

Study on Cultural Landscape Composition of the Anti-Yuan Mountain Fortresses Defense System in the Southern Song Dynasty on the Upper Reaches of the Yangtze River

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Abstract: Mountain fortresses defense system planning and construction directly affect city and national security, has always caught the attention of governments and academic circles. The mountain fortresses defense system in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River supported the Southern Song Dynasty to fight against the Yuan army for more than half a century and has outstanding heritage value. Most existing studies have carried out case studies on the planning and construction characteristics of single mountain fortress defense from the classical engineering or morphological perspective, but there is a lack of scientific and systematic discussion on the planning and construction characteristics and rules of multiple mountain fortresses defense systems that are interconnected at regional scale. Combined with the research theme of cultural landscape that were large-scale and dynamic, giving consideration to tangible and intangible, and integrating culture and nature, this paper puts forward the concept of mountain fortresses defense cultural landscape, obtains data by using the methods of field investigation and historical literature retrieval, and analyzes the basic composition and spatial distribution range of the anti-Yuan mountain fortresses defense system in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, so as to clarify its basic composition at the system level as a cultural landscape, and provides basic theoretical support for the systematic protection of this cultural landscape heritage.

1. Introduction

From the early 1100s to the 1300s, many countries collapsed because of the large-scale aggression and expansion of the Mongolians in Asia and Europe. However, the invasion was resisted for more than half a century by the mountain fortresses defense system in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, although the Central government of Southern Song Dynasty had been subverted for several years. This contained the expansion and changed the direction of development of human civilization to a large extent. Construction of this system began in the 1220s and was completed in 1280s, for containing the invasion of Sichuan Province. It was arranged along the steep mountains in the upper

reaches and centered around Chongqing Fortress, including Hechuan fishing Fortress, Kuzhu stockaded village, Jiading Fortress and its satellite cities, Yunding Fortress in Jintang County, Shenbi Fortress in Luzhou, Baidi Fortress in Kuizhou, and Tiansheng Fortress in Wanzhou District, etc. This heavily guarded system foiled the army's attempt to conquer Southern Song Dynasty, which was located in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River, by setting the upper reaches as a starting point. It is an invaluable cultural heritage in the sense that it provides much information about constructions in mountain fortresses and about military discipline. It also sees the glorious history of Asian and European people's defense against army of the Yuan Dynasty. However, the existing literature mainly focuses on a single unit in this system. Neither a systematic description of this system nor a corresponding comprehensive theoretical framework can be given.

Based on the theory of cultural landscape and series properties, this article puts forward the notion of "The Anti-Yuan Mountain fortresses defense system in the Upper Reaches of the Yangtze River". It refers to 42 fortresses with exact locations. This system, in essence, is the product of the interaction between the environment and residents there. Such interaction can lend theoretical support to protection of this system and help to summarize rules of planning mountain fortresses defense system.

2. The Notion of Study on Cultural Landscape of Mountain Fortresses Defense System

2.1. The Notion of Perspective of Cultural Landscape

This paper will take the cultural landscape of mountain fortresses defense system as the core issue, and study the specific Anti-Yuan system mainly from the perspective of cultural landscape. To this end, basic information of cultural landscape must be specified first, including its definition, focal point in general, and the more specific focal point in studying the Anti-Yuan system.

2.1.1. Change of the Meaning of Cultural Landscape

The notion of cultural landscape was originally invented in geography and widely used in heritage protection.

'Landscape' is originated in Europe. It has been used in three distinct disciplines: aesthetics [1], geography [2], and landscape ecology [3]. In 1882, Friedrich Ratzel established the discipline of Human Geography, which takes into consideration both culture and natural environment. Based on this, Otto Schuluter put forward the notion of cultural landscape. The Morphology of Landscape by Carl Ortwin Sauer in 1925 further claimed that cultural landscape is the effect of human culture on natural landscape, and founded the Berkeley School of cultural geography. By this, the notion of cultural landscape became widely used in geography and in turn got its connotation developed.

