specialists, Professors Deng Guangming and Chen Lesu as President and Vice President, respectively. The establishment of this Chinese Song Studies Association has provided a great impetus to Song research in China, and signaled the entry into a new stage in scholarship.

At the first national annual meeting of the Song Studies Association in 1980, almost all of the more than sixty participants (nearly fifty actual members) submitted papers. Thirty-two articles were selected for inclusion in the publication of the annual meeting, Songshi yanjiu lunwenji [Collection of Song studies articles] (Vol. 1, Shanghai guji chubanshe, Zhonghua wenxian lunwenji [Chinese literature and history collection], supplementary issue). The greater part of the articles were on Song social-economic development or feudal production relations. The rest included those dealing with the military system, institutions, struggles of nationalities, historical figures, verification of historical matters, and textual criticism.

The second annual meeting was held in October 1982 in Zhenghou, Henan Province. Over 100 scholars were in attendance and twenty-six papers were chosen for the second collection of articles (Vol. 2, Henan renmin chubanshe), including many works on finance and economic history, as well as governmental structure, thought, culture, history of science, history of nationality relations, and assessment of historical figures.

The third annual meeting was held in October 1984 in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province. In attendance were 116 scholars who submitted 104 papers and selected thirty-six for publication in the collection (Vol. 3, Zhejiang renmin chubanshe). Social-economic history topics were the most numerous, followed by recruitment, officialdom, nationalities policy, major figures, and textual research.

The fourth annual meeting was held in September 1987 in Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province. One hundred and seven representatives submitted seventy-three papers,
thought and culture, science and technology, historical compilations, and institutions. The collection is currently in the process of being compiled. Total membership in the Song Studies Association expanded from 153 in 1984 to 204 in this meeting three years later; in 1988 it has already leapt to over 250. Xu Gui, Qi Xia, Qiu Xia, Cheng Yinglu, Cao Qihao, Li Jiaju, and Zou Ruixi acted as Vice Presidents of this latest annual meeting. The fifth annual meeting has preliminarily been scheduled for 1990 in Kaifeng, Honan Province.

In addition to the annual Songshi yanjiu tongzilun No. 9, 263 works (including books on government, economy, culture, biography, collections of articles, and the organization and emendation of documents such as literary collections and sketches) were published by various publishing houses throughout China. In 1980 when the Song Studies Association was established, over 500 works (monographs, collections, classics and documents) on Song history have been published. According to partial figures, all together 2,076 articles on Song history were published in Chinese periodicals from January 1981 to June 1986. Shanghai alone publishes an average of over 200 papers a year. Nearly 4,000 from 1978 to June 1986. According to Professor Deng, Song studies are a "relatively weak link" in the scholarship on Chinese dynastic history. However, scholars welcome the challenge, doing all they can to meet it. Within recent years, Song studies (including Liao, Xia, and Jin) have become an active and productive academic field with quite extensive interchange among an international scholarly community. In May 1985, an International Symposium on the History of the Song Dynasty was held in Hangzhou, jointly sponsored by Hangzhou University and Beijing University. This was the Song studies conference to be convened on the mainland since the founding of the People's Republic. Sixty-seven Chinese and foreign scholars took part, including twenty-four professors or their equivalent in rank, and twenty-three associate professors, who together accounted for over seventy percent of the participants. Sixty scholars were in actual attendance; thirty-nine from the mainland, three from Hong Kong, nine from Japan, eight from the United States, and one from the Federal Republic of Germany. There were an additional fifteen specially invited media and publishing representatives from around the country. Fifty-seven papers were submitted on Song government, economy, military affairs, thought, culture, institutions, popular religion, social customs, appraisal of historical figures, and questions of Liao, Xia, and Jin history. Professor Deng of Beijing University and Professor Qi Xia of Hobei University have organized a Sino-Japanese Song Studies Symposium to be held in Spring 1989 in Beijing. This promises to be another major exchange in the Sino-Japanese Song studies community.

