The Origin and Development of the "Ordinance on Apparel System" of the Republic of China in the Context of Culture

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ABSTRACT

The promulgation and formulation of ordinances on apparel system in past dynasties are not only the factors restricting clothing culture, but also the factors promoting clothing culture. The enactment of the ordinances on apparel system of the Republic of China is the inheritance of the Chinese costume system, such as The History of "Yu Fu Zhi" ("舆服志", record of the clothing systems) and "Li Yi Zhi" ("礼仪志", record of etiquette), as well as the denouncement and continuation of the historical remnants of the previous dynasties. The ordinances on apparel system of the Republic of China emerged with the collapse of feudalism which lasts for over 2,000 years along with the fall of Qing Government. With its presence attached to the turbulent situation of the society, it was the driving force of social progress. The beginning of the apparel system of the Republic of China began with the rise of the "braid-cutting and costume changing" movements. What were cut off were not only the long braids in form, but also the feudal culture of the Qing Dynasty and what were changed were not only the tedious Manchu clothing at that time, but also the culture in a new era. The issuance of ordinance on apparel system promoted the development of costume culture in the Republic of China.

Keywords: the Republic of China, ordinance on apparel system, clothing culture

I. INTRODUCTION

The Republic of China was established after the fall of the Qing Dynasty, which was an era of national transformation. As an important dress code in the Republic of China, the ordinance on apparel system had profound influence. Research of the ordinance on apparel system is a must in the study on the clothing system of the Republic of China, as only by studying the ordinance on apparel system promulgated as a decree can people better understand the costume background and the implementation situation at that time. This period of history of the Republic of China makes everything then extraordinary and marks the transition of modern times to the contemporary age. The clothing of the Republic of China is worthy of in-depth study in detail, so as to study the relationship between historical background and clothing, as well as the ordinance on apparel systems issued over the time, among which the differences and connections are worthy of discussion.

II. THE BACKGROUND OF THE ORDINANCE ON APPAREL SYSTEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

China began to be a semi-colonial and semi-feudal society after the outbreak of the Opium War in 1840. With the rise of the industrial revolution in modern times, the Qing Dynasty was behindhand. After the eight powers invaded China, the bourgeois revolutionary movement began to develop and the Chinese people began to wake up. Only then did a number of patriots emerge to save the country. Sun Yat-sen founded the Revive China Society on November 24, 1894, and the bourgeoisie began to sprout and develop. The Chinese Revolutionary League held its founding meeting on August 20, 1905, which was of great significance to the 1911 Revolution in overthrowing the feudal dynasty.

On October 10, 1911, the Revolution of 1911 broke out. The establishment of the Republic of China overthrew the Qing government that had ruled China for more than two centuries and put an end to thousands of years of autocracy in China, ushering in a new chapter of modern society. With the development of China's modern history, there were many ordinances on
apparel system which pursue freedom and equality. The issuance of such systems exerted a strong influence on the economy and culture of the society then. During the Period of the Republic of China, the political situation was unstable and people were in a state of panic. The local economy was suppressed by the Western economy, and the Western products had a strong impact on the domestic products, resulting in unmarketable products. To address this problem, the government issued regulations on the use of domestic fabrics to promote consumption and economic growth.

Under the influence of such ideological trends as Learning from the West and feminist movement, the Republic of China gradually drew closer to Western culture in its initial state of social development. Influenced by the Western culture, the reform and change of clothing was particularly important. In different periods, different governments issued corresponding ordinances on apparel system with the change of life.

III. THE ORIGIN OF THE ORDINANCES ON APPAREL SYSTEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

China has always been in the habit of recording historical documents and compiling them into books. So relevant knowledge of clothing culture can be found through previous historical materials and documents. A apparel system records the clothing culture of the period.

What have to be mentioned here is "Fu Yu Zhi" a historical book that records the costume system, in which there are many kinds of activities and the clothing of people in different classes. It is an indispensable precious material for the study of Chinese costumes.