The cultural landscape was seen as a production by both human and nature. 'Cultural landscape inheritance' was claimed first by UNESCO World Heritage Center and U.S. Department of the interior National Park Serve [4]. In the last two decades of the 20th century, the scope of inheritance protection was enlarged to include its surrounding environment as well. The interaction between an inheritance and its surroundings began to matter. Since it represented what is called the common work of human and nature in Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage [5], experts put forward the notion of cultural landscape inheritance, which combined protections of cultural and natural heritage. Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention classified cultural landscape into three types: landscape designed and created intentionally by people, organically evolved landscape, and associative cultural landscape [6].

2.1.2. The Focal Point of Cultural Landscape Theory

Based on the above connotations, it can be seen that as a perspective of analyzing geographical

phenomena, cultural landscape theory does so by setting the interaction between human activities and their surroundings as the starting point. It focuses on how various human activities interact with the environment and then results in unique phenomena. This progress further includes two distinct aspects. One is information about the temporal and spatial distribution of those unique phenomena, and the other is the inner driving force of this distribution. Combining the two means to figure out the deeper cause from the surface phenomenon.

2.1.3. The Study of ‘the Anti-Yuan Mountain Fortresses Defense System in the Upper Reaches of the Yangtze River’ and Its Focal Point

The direct driving force of establishing the system is the need of defense against aggression of Mongolians. The mountainous environment serves as a favourable geographical position for the construction of the system. At the same time, the ideology of defense system construction and technology make the construction feasible. In other words, this system is a production by interactions between human activity of making defense and the unique geographical environment. It is a typical cultural landscape inheritance, including many building blocks of cultural landscape. Besides, this landscape is distinct from ordinary cultural landscapes and thus can be seen as a unique member of the family of cultural heritage, which can be called ‘cultural landscape of mountain fortresses defense system’. A systematic study of it can help us to get a better understanding of the significance of such kind of inheritance and further develop the theory of cultural landscape inheritance.

Accordingly, studying this system from the perspective of cultural landscape is to see it as the effect of human activities on natural environment, to find out the phenomenon brought about and analyze its temporal and spatial distribution, and to figure out its underlying driving force. More specifically, to find out the core features of the anti-Yuan defense system, we must get its regular pattern of temporal and spatial distribution and explain why it is so with the human activities of fighting against Yuan, the natural environment, and the techniques castle construction.

To get the whole picture of the system, the amount of units and their location are clarified based on both the existing literature and field research. This will contribute to highlighting its value in completeness and authenticity.

2.2. The Scope of the Anti-Yuan Mountain Fortresses Defense System in the Upper Reaches of the Yangtze River

The system refers to a series of defense facilities against Mongolians that are located in Sichuan area in Southern Song Dynasty. The notion gets its name due to the following sub-notions.

2.2.1. The Definition of Anti-Yuan

All the three dynasties of Jin, Yuan, and Southern Song attached great importance to Sichuan area due to its geographical position. In 1227, to overturn Jin Dynasty and Kingdom Of Xia, the Mongolian army invaded the border area of Southern Song Dynasty to conduct a raid on the two. In 1235, the war between Mongolians and Song broke out. It lasted until the year of 1279, when the Hechuan fishing city had no choice but to surrender. In this period, a series of Mongolian regime was established. Genghis Khan established Great Mongol Nation in 1206, along the Onon River. In 1260, it broke into Golden Horde, Chagatai Khanate, and Ilkhanate, due to the fight for power of Khan between Kublai and Arigböge (Kublai’s brother). In 1271, Kublai established the Yuan Dynasty [7].

Thus, the war can be divided into two phases, separated by establishment of Yuan Dynasty. However, considered from a broader perspective, this war is a political struggle for the replacement of Southern Song Dynasty. Both the invader and the invaded are part of the whole picture of China. Therefore, both phases will be taken as parts of the Anti-Yuan war.