As stated above, the past ten years have seen relatively fast progress in Chinese Song studies, with research into various aspects of Song history, all with definite breadth and depth, including a number of excellent works which have opened up new fields. They may be categorized as follows:
analysis of the causes of and internal connections between the development of these areas. His book posits that beginning in the mid-Tang, Chinese feudal society entered a medieval period extending some 800 years until late Ming, just before the sprout of capitalism appeared. The Song was fixed following the social changes of the mid-Tang.

YANG: Song Studies in China

Song's Songbai binnophi chutun elaborates in systematic fashion on Song jingying, jishou [regular troops], xiangbing 城兵 [troops at the shou level], xiangbing 城兵 [local militia], fanbing Fan兵 [minority troops on the border], tuanbing 田兵 [local troops], archers, garrisoned armies and other military developments, as well as their organization and system of command. At the same time, this book also introduces us to the mercenary system, military equipment, communications, logistics, military finance, military law, military rule, and so on. It is the first monograph in recent years on the Song military and military affairs.

In addition, two works published in 1983 by Renmin chubanshe, Zhongguo shijian Vol. 5 and Zhongguo tongshi Vol. 7, have significantly stimulated research on Song (with Liao, Jin, and Xixia) history. The former sets out from the realm of dynastic history and carries out a synthetic study which places Song, Liao, Xixia, and Jin regimes in the context of the contemporary period as a whole. The author proposes his own conclusions and arrives at a new level of inquiry. The latter devotes considerable space to a survey of Song, Jin, and Yuan culture, depicting the flourishing of scholarship and culture.

The volume on the Song in Zhongguo lishi dicidian 中国历史大辞典 [Dictionary of Chinese history] published in 1984 includes Song dynasty reign names, historical figures, events, historical geography, foreign relations, architecture, literature and art. It also includes some of the categories of the old histories: economy, officialdom, recruitment, military and legal systems, and catalogues, amounting to 4,797 items in all. This is the first reference work devoted to Song history bringing together many specialists from around China. Wenshi 文史, Lishi yanjiu 历史研究, Zhongguo shiji 中国史研究, Zhongguo yanjiu tongji 中国研究统计 and other important periodicals put out by Zhonghua shuju also often publish Song research. Wenshi zhi 詞史知識 No. 9, 1983 has published a special Song issue.

In addition to the previously mentioned collections of the Song studies annual meeting edited by Deng Guangming, Songbai yanjiu luwenji Vols. 1-3, there are also:

Song-Liao-Jin-Yuan Studies group of the History Institute, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, ed., Song-Liao-Jin-Shi luncong 宋辽金史论丛 [Collection of essays on Song, Liao, Jin history] (Vol. 1, Zhonghua shuju, 1985); twenty articles and four short pieces;

Xu Gui, ed., Songbai yanjiu jikan 宋史研究集刊 [Studies in Song history] (Vol. 1, Zhejiang guji chubanshe, 1986); fifteen articles and six short pieces by various researchers at the Song Studies Center, History Department, Hangzhou University. Vol. 2 is soon to be published with more volumes to come;

Lishi yanjiu bianjiu 历史研究编辑部, ed., Liao-Jin shi lunwenji 辽金史论文集 [Essays on Liao and Jin history] (Liaoning renmin chubanshe, 1985); twenty-four articles (including index) by well-known historians Deng Guangming, Tan
II. STUDIES OF SONG POLITICAL HISTORY

Recent research on Song political history has been far-reaching in scope. The following main issues may be seen:

1. The Historical Position of the Song Period:

Among mainland Song scholars no concensus of opinion has yet been reached regarding the question of the stage of feudal society in which the Song lies within China's pattern of historical development. Some believe that the Song belongs to the period of the rise of feudalism, others that it belongs to the latter part when a decline had already started.