At the beginning of the establishment of the Republic of China, people had just experienced the collapse of the Qing Dynasty and were in a period of national disorder. Social rules were broken and Western culture was forced in, which all affected people's normal life. In addition, although the Qing Dynasty collapsed, people's old ideas, and dress habits were still alive, especially the long braids of men in the Qing Dynasty. Before the establishment of the Republic of China, in October 1911 the government put up a notice ordering men to cut off the plaits so as to cut off the feudal customs. But it was not easy for this custom be removed, and some people still had long braids after many years. Cutting off braids can be regarded as the first time to remove the remnants of feudal society after the success of the Revolution of 1911, which also laid a solid foundation for the later issuance apparel systems.

After the founding of the Republic of China on January 1, 1912, a number of ordinances on apparel system were promulgated. The ordinances of "Apparel System" and "Uniform System for the Army" was promulgated just after the establishment of the Republic of China, covering a wide range of contents, which was also the beginning of apparel system. These ordinances provided great help for the study of the clothing in the Republic of China, which was of great significance.

IV. ORDINANCES ON APPAREL SYSTEM

Some ordinances on apparel system issued during the Republic of China had long been influential, while others have not stirred up waves. Different government rulers at different stages customized different regulations of clothing, the purpose of which was to better adapt to the reality of dressing habits and new social trends.

A. The "Apparel System" issued in 1912

At the beginning of the establishment of the Republic of China, all social classes were in chaos and disunity. They all hoped to get rid of the shackles of clothes left by the Qing Dynasty and express their expectations for the new society through new clothes. Costume reform was a reflection of social phenomenon and a symbol of people's pursuit of democracy, equality and freedom.

The "Apparel System" was published in October 1912. Men's clothing was composed of the previous long gown and mandarin jacket and the Western clothes brought by Western culture, which constituted men's morning dress. For men, there was ceremonial dress in addition to morning dress. The evening ceremonial dress was similar to the tuxedo. The lower end of the daytime ceremonial dress could reach the knee, and the sleeve reached to the wrist, and it got slit at the rear bottom of the garment. The "Apparel System" has rules on the occasion of clothes worn and the style and color of clothes. The color of the gown and jacket should be black, and the material should be cotton and silk, etc. A ceremonial dress should be worn during the day, with black boots and a tall and flat hat with a brim, etc. Women's dresses were still in the traditional style of upper outer garment plus skirt, which was not changed much. In the early years of the Republic of China, the invasion of Western capitalist powers had a strong impact on local economy, culture and life. According to the regulations of the "Apparel System", the proportion of Western clothes was greater than that of traditional gowns and mandarin coats, while women's clothes remained basically unchanged. As the first dress system at the beginning of the Republic of China, the "Apparel System" broke the previous hierarchical dress system and paid attention to equality. From the "Apparel System", it can be felt that people wanted to get rid of feudal culture and establish a new society urgently.

The first dressing reform at the beginning of the Republic of China directly applied Western clothing
culture to China without any modification or deletion. The regulations were issued in order to remove the remnants of feudal ideology of the Qing Dynasty and to reform the daily dress, but the reform did not fully adapt to China's national conditions.

B. The "Ordinance on Apparel System" issued in 1929

The ordinances on the apparel system have profound cultural connotation, which carries the social trend and thought. Clothing shows people's will, reflecting the social development process and the social reality. In just a few decades, the government issued many ordinances on the apparel system, each of which changed and gradually approached the reality of the Republic of China.

In April 1929, the "Ordinance on Apparel System" was promulgated, stipulating that blue gowns and black coats should be adopted for men's formal dress; the hat should be black in winter and white in summer; concave caps with soft padding should be worn in winter and flat caps with hard padding with edges in summer. Two styles of women's clothing were selected. One was the robe, which laid a foundation for the formation of the improved qipao. The other was the new blue coat and black dress. Uniforms for civil servants are regulated in the "Ordinance on Apparel System". In this ordinance, it was stipulated that international clothing should be used in international affairs. The apparel system stipulated in the "Ordinance on Apparel System" was more in line with China's national conditions than the "Apparel System" issued in 1912. The suit was no longer the focus, but the local blue robe and black coat was chosen instead. The simple blue robe was chosen for women, and the blue coat and black dress, which was popular at that time. It was no longer the traditional top coat and bottom skirt. This kind of dress was more in line with the social ideological trend of freedom and equality. At the same time, in the ordinance issued, The Chinese tunic suit was established as a statutory uniform for the first time, indicating the importance of the Chinese tunic suit.