2.2.2. The Definition of ‘Fortress-Defense Facilities in Steep Mountains’ and ‘Defense System’

The Mongolians were featured by cavalry with high mobility, while Song was good at defense along fortress. Thus, many fortress-defense facilities were built along arterial roads. Due to the fact that all these facilities were in steep mountains, they were called ‘fortress-defense facilities in steep mountains’. This is in line with the ideology of ‘planing facilities in such a way that they are dotted in steep mountains and equipping them with enough food and fighters’, claimed by Yu Jie, who was the military chief of Sichuan from 1242 to 1253. Finally, these facilities composed a defense system as a whole [8]. Therefore, it was generalized as ‘city-defense system in steep mountains’ in this paper.

2.2.3. The Definition of ‘Upper Reaches of the Yangtze River’

It refers to the area of Chuan Xia Four Districts in Southern Song Dynasty, abbreviated as Sichuan.



Information source: author self-drawn, based on *A Historical Atlas of China* [9]

Figure 1: Schematic diagram of the positions of the regimes during the confrontation between the Southern Song Dynasty, Jin and Mongolia

Sichuan had been the border areas of Jin and Southern Song Dynasty since their mutual confrontation. Its strategic significance was revealed in the course of Mongolians’ overturning Jin. Guo Baoyu, who surrendered from Jin to Mongolians, made a suggestion to Genghis Khan that it would be favorable to conquer Southwest China first and then ally with the valiant army here to defeat powerful Jin [10]. This advice was followed by Ögedei Khan and Mongke Khan. When succeeding Genghis Khan as Great Khan of the Mongol Empire in 1229, Ögedei Khan constantly assaulted Shukou area which consisted of three passes and five counties [11]. After Jin’s fall, Mongke Khan dispatched his brother, Kublai Khan, to Dali Kingdom, for the purpose of attacking Southern Song Dynasty from backside. Considering the fact that Lin’an, the capital of Southern Song, was in the lower reaches of Yangtze River (Figure 1), Mongolians insisted on capturing the upper reaches first and the rest areas of Jinghu, Huainan, Jiangnan and Liangzhe along the Yangtze River. Therefore, Sichuan became a significant anti-Yuan war zone as the first to bear the brunt of invasion.

Contemporary geographers refer to the upper reaches of Yangtze River as the segment from its origin in Qinghai-Tibet Plateau to Yichang city in Hubei. This covers areas in 9 provinces and municipalities: Tibet, Qinghai, Gansu, Shaanxi, Sichuan, Yunnan, Guizhou, Chongqing and Hubei. Major tributaries in these areas include the Minjiang River, Chishui River, Tuojiang River, Wujiang River and Jialing River [12].

In Southern Song dynasty, Tibet and Qinghai was occupied by Tubo, which was the Tibetan regime in ancient China, while Yunnan, Guizhou, and the southwestern part of Sichuan was captured by Dali Kingdom. The anti-Yuan force directly under Southern Song in the upper reaches was arranged mainly in Sichuan. When the anti-Yuan war broke in Sichuan, those tributaries acted as major passes for both armies.

Sichuan was often replaced by ‘the upper reaches (of the Yangtze River)’, as documented in History of Song. As early as 1240, Meng Gong had stated that there should be three lines of defense in the upper reaches [13]. Army in the first line took responsibility for the segment in the southern side of Fu County. The second line should secure the two counties of Ding and Li. The third line involved the four counties of Chen, Yuan, Jing, and Gui. The first line mentioned above referred to the Yangtze River valley beyond the Kui gate. When Emperor Lizong heard about the war in Sichuan in 1242, he drew a conclusion that what was going on in the upper reaches was worrying [14]. This also indicated that to the royal court of Song, Sichuan overlapped with the upper reaches of Yangtze River. It is found that to people in ancient China, the Minjiang River should be the source of Yangtze River, which is the segment between Chengdu Territory and Kui County [15]. This again can be taken as evidence in favor of the view that royal court of Southern Song equated Sichuan with upper reaches of Yangtze River.

