

The First Chinese Maritime Law in Song and Yuan Dynasties (960-1368): THE CHINA CENTER (MARITIME)

中国（海事）研究中心

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INTRODUCTION

Sometime before 715, the Tang dynasty (618-907) established the first office of maritime affairs-*shi bo si*-to oversee the commerce of Guangzhou and collect the duties on imported goods. At that time, marine activities or overseas trade was not regulated. The first shipping law in China appeared in the Song dynasty (960-1271) and was called *Shi Bo Tiao Fa*, which translates into sea and trade laws. But unfortunately there is no intact original version that was preserved.

In about 1314, the Mongolian rulers of Yuan dynasty enacted the *Shi Bo Fa* of Yuan, which become the first systematic Chinese Maritime law.

Yuan Dian Zhang
(Institutions of Yuan dynasty, law code of Yuan dynasty)



This legislation, written in ancient Chinese and Mongolian languages which has survived intact. It contains 22 articles and as the earliest surviving maritime law in the history of China is of precious research value.

The Original Text in Old Chinese



AIMS

- To investigate the development of Chinese maritime law in the Song and Yuan period (960-1368) by examining the social, economic, political and cultural background.

- To explain the reasons why the rulers of the Song and Yuan dynasties enacted this shipping law and analyse the status of the law in the society of that time and its influence on the historical development of Chinese shipping law afterwards.
- To translate the original legal text into English, analyse and interpret each provision using modern legal terms.
- To explore how this law influenced the development of overseas trade in China during the Song and Yuan period.

Chinese Painting of the Office for Maritime Affairs in Ancient China

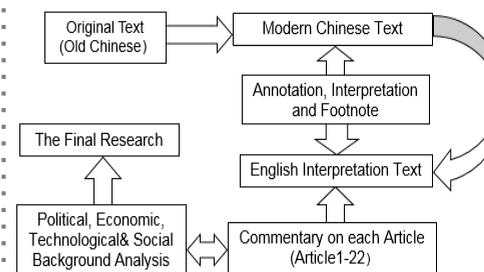


Ancient Maritime Silk Road

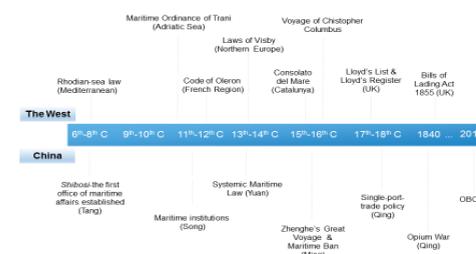


METHODOLOGY

Interpretation and Translation



Comparative Method



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Currently is a PhD researcher of China Centre for Maritime (CCM), School of Maritime Science and Engineering, Southampton Solent University, UK.

She has previously worked as a lecturer at the shipping law school, East China University of Political Science and Law (ECUPL) in Shanghai, China. In 2012, she has visited Centre for Maritime Studies (CMS), National University of Singapore as visiting-researcher. Li Yuan previously studied law and maritime in China, Germany and UK. She gained her LLB of international law school, ECUPL and got her mater degree of Law (LLM) from University of Frankfurt, Germany. She also studied maritime at University of Greenwich in 2014-2015.

Research Interests: International Law, Maritime Law and Policy, (Maritime) Legal History