The costume system had been constantly adjusted, from focusing on Western costume at the beginning to focusing on local costume then, the government was constantly groping for clothes suitable for Chinese people. Although the influence of Western culture in China gradually increased after the Revolution of 1911, it was more important to choose clothes suiting the national conditions.

C. "Amendment Bill to Ordinance on Apparel System" issued in 1939

After many discussions and consultations before its promulgation, the "Amendment Bill to Ordinance on Apparel System" finally produced clothes that were more appropriate for people to wear than ever before. The "Amendment" was enacted through the War of Resistance against Japan. The draft was started in February 1935 and published on January 8 1939.

According to the "Amendment", men's clothing included Western clothing, traditional Chinese gown and mandarin jacket, as well as the Chinese tunic suit combining Chinese and Western styles and student suits, which were more close to people's living habits. Women could wear western-style clothes or gowns, as well as shorts with short skirts and Chinese-style trousers. The regulations on the apparel system promulgated by the "Amendment" did not directly adopt Western clothing, nor did it directly stipulate traditional clothing, but incorporated the Chinese and Western student attire into the legal regulations. The student attire suited the development condition in the later period of the Republic of China and the increasingly advanced society, and it also fitted the law of the development of the long history. The apparel system that time was classified in detailed, provided people with more choices and conformed to the social process. Women's clothing was long gown, which was very popular in the late Republic of China. The uniforms for male and female civil servants were student attire, Chinese tunic suit, Western-style suit and robe. They were easy to wear and suitable for office and daily activities. On July 7, 1937, the War between China and Japan broke out, which did great harm to the country politically, economically and culturally. People's life was unstable and the economy was greatly challenged, therefore, simple and convenient clothes got more popular.

The ordinances on apparel system issued in the Republic of China followed the development of the society. Clothing is dependent on social development, and the development of the country influences the whole society all the time. The chaos caused by the wars in the Republic of China affected the development of clothing culture at any time. And it was precisely because of the Sino-Japanese war that the promulgation of the Amendment was suspended for a period of time.

V. UNIFORM SYSTEM FOR THE ARMY

The promulgation of "Uniform System for the Land Force" provided a great basis for the standardization of and unified army uniform, and made a great contribution to its development. The uniform system in the army had detailed regulations on the uniforms of officers and soldiers, which were strict and required order.

A. "Army Officer Apparel System" issued in 1912

In 1901, the north marine standing military uniform system organized and trained by the Qing government already had the trend of standardization, which laid a solid foundation for the formation of modern army
uniform system. At the beginning of the establishment of the Republic of China, the Nanjing Provisional Government established the Department of the Army, which made uniform provisions on army clothing.

The promulgation of the "Army Officer Apparel System" unified the chaotic scene of warlord costumes, which was a decree on military costumes issued after the establishment of the Republic of China. On October 23, 1912, the "Army Officer Apparel System" laid down the style of official uniform and informal dress for officers and men. It was stipulated that the colors of official coats and hats should be blue. In different seasons, different materials should be used for coats, such as wool and nankin for winter and nankin for summer; the shirts and hats of officers and men should be olive green. It was mentioned that the length of the shoulder badges and collar badges of the officers and men should be 15 cm and the shoulder badges of the officers and men should be rectangular, etc. The contents of the army uniform describes the modern army's dressing patterns in detail, from large costumes to small medals, revealing people's expectations for the future. The uniform system for the army stipulated the official gowns and informal dress of officers and soldiers, as well as details such as epaulets, belts and collar badges.

In the early years of the Republic of China, the uniform system for the army was promulgated, which was a way to ease the chaos of warlord costumes. The regulations on uniform system for the army were normative for military uniforms.