Since cultural landscape theory focuses on the interaction between nature and culture, this paper uses the term “the Anti-Yuan Mountain fortresses defense system in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River in Southern Song Dynasty”, to put emphasis on the geographical features in this area.

This research object is typical of defense system in mountainous areas. Analyzing it within the framework of cultural landscape will enable us to get a full understanding of integration and authenticity of such cultural heritage from a new perspective.

3. The Scope of the Cultural Landscape of Anti-Yuan Mountain Fortresses Defense System in the Upper Reaches of the Yangtze River in Southern Song Dynasty



Information source: author self-drawn, based on the topographic maps from <https://www.zwbk.org/>

Figure 2: The historical and geographical scope of Sichuan in the Southern Song Dynasty

As mentioned above, Sichuan overlapped with the upper reaches of Yangtze River in Southern Song. It was consisted of four circuits of Yi, Li, Zi, and Kui (Figure 2). This administrative division was done in 1001. Yizhou Circuit (sometimes called Chengdu Fu Cistrict) comprised fifteen military prefectures of Yi, Mian, Han, Peng, Qiong, Shu, Jia, Mei, Ling, Jian, Li, Ya, Wei, Mao and Yongkang. Zizhou Circuit was replaced by Tongchuan Fu Circuit in 1118, which comprised fourteen military and industrial prefectures of Zi, Sui, Guo, Zi, Pu, Rong, Chang, Qu, He, Rong, Lu, Huaian, Guangan, and Fushun. Lizhou Circuit comprised fifteen superior and military prefectures and districts of Li, Yang, Xing, Jian, Wen, Ji, Bi, Ba, Peng, Long, Lang, Xingyuan, Jianmen, Sanquan, and Xixian. This circuit was divided into western and eastern parts in 1114, and repeatedly united andv divided

afterwards. Kuizhou Circuit comprised twelve military prefectures of Kui, Shi, Zhong, Wan, Kai, Da, Yu, Qian, Fu, Yunnan, Liangshan, and Daning [16].

The administrative division remained stable since its first establishment in 1001. In 1072, Lu Prefecture and Yongkang Military Prefecture was canceled, resulting in Yizhou Circuit's comprising of only thirteen prefecture-level administrative regions. From 1107 to 1125, four military prefectures of Tonghua, Shiquan, Shouning, and Yanning was established, allowing Yizhou Circuit to comprise its maximum number of sub-regions [17].

The scope of Zizhou Circuit remained unchanged throughout Song Dynasty, but the division of prefecture-level regions was adjusted. In the first three decades of the 12th century, new towns were established by Song in the southern border of the Chuanxia Four Circuits. Yujing Industrial Prefecture was replaced by Changning Military Prefecture. During this period, Zizhou Circuit got its maximum number of sub-regions, including one superior prefecture, twelve prefectures and for military prefectures.

From 1131 to 1162, Lizhou District got its maximum scope after the addition of Yi. In 1208, Tianshui was re-established as a military prefecture, which got its maximum number of prefectures. It comprised of 17 superior and military prefectures of Jie, Cheng, Xihe, Feng, Wen, Long, Mian, Tianshui, Xingyuan, Li, Lang, Longqing, Ba, Peng, Jin, Yang, and Daan.

Since 1130, Gui Prefecture was repeatedly set within and out of the scope of Kuizhou Circuit. From 1116 to 1131, it got the maximum number of sub-regions, including prefectures of Kui, Shi, Zhong, Wan, Kai, Da, Yu, Qian, Fu, Zhen, Qin, Bo, Cheng, and Sizhou, military prefectures of Yun'an, Liangping and Zunyi, and the industrial prefecture of Daning.