According to Deng Guangming, "to say that Northern and Southern Song lie in the period of the decline or fall of feudal society is not correct, either. The most accurate way to put it is that it was still in the period of the slow rise, in other words, the middle period, of feudal society." Deng points out further that the "Song marked the highest point of the development of China's feudal society. It may be said that the heights reached by Northern and Southern Song material as well as spiritual civilization were entirely unique and unprecedented for all of the feudal period." (from Tantang youguan Songshi yanjiu de jige wenben Several problems in the study of the Song, in Shehui kexue zazhi, No. 2, 1986). He forcefully supports the above points by pursuing agricultural production, the four great Chinese inventions, science and technology, overseas trade, as well as literature, history, philosophy, and other scholarly and cultural developments. He elaborates new insights on how to study Song history both macroscopically and microscopically. Qi Xia believes that the overall pattern of production in feudal society exhibited two falling-off periods: first, a peak period from the Warring States to the Qin-Han, a decline in the Wei-Jin, then a gradual rise in the Sui-Tang to a second peak of development in the Song. There was a drop again in the Yuan, then recovery at the beginning of the Ming to a third peak in mid-Ming comparable to that of the Song. Afterward, although growth did occur, it never surpassed that of the Song. Thus the Song was the peak period between two falling-off periods, which fact reflects the important position that it holds in Chinese history and overturns the idea that, supposedly, "the Song was a declining, humiliated, and decadent dynasty" (from Songdai bai woguo lishi shi de gudie The position of the Song in Chinese history in Wenxi shi zhi No. 3, 1985).

2. Some Research Results:

Research in Song political history explores Song unification, the central government and basic policies such as "emphasizing the central government, deemphasizing the local." Popular topics include: various Song policies (recuperation at the beginning of the Song, development of agriculture, military command and assistants, salt and tea monopolies, land ownership) problems of prime ministerial authority; civilian affairs, penalties, codes, economic law and other legal matters; the three Song political reforms (the reform at the beginning of the Song; "Qingli xinzhen" new central policy; the political reform during the mid-Northern Song, ca. 1040s); and the reform during the Xining to Yuenfeng years (ca. 1069-1085) and in particular, the factional struggles during Xiefeng and Yuyuan (ca. 1085-1094).

According to partial reckoning, over 300 articles have been written on Wang Anshi's Song for reform alone. New progress has been made in the past ten years on peasant uprisings in the Northern and Southern Song (such as of Wang Xie Sheng, Li Shun, Xiang Feng, Song Chang, Xiong Xiang, Wang Yao, etc., especially the Songjiang and Fang La rebellions: over 100 articles have been written on Songjiang and five monographs or small volumes plus thirty-five articles on Fang La. However, in the past few years it seems that scholarship on peasant rebellions has dwindled and awaits a renewal. How to concretely analyze and accurately treat the problem of nationality relations (including Song vis-a-vis other nationalities: Jin and the Mongols) is an important area. In the past, much discussion focused on the transition between Northern and Southern Song and on diplomatic relations while in recent years, in addition to a number of important incidents (such as the Chanyuan league) whose significance is being reassessed, there have been new developments in studies on Song, Xia, Jin, and Mongol peace time and wartime relations and on their economic and cultural exchanges.

III. STUDIES OF SONG ECONOMIC HISTORY

A proportionally large amount of research has been carried out on Song economic history. Virtually every economic field has been touched on and new fields have been opened up:

First, developments in agriculture and handicrafts; social productive forces, economic formation, and mode of production; commerce, city and countryside consumer
Whether they be old topics examined by new methods or entirely new topics, works on Song personages are the most numerous and wide in scope. Figures investigated include: Zhao Kuangyin (T'ai-tsu 太祖), Zhao Kuangxiang (T'ai-tsung 太宗), Zhao Zhen (Shenzong 神宗), Zhao Ji (Rui-song 理宗), Zhao Xu (Gao-song 高宗), Zhang Fu 蔣孚, Yang Ye 燕姬, Chen Tuan 陳傳, Wang Yucheng 王應誠, Sun Zhongliang 孫重亮, Li Xiang 立象, Li Gong, Zhao Xing 章行, Liu Shao 刘表, Cao Su 曹休, Cheng Yuan 姜瑗, Cheng Yi 廣之, Zhang Zai 張載, Wang Anshi 王安石, Shen Kuo 沈括, Li Xue 雷澤, Li Gao 羅祖, Li Shang 立上, Li Guo 龍穎, Shi Hua 谷和, Shi Xiu 石秀, Shi Liang 石亮, Ye Shi 義士, Li Hu 梨, Zhang Shao 郑昭, Li Dao 李道, Liu Xing 刘星, Liu Hui 王維, Zhu Qian 趙泉, and Ren Xianzhang 任賢昌. Some controversial figures have been looked at anew, such as Pan Mei 包美, Li Huining 劉寅卿, Zeng Gu 曾谷, and Shi Miyan 史濑遠.

