

Online Appendix

Meritocracy Reimagined:

Ideational Foundations of State-Building in Imperial China

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A Data on Prefects in Qing China

A.1 Workflow

I obtained local gazetteers from two sources. First, I relied on already-digitized gazetteers from *East View's China Comprehensive Gazetteers database* and *Erudition Chinese Local History database*. Second, I turned to online resources and archives if the two aforementioned databases do not contain relevant gazetteers. Table A.1 lists all the gazetteers I use in my analysis.

I employed several methods to improve data quality. First, I check provincial gazetteers, which normally contain detailed administration information for their respective prefectures. Second, in cases of missing information on an individual official's academic degrees, I turned to the relevant prefectural gazetteers. I checked the gazetteers of both prefecture where the prefect served his office and the prefecture where he was born. Because holding political office and passing the Civil Service Exam were highly respected achievements, local gazetteers documented students who passed the Imperial Civil Service Exams. Third, in cases of multiple versions of local gazetteers, I used the most recent version. The characters in the bracket in Table A.1 mark the version of gazetteer, i.e. the name of the reigning emperor. Occasionally, I used Republican versions, as in the case of the Hubei Provincial Gazetteer and Shandong Provincial Gazetteer, because they have complete information on prefects.

Table A.1: LIST OF GAZETTEERS

GAZETTEER	PROVINCE
《(光绪)畿辅通志》 《保定府志》 《遵化州志》 《天津府志》	直隶 (Zhili)
《(光绪)甘肃新通志》	甘肃 (Gansu)
《(道光)广东通志》 《(民国)连山县志》 《(道光)直隶南雄州》 《(道光)佛冈厅志书》 《(光绪)广州府志》 《(光绪)高州府志》	广东 (Guangdong)
《(雍正)广西通志》 《(嘉庆)广西通志》	广西 (Guangxi)
《(民国)贵州通志》	贵州 (Guizhou)
《(雍正)河南通志》	河南 (Henan)
《(民国)湖北通志》	湖北 (Hubei)
《(道光)直隶澧州志》 《(光绪)湖南通志》 《(宣统)永绥厅志》	湖南 (Hunan)

《(光绪) 乾州厅志》 《(道光) 凤凰厅志》 《(同治) 沅州府志》 《(道光) 晃州厅志》 《(光绪) 靖州直隶州志》 《(雍正) 桂阳州志》 《(康熙) 郴州总志》 《(道光) 宝庆府志》	
《(乾隆) 江南通志》 《(光绪) 海门厅志》	江苏 (Jiangsu)
《(同治) 九江府志》 《(同治) 南康府志》 《(同治) 饶州府志》 《(同治) 临江府志》 《(同治) 南昌府志》 《(同治) 瑞州府志》 《(光绪) 抚州府志》 《(同治) 广信府志》 《(同治) 袁州府志》 《(光绪) 吉安府志》 《(光绪) 建昌府志》 《(道光) 宁都直隶州志》 《(同治) 南安府志》 《(乾隆) 赣州府志》	江西 (Jiangxi)
《(嘉庆) 重修延安府志》 《(民国) 续修陕西通志》 《(嘉庆) 汉中府志》 《(乾隆) 直隶商州志》 《(嘉庆) 续兴安府志》	陕西 (Shaanxi)
《(民国) 山东通志》 《(乾隆) 临清直隶州志》 《(道光) 济宁直隶州志》	山东 (Shandong)
《(四库全书) 山西通志》 《(道光) 直隶霍州传》 《(乾隆) 沁州志》	山西 (Shanxi)
《(雍正) 四川通志》 《(嘉庆) 四川通志》	四川 (Sichuan)
《(光绪) 云南通志》 《(民国) 景东县志稿》 《(嘉庆) 临安府志》	云南 (Yunnan)
《(光绪) 安徽通志》	安徽 (Anhui)

《(道光) 重纂福建通志》	福建 (Fujian)
《(光绪) 漳州府志》	
《(雍正) 浙江通志》	浙江 (Zhejiang)

A.2 Coding Procedures

Table A.2: ACADEMIC DEGREES FOR IMPERIAL CIVIL SERVICE EXAMS

	<i>Academic Degree</i>	<i>Count</i>
1	进士	898
2	举人	684
3	贡生	403
4	拔贡	237
5	岁贡	119
6	生员	86
7	贡士	81
8	副榜	45
9	廪生	36
10	恩贡	33
11	副贡	32
12	附生	30
13	廪贡	26
14	翰林	20
15	廪贡生	18
16	贡监	16
17	笔帖式	13
18	优贡	9
19	拔贡生	8
20	增生	7
21	贡监生	5
22	选贡	5
23	副贡生	4
24	教习	4
25	解元	4
26	国学生	3
27	学生	3
28	探花	3
29	状元	3
30	国学士	2
31	太学生	2
32	庠生	2
33	廪监	2