The Anti-Yuan Mountain fortresses defense system is within the Chuanxia Four Circuits. This area is of strategic significance in the war, which roughly covers Chongqing, majority of Sichuan, southern part of Shaanxi, western part of Hubei, and some northern part of Guizhou nowadays.

4. Structure of the Cultural Landscape of Anti-Yuan Mountain Fortresses Defense System in the Upper Reaches of the Yangtze River in Southern Song Dynasty

4.1. Significance of Further Research into the Structure of the Defense System

There is no consensus about both the amount of units of the system and their location from the existing literature. It is claimed that the system comprises of twenty defense facilities centered around Chongqing, with an illustration of their location. But this is far from the truth [18]. There are also scholars who figure 42 significant military castles with the cue of Danxia landform. But they provide little information about location and are not fully sure about the amount of units [19]. Some other scholars claim the system to be consisted of 40 facilities, with exact longitude and latitude of 39 of them. However, some are found to be inaccurate by our field work [20]. Xue Yushu lists 72 facilities in Sichuan, but figures out location of only some of these units [21].

It can be seen that the existing literature mainly studies the defense facilities singly. There is lack of a comprehensive and holistic understanding of both the structure of the system and the significance of it as a systematic cultural landscape. Thus, unified selection criteria are needed to specify the consisting units of this system and their location. This is the premise for further analysis on its features, which in turn can contribute to the protection of it.

4.2. Specifying the Amounts of Units and Their Location from the Perspective of Cultural Landscape

Taking the perspective of cultural landscape means to deem human activities as the motivation for the landscape to change. Thus, all military fortress for anti-Yuan will be taken into consideration.

Because the area of Sichuan-Shaanxi border was the border area of Song and dynasties in north, residents there had already began the construction of military castles along steep mountains, as early as the confrontation Song and Jin [22]. In 1227, Mongolians invaded this area in the excuse of setting it as a path to defeating Jin Dynasty. Zheng Sun, the military commissioner of Sichuan, gave up defending five prefectures of Jie, Cheng, Feng, Xihe, and Tianshui. The army by Tului invaded the three mountain passes of Wuxiu Pass (located 20 km away from Liuba County in Hanzhong city, Shaanxi Province), Xianren Pass (located southeast to Hui County in Longnan city, Gansu Province), and Qifang Pass (located between Lveyang County in Hanzhong City and Hui County) in Shukou area. And they further marched overwhelmingly along Yangtze River. The fall of “three passes and five prefectures” forced Song retreat to areas south to Shukou and made the safety situation here grimmer than ever before.

Mongolians’ major offensives in Lianghuai, Jinghu and Sichuan in 1235 marked the full-blown war between Yuan and Song. Battles in Sichuan ended in 1279, when the Hechuan Fishing Fortress was conquered. In 1288, the last defense facility of Lingxiao Fortress in Changning Military Prefecture was captured. From 1235 to 1279, people in Sichuan extended the existing fortresses, which were initially for fighting against Jin, into a more complete anti-Yuan system. Units in this new system was built mainly in three ways. The first was to make adaptations based on the existing prefectures, so that they could be used as command centers. Prefectures of this kind include Chongqing Prefecture and Jiading Superior Prefecture. The second way was to extend the existing fortresses into superior and military prefectures, such as Diaoyu Town, Dahuo Town, Baidi Town, Kuzhu Pass, and Chiniu Town. The third way was to build new cities out of nothing, such as Shenbi Town, Daliang Town, Tiefeng Town, Yunshan Town, Yunding Town, Duogong Town, Ziyun Town, and Tiansheng Town [23]. At the same time, they functioned as the administrative center for superior prefecture, military prefecture and industrial prefecture. This was beyond the function of traditional fortresses, which made these facilities inter-connected with each other as a system.

Without the whole picture of the system, no further research can be done. Thus, taking the perspective of cultural landscape, we reviewed the existing literature and do field work with GIS and GPS, and found out 40 defense facilities whose location is in accordance with existing records. Besides, with reference to historical records [24] and the division in Southern Song Dynasty instead of the existing administrative division of Sichuan and Chongqing, we brought Hailongtun Fortress and Yangma Fortress into the defense system, which had been paid little attention to. Thus, the system put forward in this article was composed of 42 defense facilities in total.