B. "Interim Ordinance on Service Uniform and Full-dress Uniform for the Army" issued in 1929

The "Interim Ordinance on Service Uniform and Full-dress Uniform for the Army" promulgated in the 18th year of the Republic of China stipulated the dress and rank of the officers and soldiers in the army, which shows the characteristics of the dress and dress of the army.

In January 1929, the "Interim Ordinance on Service Uniform and Full-dress Uniform for the Army" stipulated that the uniforms of the army should be made of domestic cotton and wool, and that the colors of the formal dress and informal dress should be dark gray. They had the same in style, but were different in the trousers. There were many kinds of service uniforms, including jacket, trousers, hat, leather shoes, riding boots, coat and so on. According to the "Interim Ordinance on Service Uniform and Full-dress Uniform for the Army", the ranks of the officers and soldiers and their branches of arms could be distinguished by the symbols on the collar. Different branches of arms had specific colors, such as light red for the military police and red for the infantry. It was also stipulated to use domestic fabric in order to support the national economy. The dress was further distinguished in detail, even including the military belt of an officer and the pattern on the hilt of a knife. This series of regulations, all reveals the importance of the army uniform, as well as the regularity of the army.

C. "Ordinance on Service Uniform and Full-dress Uniform for the Army" issued in 1929

The "Ordinance on Service Uniform and Full-dress Uniform for the Army" was issued after less than 8 months of the issuance of the "Interim Ordinance on Service Uniform and Full-dress Uniform for the Army"

Compared with the regulations issued in January, the "Ordinance on Service Uniform and Full-dress Uniform for the Army" issued on September 7, 1929 formulated the size of collar badges and changed the badge color of artillermen to blue. Instead of the original words such as "Love Not Money, Fear Not Death" or "Love the Nation and the People", the words engraved on the hilt were the party flag of the Kuo Min Tang and the national flag. There were some changes made in the "Ordinance on Service Uniform and Full-dress Uniform for the Army", yet the apparel system was not well practiced due the national turmoil, social unrest and economic depression at that time.

D. "Ordinance on Uniform System for the Army" issued in 1936

On January 20, 1936, the "Ordinance on Uniform System for the Army" were promulgated, establishing the types of official uniform. Different types of clothing were prescribed for different occasions: dress suit should be worn for New Year's Day and other celebrations, morning dress for taking office, etc., and the military uniform in ordinary occasion and in battle.

The "Ordinance on Uniform System for the Army" regulated the color, style, etc., among which the regular dress was all the same except for the coat, the ceremonial belt and the formal dress. The dress was black and made of silk and wool and the dressing-gown and the military uniform were in olive drab cloth; the military pants for formal dress were divided into two kinds, and the military pants for service uniform were divided into three kinds, namely trousers, breeches and shorts and there were no for formal dress as shorts were normally used for drill; the shoes and boots were made of black leather; the saber should be worn; military caps should be the same in texture and color as jackets. The "Ordinance on Uniform System for the Army" provides great help for studying the clothing of the soldiers in the Republic of China. It has important reference value and profound cultural significance.
VI. NAVY UNIFORM SYSTEM

During the Republic of China, both the army and the navy formulated a series of regulations on uniform system, all of which were aimed at standardizing the military and having a good form of dress. Clothing is the first impression a person makes on the outside world. During the Republic of China, most of the navy clothing borrowed the clothing styles of western countries.

A. "Navy Uniform System" issued in 1913

The navy was built in the late Qing Dynasty and its dress underwent many reforms. It was before the establishment of the Republic of China and after the defeat of the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895, the navy had been under rebuilding, and its untimely clothing had been constantly improved, until the navy ships withdrew from the stage of history.

On January 19, 1913, the provisional president promulgated the Navy Uniform System. While the dress suit and public suit were exclusive to the uniform of naval officers, the formal dress, informal dress, summer clothing, coats, and so on were the same for both officers and soldiers. The uniforms of naval officers referred to the uniforms of international navies, and the soldiers wear graded armbands. In the "Navy Uniform System" issued this time, the style of navy clothing was basically designed according to the international military uniform, which reflected the influence of Western culture on the navy clothing in the early Republic of China.