Let us briefly touch on the following:

1. Cai Xiang (1012-1067)

Cai Xiang was a famous official of the Northern Song who was known for his outstanding political achievements, his uncommon thought, lucid writing, profound knowledge, and contributions in many fields. However, historically he has been misunderstood. Studies in the past largely concentrated on his calligraphy and construction of the Quanzhou "Loyang Bridge," hardly touching on his political thought and other aspects. In July 1987, the first ever national symposium on Cai Xiang Studies was convened in Putian, Fujian Province, under the auspices of the Chinese Song Studies Association, the Song Studies Center at Hangzhou University, the Putian Political Consultative Conference, the Putian Social Science Academy, and others for a total of nine units brought together. Seventy specialists from around the country submitted fifty-three papers. Topics included: summation and assessment of Cai's achievements (including examination of the growth and branching of the Cai clan after the move south); his political thought (including reform ideology and proposals), economic and trade thought, scientific thought; his art and calligraphy, such works as Li Cai's 藝家 Li Cai's (Liche handbook), Cha Lu 茶錄 (Tea production handbook), hydraulics engineering, and bridge construction. There have been breakthroughs and innovative research to varying degrees on Cai Xiang's political, economic, and scientific thought. New textual research on the spread of the Cai lineage has emerged. And there was exchange of the newest information on the handling down of Cai Xiang's own treasured scrolls. After the meeting, Guanping 吳評, Zhongnuo 種諾, Lulun 學論, and Huijiang 華江 published reports and related articles. A descendant of Cai Xiang, Professor Cai Jinfa 蔡金發, has edited Cai Xiang's Siang si xiang siang, Cai Xiang's thought and family background (Fujian renmin chubanshe, 1988), a collection of forty articles which includes:

Cai Shangyi 蔡尚義, Ruan Yi 宋易 [Preface]; by a famous historian,

Yang Guo 顏果, Cai Xiang de sheng平 xiang xin 事象 thought and dramatic thought [A preliminary investigation of Cai Xiang's political thought];

Peng Youliang 彭友良, Cai Xiang siang siang chuan 事象 thought and dramatic thought [A
2. Wang Anshi and Sima Guang

Wang Anshi (1021-1086) and Sima Guang (1019-1086) were well-known mid-Northern Song statesmen and scholars with writings of great scope, whose evaluation has always been a matter of disagreement. Praise of Wang Anshi has been the rule, while assessment of Sima Guang has not been as even-handed. In recent years the trend has been to analyze from the facts and conduct comparative studies of the two men. In 1986 in Puhou, Jiangxi Province, and Xiaxian, Shanxi Province, two national symposia were held in memory of Wang Anshi and Sima Guang. In Puhou Wang Anshi yanju tongpun 正安石研究會通訊 [Wang Anshi studies newsletter] was published, with eight issues as of December 1986. In Shanci jinyang xuekan 訊陽學刊 [Jinyang journal] was published, in which a special "Sima Guang yanju" 四馬光研究 [Sima Guang studies] column airing many substantive articles was initiated. Most research on Wang Anshi focuses on his reforms and also his xinshu, literary thought, and literary accomplishments. Research on Sima Guang, outside of rectifying past biases and presenting different viewpoints on his opposition to Wang's reforms, mainly centers on his contributions to historiography, literature, philosophy, and synthesizes work on his thinking on government, economy, law, and other fields. His prose and poetry collections have been organized, emended, and other works scrutinized in, for example, Yang Weisheng, Quanyu Sima Guang yanji de jige wenti 關於司馬光文集的幾個問題 [On several problems concerning Sima Guang's literary collections] [Zhonghua shuju, Wenhui, No. 32]. Since 1980, three monographs have been or soon will be published and nearly 100 articles issued.