Getting the whole picture of the system is the key to find out its integrity, its value in authenticity, and its essence as such a kind of cultural landscape. To determinate exact location of the 42 facilities, we review the existing literature and do field work with GIS to get their longitudes, latitudes and status quo. Some of them has been located precisely by archaeological excavation. For them, we just do confirmatory field research and reconnaissance of their status quo. However, some facilities are not provided with precise location. For example, Rongshan Town in Lu Prefecture is recorded to be in Rongzi Mountain, Hejiang County. But our field investigation finds it to be in Baxian Village, Rongyou Township, Hejiang County. And Tiefeng Town in Pu Prefecture has been demolished and replaced by new towns. Thus, only with archaeological excavation can we figure out its precise location. Results from literature review and field research are shown in the sketch map about the structure of the anti-Yuan system (Figure 3).

Table 1: The southern Song dynasty's anti - Yuan fortresses defense system in the Upper reaches of the Yangtze River

Sequence Number	Name of the Castle	Date of Construction	Location	Local Government
1. Lizhou Circuit				
1	Kuzhu Pass (subordinated to Longqing Superior Prefecture)	1243	the top of Xiaojian Mountain, Zhujia Stockaded Village, Jianmen Pass Town, Jiange County, Guangyuan City, Sichuan Province	Seat of Longqing Superior Prefecture from 1255
2	Eding Fortress (subordinated to Lizhou)	1243	south to Changlin Mountain, Heling Town, Jiange County, Guangyuan City, Sichuan Province	
3	Xiaoning Fortress (subordinated to Ba Prefecture)	1244	the top of Xiaoning Mountain, Yangliu Village, Yuntai Town, Pingchang County, Bazhong City, Sichuan Province	Seat of Ba Prefecture
4	Pingliang Fortress (subordinated to Ba Prefecture)	1251	Paotai Mountain, Pingliang Township, Bazhou District, Bazhong City, Sichuan Province	
5	Dehan Fortress (subordinated to Ba Prefecture)	1249	the top of Dehan Mountain, Yong'an Town, Tongjiang County, Bazhong City, Sichuan Province	Seat of Yang Prefecture from 1253
6	Dahuo Fortress (subordinated to Lang Prefecture)	1228-1233	Taihuo Mountain, Zhongtu Township, Cangxi County, Guangyuan City, Sichuan Province	Seat of Lizhou West Circuit, Lang Prefecture, Fengguo District, and Jin Military Prefecture
7	Kuaao Fortress (subordinated to Lang Prefecture)	1253-1258	Tazi Mountain, Liuyi Township, Nanbu County, Nanchong City, Sichuan Province	Seat of Nanbu District
8	Yunshan Fortress (subordinated to Peng Prefecture)	1243	Yanshan Stockaded Village, Heshu Town, Peng'an County, Nanchong City, Sichuan Province	Seat of Peng Prefecture, Xiangru, Yilong, and Yingshan District
9	Yongcun Fortress (subordinated to Long Prefecture)	1236	Jiuxian Village, Dakang Town, Jiangyou County, Mianyang City, Sichuan Province	Seat of Long Prefecture
2. Tongchuan Fu Circuit				
