

Study on the Ancient System of Concealment Between Relatives and Its Modern Value

Xiaomin Cheng¹

¹ Dalian Ocean University, Liaoning, China

Correspondence: Xiaomin Cheng, Dalian Ocean University, Liaoning, China.

doi:10.56397/JRSSH.2023.04.13

Abstract

Kinship and kinship system are the important social relations and social systems that exist universally in human society, among them, the ancient system of concealment of kinship played a very important role in the family, clan, official appointment and etiquette norms, which is still of far-reaching significance to modern society. The purpose of this study is to make a comparative study of the ancient relative concealment system and the modern relative system, and to explore the modern value of the ancient relative concealment system and how to play its positive role in the modern society, contribute to the stability and development of the family and society.

Keywords: the family concealment system, ancient society, family ethics, modern values

1. The Ancient System of Concealment

1.1 *The Origin and Evolution of the System of Mutual Concealment*

In ancient China, the system of concealment between relatives was an important family ethic norm, which aimed to prevent the inbreeding within marriage and consanguinity, so as to avoid the problems of genetic diseases and the decline of population quality. Its origin can be traced back to the spring and Autumn period and the Warring States period, when this system has been proposed and widely implemented in the major duchy states. With the passage of time, the relative concealment system has gradually become an important part of Chinese family ethics, deepening and changing. It always followed the principle that in-laws must have a certain degree of kinship in order to marry, and this principle was more widely implemented in

the subsequent feudal period.

In the Han dynasty, with the consolidation of the feudal system, the family culture began to receive more attention and development, in which the system of concealment between relatives as an important content, has been widely implemented. During the period of Emperor Wudi of the Han dynasty, with the implementation of the policy of strengthening family management, the system of concealment between relatives became more popular and standardized, so that a complete system had been formed in the Tang dynasty.

The system of concealment between relatives has changed a lot in different historical periods. In the Tang dynasty, the proportion of marriage between relatives was high, and there were consanguineous marriages among historical celebrities such as Xi Shi and Wang Zhaojun. In

the Song dynasty, the feudal culture became more and more prosperous, and the system of mutual concealment between relatives was made more carefully and accurately, which standardized the mutual identification of kinship. During the Ming and Qing dynasties, this system underwent a series of improvements and reforms. For example, the law of the Ming dynasty stipulated that those who intermarried with close relatives should be given a heavy penalty of death, wang Fuzhi founded the law of the Ming dynasty is the core of this system.

To sum up, as an important part of Chinese family culture, the system of concealment of kinship has been strictly enforced throughout the millennia. Its origin can be traced back to the spring and Autumn period and the Warring States period, with the passage of time, evolved into a complete system and widely implemented. In different historical periods, the system of concealment between relatives has undergone some changes and reforms, but its core principles have been consistent and have been passed down for future generations.

1.2 The Implementation and Influence of the System of Parental Concealment

In ancient times, the system of concealment between relatives as an important social system, with a wide range of implementation and far-reaching impact. In order to protect the family interests, protect the family relationship, restrict the freedom of marriage, inheritance and property inheritance, but also contribute to social order and stability.

The implementation of the system depends on its social background and historical period. During the Shang and Zhou dynasties, because of the decentralization of state politics, the private ownership of land developed, which made the system of concealment between relatives take shape. In the Qin and Han dynasties, this system was more detailed and universal, not only widely implemented in the royal government, but also infiltrated into the families of ordinary people.

The implementation of this system had a profound impact on the whole society. First, it can effectively protect family property and family relations. In the Society of that time, the family is the important unit that inherits the family business and carries out the sacrifice. Secondly, the system of kin concealment can promote the maintenance of social order.

Because of the relationship between relatives, it can prevent conflicts, disputes and other problems.

However, there are some differences in the implementation of the system in different historical periods and different social groups. During the Tang and Song dynasties, due to the prosperity of society and the improvement of various systems, the system of concealment between relatives began to be adjusted and relaxed. In the Ming and Qing dynasties, with the gradual decline of the family system and feudal system, the system of concealment between relatives began to fade away.