Whether it was naval or military, the hierarchy of dress was always an integral part of it. The grade of the armbands and epaulets gives an intuitive idea of the position of the soldier in the uniform.

B. "Amendment of the Naval Dress Code" issued in 1918

The Naval Dress Code Specifying the style of dress for the Navy was promulgated, and came into force on October 25, 1918. This naval dress system was a detailed plan of what the navy should wear.

The "Amendment of the Naval Dress Code" was promulgated in October 1918. Compared with the "Navy Uniform System" of 1913, the classification of clothing in the "Amendment of the Naval Dress Code" was reduced to four categories, namely dress suit, formal dress, public dress and informal dress. The four categories indicated what should be worn on different occasions and at different times, a move similar to the army's classification of clothing. The uniforms of the military in the same era might have some similarities.

C. "Naval Dress Ordinance" issued in 1931

One of the most obvious ways to distinguish different positions is to look at the clothing. The navy uniform is refined so that people can more easily distinguish the jobs of the navy and so that the navy can manage its forces more easily and clearly.

The "Naval Dress Ordinance" issued on February 20, 1931 was more detailed than the 1918 "Amendment of the Naval Dress Code", adding evening dress, evening dress, and evening public dress and evening informal dress, all of which were made of black and blue wool. The navy's dress suit was carefully graded, with epaulets and armbands clearly classified by rank. For example, the armbands of the admiral, vice admiral and rear admiral all had one broad gold line; the admiral had three middle gold lines, vice admiral two and rear admiral one, etc., showing the meticulous classification of naval ranks. The regulations on naval apparel system have been more and more perfect and progress with the development of the times.

VII. THE IMPACT OF THE ORDINANCES ON APPAREL SYSTEM

As decrees issued, the ordinances on apparel system dress broke the dress hierarchy, where clothes reflected high or low status of people in the previous feudal society. The promulgation of them was a blow to old, deeply held ideas and the beginning of a new era. Containing new ideas in the contents, the ordinance on apparel system was a means for people to change and get rid of the old system.

When the Republic of China was just established, people were eager to get rid of the remnants of feudal culture, and costume reform was particularly important. The ordinances on apparel system issued clothing types for the new era. They were decided after a long discussion, with the purpose of social reform and the establishment of a democratic society different from that of the Qing Dynasty. As the most intuitive appearance, Clothing carries people's determination to change and will give people strength. The ordinances on apparel system was constantly adjusted and improved. The ordinances on apparel system issued kept pace with the times and conformed to the prevailing environment.

Whether it was uniform for the army or the navy, whether it was dress suit, morning dress, informal dress or public dress, the promulgation of uniform ordinances had a guiding role and could rally people's social strength. It is precisely with certain norms and norms that the society will develop better and get closer to the democratic and equal society in people's mind.
VIII. CONCLUSION

During the Republic of China, many different kinds of ordinances on apparel system were issued. From the first braid-cutting announcement posted by the army to the ordinances on apparel system issued one after another, these laws promoted the development of the Republic of China, promoted the vigorous development of the costume culture at that time, and formed a special costume culture. The blending and collision between China and the West made the clothing of the Republic of China different from the others, and also promoted the development of the clothing culture of the contemporary society. The clothing of the Republic of China gradually got rid of the feudal culture and promoted the liberation of people's thoughts under the promotion of the ordinances on apparel system. The ordinances on apparel system issued throughout the Republic of China had a significant impact on the clothing of the Republic of China, and formed a force that could not be ignored then.

In different stages of the promulgation of the apparel system, the force of the dress reform was also very different, and the political, economic, cultural and other connotations are different, which led to different results. Various factors affected the actual effect after the issuance of the system, and economic aspects had direct impact on the actual operation of the subsequent ordinances on apparel system. In the age of war, nothing was smooth sailing and ordinances on apparel system were also deeply affected.

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