34	文童	2
35	编修	2
36	中书舍人	1
37	优生	1
38	优监生	1
39	会元	1
40	会副	1
41	副榜教习	1
42	功贡	1
43	啓心郎	1
44	增贡生	1
45	学士	1
46	庶吉士	1
47	榜眼	1
48	童生	1
49	翻译生	1
50	训导	1
51	诸生	1

Table A.3: ACADEMIC DEGREES FOR INHERITANCE SYSTEM

	<i>Academic Degree</i>	<i>Count</i>
1	荫生	204
2	官生	24
3	官监	5
4	官学生	4
5	恩荫	4
6	荫监	3
7	世袭云骑尉	1
8	恩监	1
9	恩选	1
10	难荫	1

Table A.4: ACADEMIC DEGREES FOR PURCHASE SYSTEM

	<i>Academic Degree</i>	<i>Count</i>
1	监生	504
2	附贡	42
3	例监	28
4	捐贡	10
5	附贡生	10
6	增贡	9
7	附监	8
8	议叙	7
9	例贡	6
10	捐职	4
11	附监生	4
12	例捐	1

Table A.5: ACADEMIC DEGREES FOR OTHER RECRUITMENT SYSTEMS

	<i>Academic Degree</i>	<i>Count</i>
1	吏员	38
2	军功	17
3	供事	7
4	武举	3
5	保举	2
6	典吏	1
7	内务府	1
8	内院副理	1
9	内院咨部	1
10	劳绩	1
11	国使馆供事	1
12	孝友端方	1
13	工部主事	1
14	授官	1
15	武生	1
16	武进士	1
17	职员	1
18	赏官	1

B Imperial Civil Service Exams

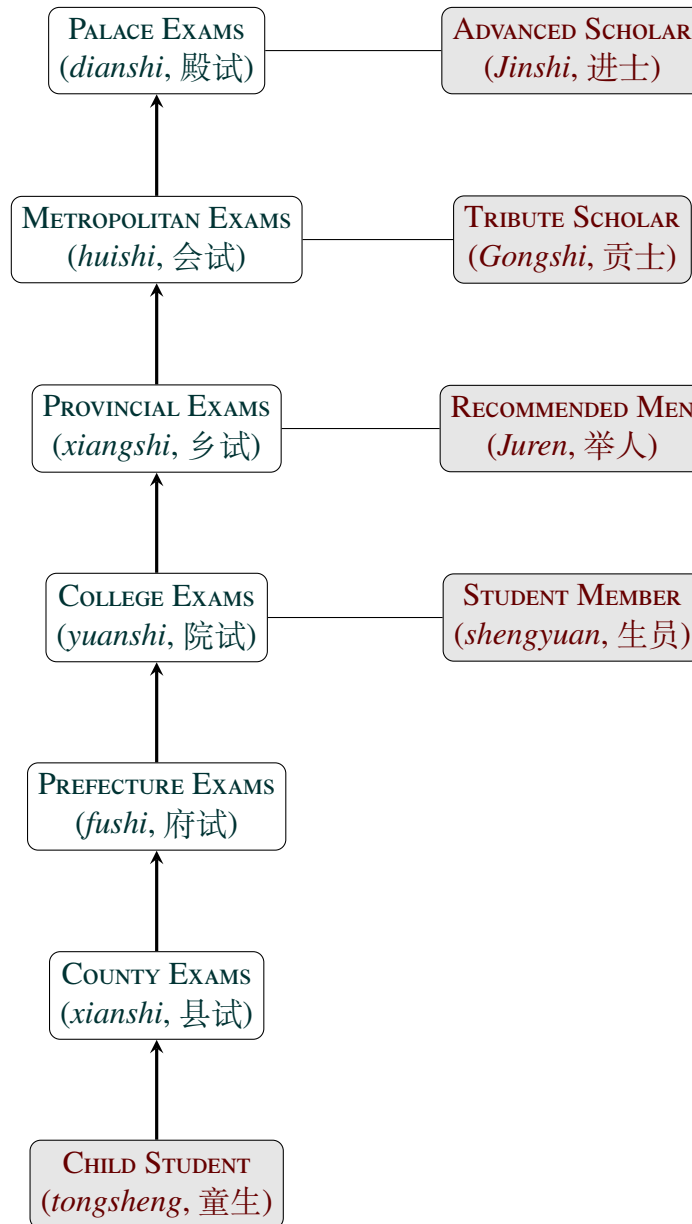
Table A.6: FORMAT OF PROVINCIAL AND METROPOLITAN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS DURING THE QING DYNASTY, 1787–1792

<i>Session No.</i>	<i>No. of Questions</i>
ONE	
1. Four Books	3 quotations
2. Poetry question	1 poetic model
TWO	
1. <i>Change</i>	4 quotations
2. <i>Documents</i>	4 quotations
3. <i>Poetry</i>	4 quotations
4. <i>Annals</i>	4 quotations
5. <i>Rites</i>	4 quotations
6. <i>Discourse</i>	1 quotation (dropped in 1793)
THREE	
1. Policy questions	5 essays

Note: Data source: Elman, Benjamin (2000), *A Cultural History of Civil Examinations in Late Imperial China*. Berkeley: University of California Press., p. 564.