In a word, the system of concealment between relatives plays an important role in the ancient Chinese history, and it also has enlightenment and reference value for the modern society. In the aspects of inheritance, inheritance of property and maintenance of family relationship, we can learn from some excellent traditions of the system of concealment between relatives, so as to constantly improve the social system and promote social development.

1.3 The Changes and Reasons of the System of Concealment of Parents in Different Historical Periods

In different historical periods, the implementation of the system has also undergone corresponding changes. In fact, the early system of concealment of kinship between relatives refers to the taboo of kinship marriage, since relatives can not get married, but with the passage of time, the content of this system has gradually become more rich and detailed, at the same time more and more with the marriage taboo decoupling.

With the rise of the feudal dynasty, the system of concealment of kinship was gradually combined with the division of social classes, and the closer the kinship, the more noble it became. At the same time, some privileged classes gradually emerged, as these privileged classes grow, the interests of kinship are further protected.

However, in the late Qing dynasty, the relative concealment system gradually became a tool of local power. In this period, the system of concealing relatives no longer restricted the marriage of relatives, but protected the relationship between relatives and power, which also laid a good foundation for the exploitation of some local elites.

Therefore, in different historical periods, the change of the system of concealment between relatives actually reflects the change of the related social and political factors. At the same time, the reasons for the change of the system of concealment between relatives in different historical periods are also a complex problem, involving many factors, such as social culture, political system, traditional customs and so on, it is the ultimate goal of this research to sort out and analyze it comprehensively, and extract valuable enlightenment and reference for modern society.

2. The Kinship System in Modern Society

2.1 The Evolution and Characteristics of Modern Kinship System

Modern kinship system is evolving with the development of modern society, it has many characteristics. First of all, the modern kinship system is not only confined to the family, but more of a blood relationship-based social network. This kind of network form of kinship system, make the connection between relatives more extensive, also more flexible. Second, modern kinship systems are characterized by ambiguity and diversity. In modern society, the relationship between relatives is no longer based on a clear name and identity, but based on the frequency and depth of interaction to determine. At the same time, in modern society, many non-consanguineous relationships are also known as kinship relationships, such as sisters Tao (refers to like-minded friends), in-laws (refers to through marriage and affinity families, etc.) and so on. This variety of kinship relations, so that the relationship is no longer as ancient as a single, but more complex and diverse.

Third, the modern kinship system embodies a certain tendency of individualization. In modern society, People's choice is more extensive, they can according to their own hobbies, jobs, housing, beliefs and other factors to determine their relatives. This makes the relationship more personalized, but also more in line with people's needs. For example, one can choose to marry in a different location, or one can choose to marry in the same sex, thus creating a new type of kinship and a new kind of diversity. Finally, there is the transformative nature of modern kinship. With the rapid development of modern society, many traditional kinship systems are no longer applicable. Therefore, the evolution of modern kinship system is also a process of

change, it is by no means fixed, but constantly in change.

In a word, the modern kinship system is obviously different from the ancient kinship concealment system. It is no longer a static relationship model, but a dynamic relationship network, representing the modern society of people on the relationship between the new understanding and choice.

2.2 The Implementation and Impact of the Modern Kinship System

The implementation and impact of modern kinship is a hot topic in recent years. With the development of society and the change of People's ideas, the role of relatives in modern society has gradually weakened, but relatives are still an indispensable part of society. In modern society, the relationship between relatives shows a trend of diversification, individualization and complexity.

First, the modern kinship system is operating in more and more diverse ways. People no longer follow the strict hierarchy of kinship as in ancient times, but according to their own circumstances to choose the relationship between relatives flexible. For example, some people may choose to stay in close contact with distant relatives, while distancing themselves from close relatives. This change in kinship reflects the trend toward individualization and diversity in modern society.

Second, the modern kinship system has a positive impact on society. First, the relationship between relatives can provide people with more support and help. In an emergency, kinship can provide people with emergency help and support to alleviate suffering. Secondly, relations between relatives can promote mutual help and cooperation, and enhance social cohesion and solidarity. Through mutual support and help, relatives can achieve mutual benefit and win-win goals.