3. Shen Kuo

Shen Kuo (1033-1097) was an outstanding scientist of premodern China, a learned scholar, and a progressive political activist. Many articles have been written on him, beginning with the works of the late scientist Professor Zhu Keshen 車可慎 (1894-1974) and the later historian Professor Zhang Yinlin 張茵林 (1905-1942). The eminent scholar Professor Hu Daqing 何從勤's Shen Kuo xinshu 聲國新書 [Shen Kuo's compiled works] and Xue Qiu has written Shen Kuo shi li bianjian 聲國事紀編纂 [Chronicle of Shen Kuo's achievements]. Yang Weisheng is currently working on Xibian Shen Kuo ji 新編聲國集 [A new Shen Kuo collection] includes reorganizing, checking, and editing, the first complete collection of Shen Kuo's works since the Song. In April 1986, a Shen Kuo Study Association (now a part of the Society for the Study of History of Science and Technology) was established in Hangzhou and headed by Xue Qiu. An international symposium on Shen Kuo will be convened in 1989.

4. Yue Fei

This famous general who resisted the Jin has always been a focus of study for historians; in recent years he has become a very popular topic. In addition to the above-mentioned monographs by Deng Guangming and others, in the spring of 1978 at a conference of the Hangzhou University History Department on the assessment of Yue Fei, Professor Deng expressed some good thoughts. A partial bibliography follows:

Xue Qiu 許秋, "Shuixiandian shi yi yu Yue Fei bianshi kaobian 《水犀院事紀與岳飛辨異考辨》 [Corrections in Shuixiandian and the return of Yue Fei's victorious troops] (Hangzhou daxue xuebao 杭州大學學報 No. 1, 1978);
In the past, the Southern Song was a neglected field within Song studies. Recently, however, many scholars have begun to realize its importance and to examine it from various angles: the establishment and influence of the military policy, relations with the Jin and the Mongols, economic development, commoners and landlords, education, culture, the capital Linan (including the palace and imperial city site), and so forth.

The fact that Southern Song studies are almost a blank has come to the attention of both Chinese and foreign Song scholars. Recently, the Song Studies Center at Hangzhou University has been engaged in the collection of all kinds of materials, archeological included. Starting with the Southern Song capital and the Zhejiang region, the group has been conducting a specialized and comprehensive study and will soon publish Nan Song shibao (Draft history of the Southern Song).

The History department at Sichuan University has concentrated on the Sichuan region in the latter part of the Southern Song. From 1984 it has published successively Songo Sichuan shanzheng shiliáo xuanchuan (Materials on Sichuan wars at the end of the Song) and Sichuan qushi kaozhi (Ancient history of Sichuan) which emphasizes the latter half of the Southern Song, from the reign of Lizong on.

In October 1989, Sichuan University and the Sichuan Academy of Social Sciences, along with Xian Shifan University, the Chongqing Academy of Social Sciences, and others, plan to convene in Chongqing an "International Conference on Dangyucheng (the capital) and the History of the Later Southern Song." All this reflects the recent progress of Southern Song studies and points to great strides still to come.

VIII. STUDIES AND ORGANIZATION OF SONG DOCUMENTS

Scholars of late have paid special attention to the study and ordering of Song documents, including historical records, literary collections, notes, and bibliographies.

As of 1987, twenty volumes of Zhonghua Shuju's punctuated edition of Li Dao's Xi sishi tongqian changbian (Compiled data for a continuation of the 'Comprehensive Mirror for aid in government') have been published. Tongshi (Comprehensive treaty) and Wenzian tongkao (General investigations of important writings) and other major materials have been printed photomechanically. The Shanghai Qiji Chubanshe has photomechanically printed Xu sishi tongqian changbian (including Changbian shibao) (Lost material from the 'Collected data') as well as Chaobei mengful bian (The Hubei league).