B.1 Hierarchy of Exams

Figure A.1: THE HIERARCHY OF IMPERIAL CHINESE CIVIL SERVICE EXAMS AND RELATED ACADEMIC DEGREES



Note: This figure gives a simplified representation of the hierarchy of the Imperial Civil Service Exams and academic degrees associated with each level of exams. There were also many subcategories associated with each academic degree.

Table A.7: QING DYNASTY POLICY QUESTIONS CLASSIFIED BY TOPIC: ZHEJIANG PROVINCE, 1646–1859 (460 QUESTIONS, TOP 15 RANKS ONLY)

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>% of Total</i>
1	Classical Studies	14.1
2	Learning/Political Selection	10.7
3	Economy	9.6
4	World Ordering	7.8
5	History	7.4
6	<i>Tao-hsueh</i>	6.1
7	Literature/Poetry	5.1
7	Local Governance	5.1
9	Philology	4.2
10	National Defense	3.8
11	Law	3.1
13	Agriculture	2.7
13	Military Matters	2.7
15	People's Livelihood	2.2

Source: Elman, Benjamin (2000), *A Cultural History of Civil Examinations in Late Imperial China*. Berkeley: University of California Press., p. 720.

C Text Analysis of Confucian Classics

Table A.9: List of Removed Characters

Book	Character	English
Book of Poetry	维	Maintain/Only
Book of Poetry	载	Ride/Because
Book of Poetry	匪	No
Book of Poetry	止	Stop
Book of Poetry	予	You
Book of Poetry	女	You
Book of Poetry	靡	None/Waste
Book of Poetry	行	Travel/Practice
Book of Poetry	方	Raft/Rectangle
Book of Poetry	莫	None/Don't
Book of Poetry	大	Big
Book of Poetry	孔	Very/Hole
Book of Poetry	之子	Son of
Book of Poetry	公	Public/Duke
Book of Poetry	车	Chariot

Book of Poetry Book of Poetry	日 谓	Day Tell/Refer to
Analects	问	Ask
Analects	见	See/Visit
Analects	闻	Hear/Knowledge
Analects	路	Road
Analects	谓	Tell/Refer to
Analects	孔子	Confucius
Analects	子贡	Zi Gong
Analects	行	Travel/Practice
Analects	事	Matter/War
Analects	夫	Adult/This
Analects	未	Never/No
Analects	公	Public/Duke
Mengzi	孟子	Confucius
Mengzi	谓	Tell/Refer to
Mengzi	见	See/Visit
Mengzi	问	Ask
Mengzi	孔子	Confucius
Mengzi	欲	Want/Desire
Mengzi	食	Eat/Food/Feed
Mengzi	闻	Here/Knowledge
Mengzi	行	Travel/Practice
Mengzi	事	Matter/War
Spring and Autumn Annals	晋	Kingdom of Jin
Spring and Autumn Annals	齐	Kingdom of Qi
Spring and Autumn Annals	郑	Kingdom of Zheng
Spring and Autumn Annals	楚	Kingdom of Chu
Spring and Autumn Annals	卫	Kingdom of Chu
Spring and Autumn Annals	宋	Kingdom of Song
Spring and Autumn Annals	叔	Uncle
Spring and Autumn Annals	大	Big
Spring and Autumn Annals	夏	Xia Dynasty
Spring and Autumn Annals	陈	Kingdom of Chen
Spring and Autumn Annals	孙	(Surname) Sun/Grandson

Table A.8: Word Frequency of Confucian Classics

Word	Count	Frequency	English
人	4415	0.0126377	Human
公	4239	0.0121339	Duke
晋	3546	0.0101503	(Kingdom) Jin
师	2882	0.0082496	Army
齐	2842	0.0081351	(Kingdom) Qi
侯	2481	0.0071017	Earl
王	2404	0.0068813	King
郑	2358	0.0067497	(Kingdom) Zheng
楚	2253	0.0064491	(Kingdom) Chu
伯	1991	0.0056991	Earl
大	1974	0.0056505	Big
伐	1752	0.0050150	Conquer
卫	1603	0.0045885	(Kingdom) Wei
氏	1556	0.0044540	Surname
礼	1445	0.0041362	Ritual
行	1436	0.0041105	Behavior
宋	1433	0.0041019	(Kingdom) Song
叔	1417	0.0040561	Uncle
民	1408	0.0040303	People
谓	1401	0.0040103	Say

Note: This table tabulates the most frequently occurred characters in all Confucian classics that were examined in the exams and their count and frequency. English translation is added but note that many Chinese characters have more than one meaning.