However, there is a great difference between modern kinship system and ancient kinship concealment system. The ancient system emphasized the central position of the family, and the family's interests were higher than the personal interests. The modern system of kinship pays more attention to individual's freedom, equality and democracy. People value individual rights and interests more than family centrality. This shift also reflects the shift from a feudal society to a modern one.

Therefore, for the implementation and influence of modern society's kinship system, we need to correctly understand its characteristics and significance, play a positive role in it, and achieve mutual benefit and win-win.

2.3 The Similarities and Differences Between Modern Kinship System and Ancient Kinship Concealment System

In ancient times, the system of concealment of kinship between relatives was a special form of kinship system. However, with the change of times and the progress of society, this kinship system was gradually abolished. In modern times, the kinship system tends to be open and open. People pay more attention to the kinship and the connection between family members. At the same time, in modern times, because of the rapid development of society and economic prosperity, the kinship system has also undergone some changes.

The evolution and characteristics of modern kinship system are mainly embodied in the following aspects. First of all, with People's concern and attention to family life, the kinship system gradually tends to centralization and individualization. People pay more attention to their own family, but also pay attention to the family's overall development and interests. Secondly, in modern times, the kinship system tends to be loose and open. People pay more attention to freedom and personality, willing to choose their own social circle and social groups. Third, the kinship system in modern times is increasingly dependent on laws and regulations. The definition and regulation of kinship in modern law is very clear, which provides guarantee for the maintenance and development of kinship. Finally, the kinship system in modern times also has the characteristics of diversity and differentiation. There are great differences in the kinship system among different regions, cultures and ethnic groups, reflecting the subdivision, differentiation and rich and diverse social ecology.

In contrast, there are obvious similarities and differences between the ancient relative concealment system and the modern relative system. In ancient system, people paid more attention to the expression of social rank and status, while in modern system, people paid more attention to the maintenance of individual value and kinship. In ancient times, the system of relative concealment embodied the

superior-subordinate relationship by concealing the relative relationship, while in modern times, the relative system paid more attention to the openness and determination of the relative relationship. The ancient relative concealment system failed to embody the characteristics of individual freedom and diversity, while the modern relative system pays more attention to individual characteristics and diversity. In addition, the modern kinship system depends on the law and the standard degree is higher, the standardization and the legalization are more obvious than the ancient kinship concealment system.

To sum up, there are great differences between modern kinship system and ancient kinship concealment system, which are mainly reflected in the forms of kinship, the embodiment of social class, individual freedom and diversity, etc. In modern society, the forms and characteristics of the kinship system are changing constantly, while the importance and value of the kinship relationship are getting more and more recognition and attention.

3. The Modern Value of the Ancient Relative Concealment System

3.1 The Influence of the System of Concealment Between Parents on Family Relations in Ancient China

The ancient system of concealment between relatives is an important family ethic system in ancient China, and its influence on family relations can not be ignored. Essentially, the purpose of concealment is to strengthen the relationship between family members, especially the family relationship. Therefore, its impact on family relations is obvious.

First, the concealment system does help to strengthen the emotional bonds between family members. In ancient times, the principle of concealment between relatives is that in some cases, husband and wife, siblings, siblings and other relatives should maintain an appropriate distance. Such a rule not only helped to maintain the marriage relationship, but also can promote the relationship between the various relatives. In modern society, because of the fast pace of People's life, the ties of kinship and marriage are easily affected. At this time, the concept of the system of concealment between parents can play a reference role in the construction of Modern Family Relations.

Secondly, the ancient system of concealment of

kinship is also conducive to the psychological health of family members. Because everyone needs private space in their life, and family seclusion provides such space for family members. In ancient times, couples restrained their intimate behavior in front of others and kept a certain distance between siblings, making the psychological state of family members more stable. In modern society, the concept of the system of relative concealment can also provide private space for family members, enhance self-respect and respect for others among family members.

In short, the ancient system of concealment between relatives can optimize and stabilize the emotional ties between family members. Its Enlightenment to modern family construction is also worth thinking about. In modern times, we can improve modern family relations by means of a family environment in which everyone has his own personal space, respecting the independent personality of family members, and consolidating family ties. Through the study of the ancient system of concealment between relatives, we can draw wisdom from the traditional culture and contribute to the prosperity and development of modern society.