The two publishing houses have also published many Song literary collections, special collections, sketches, and chronicles:

Deng Guangming, collaborator, Chen Liangji (Collection of Chen Liang) [2 volumes, revised and enlarged ed., Zhonghua, 1987];
Hu Daojing, Mengqi bitan jianzheng (Emendations to the 'Mengqi bitan' revised and enlarged ed., Shanghai, 1987);
Chen Jinsheng (Collection, 1987); Lian Yuhua (collaborator, Song Yuan xueshu (Song and Yuan studies) [4 volumes, Zhonghua, 1986];
Kong Fanli (孔凡禮), collaborator, Xu Shi wenji (徐石文集) [Literary collection of Su Shi] (6 volumes, Zhonghua, 1986);
Song, Liao, Jin. Yuan Research Group. History Institute, Chinese Academy of Social Science, collated, Jinggong shangping mingli (An account of court verdicts and government documents by prominent officials) (2 volumes, Zhonghua, 1987);
Chen Weihua (陈薇华), organizer, Song huiyao jiko bujian (terminology of the Draft of Song Institutions) (Zhonghua, 1989);
Shanghai Guji Chubanshe, punctuated ed., Songshi jishu (Anthology of Song poems) (4 volumes, 1983), and others.

Zhejiang Renmin Chubanshe has published punctuated editions of:

- Nan Song linan liangzi (Two gazetteers of Southern Song Linan);
- Mingshi jiu (Dream of grief);
- Wu jin shishu (Old matters of Wu jin);
- Nansong guji kao (Historical sites of Southern Song);
- Xiuhu yuanyi zhui (A tour guide to West Lake);
- Xiuhu yuanyi yu (A guide to West Lake).

Zhejiang Guji Chubanshe has published punctuated editions of:

- Zongze ji (Zongze collection);
- Zhuhunan jishu (Annotated collected works of Zhu Shunhen);
- Yingshi jiling shi (Collected poems of Yingshi during the Jin Dynasty); and others.

Beijing Shushe has published Quan Song wen (Complete Song prose) (Vol. 1, 1988 ed.), compiled by the Classics Institute at Sichuan University. Many scholars from Beijing University, Hangzhou University, and other institutions participated in the ordering, checking, and emendation of Quan Song shi (Complete Song poetry) which is to be published by Beijing University, Zhonghua Shuju and Shanghai guji Chubanshe continue to publish Song poetry documents.

Professor Xu Gui of the Song Studies Center at Hangzhou University is the chief editor of Songshi shu (Songshi shu). Addenda and corrections to the Songshi shu (Songshi shu) are being accomplished through the cooperative efforts of the Song Studies Center and outside specialists, who have divided up the chapters and volumes:

- Songshu zhiyuanshi shu (Songshu zhiyuanshi shu) [Biographical dictionary of Songshi shu];
- Songshu zhiyuanshi shu (Songshu zhiyuanshi shu) [Economic];
- Songshu zhiyuanshi shu (Songshu zhiyuanshi shu) [Penal law];
- Songshu zhiyuanshi shu (Songshu zhiyuanshi shu) [Examination system];
- Songshu zhiyuanshi shu (Songshu zhiyuanshi shu) [Emperors' biographies];
- Songshu zhiyuanshi shu (Songshu zhiyuanshi shu) [Astronomy];
- Songshu zhiyuanshi shu (Songshu zhiyuanshi shu) [Art and literature];
- Songshu shibian (Zhu Xuan) (Songshu shibian (Zhu Xuan)).

The above-mentioned Song materials constitute but a small portion of the extant mass of Song documents, books, and records; there is still much work to be done and scholars need to work together to further the advance of Song studies.

