

The Re-examination of *Korpum* System of *Silla* Dynasty

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One of the important theme of Korean ancient history is *Korpum* system, which means the famous social status system of the *Silla* dynasty. So many treatises have been written on it. A recent treatise, however, says that this system did not play so much important role as usually admitted.

This report tries to examine the new idea mentioned above, and furthermore explains the actual conditions of the system through commenting on the materials of it.

The social status system of *Silla*, founded on blood relationship, is *Korpum* system, which is consisted of some kins in the capital, and organized hierarchically having a king in the highest position. After the 4th century *Korpum* system continued until the end of the dynasty. But it is doubtful that *Song-Kor*, one of the highest class, was admitted to exist before 7th century. Although the social status system of 9th century shows the most complete structure of hierarchy, it means the decay of the *Korpum* system itself at the same time.