3.2 The Impact of the Ancient System on Social Relations

The system of concealment between relatives in ancient China is an important system which runs through the whole Chinese traditional society. In the aspect of family relations, the ancient system of concealment played an important role. First of all, in traditional Chinese families, the interaction between parents and their children is very important. In this case, as an important embodiment of consanguinity, the system of parental concealment plays an important role in supporting and emphasizing. Secondly, the system of concealment between relatives can promote the emotional exchange between relatives, reduce the conflicts and conflicts between relatives, and establish a harmonious relationship between relatives. In addition, the system can also form a family tradition and family honor, enhance the family status, enhance family cohesion.

In terms of social relations, the ancient system also played an important role. It strengthened the bonds and bonds between people and increased mutual trust and assistance. At the same time, as a marriage system, it can also play

a role in regulating marital relations and maintaining family stability. In addition, the relative concealment system can also establish a "Thanksgiving" social customs, strengthen the family and society's moral concept.

The modern value of the ancient relative concealment system lies in that although it is an ancient traditional system, its inherent values are in line with some values of modern society, such as family harmony, mutual help and trust, maintenance of marital relations, family honor and so on. In modern society, we can learn from the ancient system of these values, to be inherited and carried forward. For example, we can strengthen family education, cultivate affection, friendship, love and other emotions, enhance family harmony and stability, shape a modern family concept. At the same time, we can also actively carry out voluntary activities to promote mutual assistance and trust between people, and promote social ethics and good social habits.

In addition, in the modern legal system, the ancient system of relative concealment also has a certain application value. For example, in mediating family disputes and maintaining family harmony, we can introduce the traditional system of "Concealing one's parents from one another" and combine it with the modern legal system, to better maintain family stability and social harmony.

In short, although the ancient system of concealment between relatives has been gradually weakened and disappeared in the changes of today's society, its inherent values are in line with some of the values of modern society, it still has certain modern value and application value. Therefore, while inheriting the tradition, we should also constantly innovate and improve, so that it plays a more important role in modern society.

3.3 The Revelation of the Ancient System of Concealment of Kinship to Modern Society

The system of concealment between relatives in ancient China is an important content of ancient Chinese family ethics. However, the modern value of the ancient system of concealment of kinship does not stop at the level of family ethics. In today's society, with the continuous change of people's ideas, the traditional values such as kinship, filial piety and so on, the status of People's hearts is increasing, the ancient system of concealment between relatives is also more

prominent.

First, the ancient system suggests that we should pay attention to family harmony. The idea of family harmony embodied in the ancient system of concealment between relatives is the same as the idea of "Happy Family, happy family" today. As a family, we should respect each other, understanding, start from small, maintain family harmony, and create a warm and happy family atmosphere.

Second, the ancient system of concealment between relatives suggests that we should pay attention to traditional culture. Today, traditional culture is constantly being revived in people's minds. Traditional virtues such as kinship and filial piety are constantly being carried forward. The ancient system of concealing kinship between relatives can provide us with a good reference of traditional culture.

Third, the ancient system suggests that we should learn from the wisdom of the ancients. Due to the backward productive forces, social and family relationships were dominated by kinship. In modern society, due to the expansion of social power, all kinds of social relations are more complicated. In this regard, the ancient system of concealment between relatives is of great significance for us to understand the ancient wisdom and explore modern solutions.

Fourthly, the ancient system of concealment of kinship suggests that we should integrate traditional culture into legal construction. With the development of modern society, the legal system involves more and more aspects of family ethics and traditional culture. For example, in the aspect of family inheritance, we can draw lessons from the ancient system of concealment of kinship to make relevant laws and regulations, maintain traditional kinship, and promote social harmony and stability.

To sum up, the ancient system of concealment of kinship has important implications for modern society, reminding us to attach importance to family harmony and traditional culture, it also provides an important reference for us to seek and learn from the wisdom of the past, to promote the construction of legal system.