Recently, Hangzhou University has successfully developed a Dianzhuang songshu (Dianzhuang songshu) computerized system for literary sketches of Song figures which gathers fifty categories and fifty-six sections of highly useful Song sketches. It contains over 50,000 items of information, involving more than 1,600 types and 2,300 personages. In one minute, one can obtain results of a search; within several minutes one can scan fifty sketches. This is a step toward the modernization of Song studies and a major breakthrough in the methods of research of Song documents.

IX. CHARACTER AND WEAKNESSES OF RECENT SONG STUDIES

To sum up, the past decade or so of Song studies in China has seen great progress.

First, results and talent to the fore. One notable feature of recent studies is not only the numerous new works published, but the great many young and middle-aged Song scholars who have revealed their abilities; their emergence in large numbers as successors is most gratifying. Many institutions of higher learning among the country have begun to offer Song history courses and seminars. Over 200 graduate students are enrolled in N.A. programs in various universities and research institutions. Beijing, Hangzhou, and Peking Universities, among others, have set up Ph.D. programs in Song history to train new specialists. The national Song Studies Association has increased its membership fourfold. Song studies have staying power and a new force is currently growing and maturing.

Second, new methodology. Song scholars have broken through some of the
fetters of the past by proposing a simple proceeding from the facts of kind of research. Compared to the former rather tedious, unitary style of writing, content and expression is more varied, the field of vision is more open, and there is a feeling of freshness.

Third, progress in research. Of late, studies have not only opened up such areas as institutions, intellectual history, social customs, and some important figures, but also attempted horizontal connections between and initial synthetic study of Song, Liao, Xia, Jin, and the Mongols. Numerous monographs and articles on Liao, Xia, and Jin have greatly promoted the study of their histories. All works are very different from previous unidimensional studies of Song history; everyone dares to present his own viewpoints on theoretical questions. For example, on the problem of Song Jiang, a veritable "contention of 100 schools of thought" has appeared without any rush to draw conclusions. This is conducive to deeper investigation of academic questions.

But of course, many problems and shortcomings still persist. Areas of research are still to be tapped: the history of various Song institutions, political history, political history of scholarly thought, history of science and technology, military history of Northern and Southern Song, and the like are underdeveloped as of today. Also, very few works have touched on the politics, economy, institutions, and culture of the final forty years of the Northern Song. Mid- and late Southern Song research awaits advancement. Some popular fields receive much attention while other uncultivated "virgin lands" receive little or no attention. And, as is widely known, due to various factors it has been extremely difficult to publish or issue new research results in the last one or two years, which cannot but exert an influence on the progress of research.

The above general survey of Song studies focuses on China mainland, but significant accomplishments have also been made in Taiwan and Hong Kong. From the October 1963 inauguration in Taiwan of a Symposium on Song History to March 1986, 100 conferences have been held. A Songshi yanjiu [Song studies collection] has been published up to No. 17, with altogether 319 articles; Volume 18 is currently at press. Many Song monographs and reference works have been published. In December 1984, the History Department of Chinese University of Hong Kong sponsored an International Song Studies Conference with more than twenty scholars from Taiwan, the mainland, the United States, Germany, Australia, and Hong Kong who submitted over twenty papers. Hong Kong scholars have published a number of Song historical monographs:

Song Shaoqiang 宋朝光, Songdai jingji lumenji 宋代經濟論文集 [Articles on Song economy];
Lǐ Hongqi 李鴻旗, Songdai jiaoyu san lun 宋代教育散論 [Articles on Song education];
Thomas H.C. Lee (Lǐ Hongqi), Government Education and Examinations in Song China [English edition of Songdai zhengfu jiaoyu yu keju 宋代政府教育科舉].

For a general survey of studies done in Taiwan and Hong Kong, there is Professor Song Xi’s 宋輝, Songshe yanjiu de fazhan (1988 nian 3 yue 20 ri di yibaici Songshe yanjiu huikan shang jiang) 宋史研究的發展 (in 1988年3月20日第100次宋史研究會上講) (The development of Song studies: a speech given at the 100th Song