3.4 The Application of the Ancient System of Concealment Between Relatives in the Modern Legal System

In the modern legal system, we can learn from

the ancient system of concealment, strengthen the mutual help and care among family members, and build a harmonious family relationship. Especially in the care of the elderly, children, and so on, we can establish the corresponding legal provisions and systems, for the realization of family harmony, reduce the social burden is of great significance.

On the one hand, according to the principle of the ancient system of concealment between relatives, we can establish a perfect care system for the elderly. In modern society, the problem of care for the elderly widely exists, the difficulty and cost of family care gradually increase, but also increase the social burden. Therefore, it is possible to guide and regulate the obligations and responsibilities of social members in caring for the elderly through legal means, clarify the responsibilities and obligations of the government and society, and increase care and support for the elderly.

On the other hand, we can learn from the spirit of the ancient system of relative concealment and establish a system of child-rearing. In all kinds of changes in modern society, the problem of raising children is particularly prominent, especially for the one-child families, facing a greater burden of raising. Therefore, it is possible to formulate relevant legal provisions, strengthen the binding force of the law, clarify the scope and content of child-rearing obligations, and strengthen the protection of the rights and interests of women and children, so that the child-rearing system can be improved.

Therefore, the application of the ancient system of concealment between relatives in the modern legal system has a great development space and application prospects, which can make the traditional culture be effectively inherited and carried forward, it can also promote the progress and development of modern society.

4. Trends in Modern Kinship

4.1 The Development Trends of Modern Kinship System

In recent years, with the development and changes of society, the modern kinship system has also undergone corresponding changes. On the one hand, the family structure is becoming more and more diversified, and the traditional big family is gradually replaced by the small family. On the other hand, the networking and virtualization of social relations also have an impact on the development of kinship.

According to statistics, in recent years, the rapid growth of marketization and urbanization in our country, many young people choose to live alone, making the relationship between people gradually estranged.

In the contemporary society, the change of People's consumption concept, the diversification of life style and the disintegration of traditional kinship system all bring new possibilities for the development of modern kinship system. At present, the new family form represented by United family, single-parent family and nuclear family is gradually becoming the mainstream. At the same time, modern society also advocates a more equal, harmonious, open and inclusive relationship between relatives, mutual assistance and cooperation between people in the new form of continuous realization and development.

With regard to the development of the modern kinship system, on the one hand, the core of the family has begun to shift from a male-dominated to an equal and cooperative mode, and both spouses will be more equal in undertaking family affairs. On the other hand, the networking and virtualization of kinship also provide new possibilities for the expansion of kinship. In addition, the younger generation values individuality and independence, but in the face of life's difficulties, they put more emphasis on mutual assistance and collaboration. Therefore, the future kinship system will pay more attention to the communication and communication between each other, strengthen the emotional communication and mutual trust, pay more attention to the subjectivity and freedom of human beings, and carry forward the kinship culture of mutual assistance and cooperation, for the realization of the human spirit and the harmonious development of society to contribute.

4.2 Problems and Challenges of the Modern Kinship System

In modern society, the development of the kinship system also faces many problems and challenges. First of all, the transformation of the social structure makes the family relationship is no longer the main social relationship, in this case, the system of parental concealment is inevitably affected. Secondly, with the development of modern technology and transportation, the relationship between

relatives has been spatially dispersed and gradually drifting away. It is often difficult for people to maintain close contact with relatives in their daily lives. In addition, because of the change of people's understanding and concept of kinship, the modern kinship system is always at risk of being deconstructed and reconstructed.

Today, the problems and challenges of modern kinship system are also gradually highlighted. One of the important problems is that the traditional family relationship is gradually disappearing, so it is more and more important to explore and protect the traditional kinship system. At the same time, with the development of social pluralism, People's attitude and concept of kinship have changed greatly, no longer confined to the traditional relationship between relatives and friends, but covering a broader and more complex interpersonal relationship. How to face these challenges and problems and develop a more modern society of the kinship system, is an urgent problem to be solved.

We can consider the future development direction of modern kinship system from many angles. First of all, we should strengthen the education and cultivation of the relationship between relatives, promote the relationship between relatives, promote mutual help, so that the relationship between relatives in contemporary society more practical significance. Secondly, we can strengthen the family, community and other small and warm units, promote communication and interaction between relatives, enhance the awareness of relatives. Finally, we should try to innovate the kinship system actively, while inheriting the traditional kinship system, we can also use the modern science and Technology and information resources for reference to open up new kinship relations, in order to adapt to the development and needs of contemporary society.

4.3 The Future Direction of the Modern Kinship System

At present, with the advent of social transformation, the system of relatives is also ushering in a new stage of development. To discuss the future development, we can study and think from the following directions.

Firstly, the institutionalization and legalization of the kinship system will be the trend in the future. In modern society, the definition and standardization of kinship relationship has

become one of the important directions of social adjustment and social governance. Therefore, the future relatives system will pay more attention to policy design and legal protection to regulate the relationship in modern society.

Second, advocating family values that value ethics and emotions will contribute to the development of kinship. The traditional kinship system emphasizes the inheritance and continuation of the kinship relationship by blood, while the kinship relationship in modern society should pay more attention to emotional sharing and mutual assistance. Therefore, the future kinship system needs to pay more attention to family ethics and emotional obligations in order to create a cohesive kinship of common values.

Thirdly, optimizing family resources and family governance will contribute to the prosperity and development of kinship. In modern society, the family has become one of the basic units of social organization and social common behavior. Therefore, the future kinship system needs to pay more attention to the integration and sharing of family resources, and need to achieve family governance, family culture and family heritage optimization and inheritance.

In short, the future system of relatives need to pay more attention to policy design and legal protection to regulate the modern development of relatives. At the same time, it also needs to pay attention to family ethics and emotional obligations, establish a new image of traditional culture. In addition, in the optimization of family resources and family governance, the kinship system will play a more important role.

5. Conclusion

In the course of studying the ancient system of concealing one's relatives from another, this paper discusses the family ethics, social relations, political culture and so on. By excavating the internal relations between these aspects and the system of concealment, we found the important value of the system of concealment of parents to the ancient society.

First of all, the implementation of the system of relative concealment makes the family ethics of ancient society more harmonious and stable. Under the restriction of the system of concealment between relatives, families can live in harmony with each other and the relationship between husband and wife is strengthened. This is also positive in modern society, because the

family is the basic unit of society, strong family relationships can enhance social cohesion.

Secondly, the implementation of the system of concealment between relatives helps to strengthen the ties of social relations. Under this system, kinship becomes a bridge between families, which helps to strengthen social cohesion and contact. In modern society, such ties can be maintained and developed by means of family culture and traditional festivals.

Finally, the implementation of the kinship system also helps to shape the political culture. The implementation of this system requires a collective decision of the family elders and thus represents a form of democratic control. This provides the basis for the germination of ancient political culture, and it still has enlightenment significance in modern society.

Therefore, it can be seen that the ancient system of concealment between relatives is still of great modern value today. It is of positive significance in shaping family ethics, social relations and political culture. In the future development, we can inherit and carry forward this system to create more favorable conditions for social development and progress.

References

- Cui Xinglu. (2019). An analysis of the system of concealment between relatives in ancient China. *Journal of Hubei University of Economics Sciences (humanities and Social Sciences)*, 16(02), 87-89.
- Cui Ziqi. (2020). Study on the principle of concealment between parents and its reconstruction of Modern Law. Shandong University. DOI: 10.27272/d. CNKI. GSHDU.2020.005166.
- Li Jun. (2020). "Mutual concealment of relatives" or "Mutual annihilation of relatives by righteousness": a study of the relationship between human relations order and public order. *Journal of Chongqing University Science (Social Sciences)*, 26(01), 211-221.
- Liu Yuan-yuan. (2020). The historical form of parents concealing one another and its modern significance. Southeast University. DOI: 10.27014/d. CNKI. Gdnau.2020.002241.
- Lu Jianhong, Yang Hua. (2017). The construction of the system of "Concealment between relatives" under the modern rule of law — from the perspective of history, comparative study and realistic thinking. *Applicable law*,

(03), 20-27.

Zhang Beijie. (2021). The contemporary value of
“Concealment between relatives” and its
reconstruction of criminal law application.
Acta Harbin University, 42(02), 98-102.