10	Yunding Fortress (subordinated to Huaian Military Prefecture)	1243	the top of Yunding Mountain, Huaikou Town, Jintang County, Chengdu City, Sichuan Province	Seat of Chengdu Fu Circuit and Li Military Prefecture
11	Zijin Fortress (subordinated to Tongchuan Superior Prefecture)	1242	Dabeiya, Yulong Town, Yanting County, Mianyang City, Sichuan Province	
12	Qingju Fortress (subordinated to Shunqing Superior Prefecture)	1249	Qingju Mountain, Qingju Town, Gaoping District, Nanchong City, Sichuan Province	Seat of Shunqing Superior Prefecture and Mian Military Prefecture
13	Liyi Fortress (subordinated to Qu Prefecture)	1254	Liyi Mountain (with Temple of Three Religions on it), Hongxi Village, Tuxi Town, Qu County, Dazhou City, Sichuan Province	Seat of Qu Prefecture
14	Daliang Fortress (subordinated to Guang'an Military Prefecture)	1243	Daliangcheng Village, Xiaojing Township, Qianfeng District, Guang'an City, Sichuan Province	Seat of Guang'an Military Prefecture and Qu Prefecture
15	Tiefeng Fortress (subordinated to Pu Prefecture)	1243	the top of Tiefeng Mountain, Yueyang Town, Anyue County, Ziyang City, Sichuan Province	Seat of Pu Prefecture
16	Lingquan Castle (subordinated to Suining Superior Prefecture)	1258	Lingquan Mountain, Renli Town, Chuanshan District, Suining City, Sichuan Province	Seat of Suining Military and Superior Prefecture
17	Pengxi Castle (subordinated to Suining Superior Prefecture)	1236	Luoziyan, Xinhui Town, Pengxi County, Suining City, Sichuan Province	Seat of Suining Prefecture
18	Diaoyu Fortress (subordinated to He Prefecture)	1240	Diaoyu Mountain, Hechuan District, Chongqing City	Seat of He Prefecture, Shizhao District, Xing Military Prefecture, and Xingyuan Superior Prefecture
19	Yisheng Mountain Fortress (subordinated to He Prefecture)	1272	Chunyang Mountain, Hechuan District, Chongqing City	
20	Lingxiao Fortress (subordinated to Changning Military Prefecture)	1257	Lingxiao Cheng Village, Xingwen County, Yibin City, Sichuan Province	Seat of Changning Military Prefecture
21	Xianlv Fortress (subordinated to Xu Prefecture)	1260	Xianlv Mountain, Yibin City, Sichuan Province	
22	Denggao Fortress (subordinated to Xu Prefecture)	1267	Denggao Mountain, Yibin City, Sichuan Province	Seat of Xu Prefecture
23	Hutou Castle (in Fushun Industrial Prefecture)	1265	Hutou Mountain, Hutou Village, Huaide Town, Fushun County, Zigong City, Sichuan Province	Seat of Fushun Industrial Prefecture
24	Shenbi Fortress (subordinated to Lu Prefecture)	1243	Shenbi Mountain, Laolu Village, Jiaotan Township, Hejiang County, Luzhou City, Sichuan Province	Seat of Lu Prefecture and Tongchuan Superior Prefecture
25	Rong Mountain Fortress (subordinated to Lu Prefecture)	1239	Baxian Village, Rongyou Township, Hejiang County, Luzhou City, Sichuan Province	
26	Anle Fortress (subordinated to Lu Prefecture)	1240	Bijia Mountain, Hejiang County, Luzhou City, Sichuan Province	

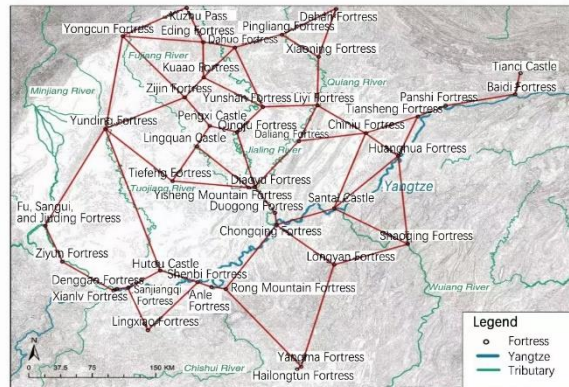
Sequence Number	Name of the Castle	Date of Construction	Location	Local Government
27	Sanjiangqi Fortress (subordinated to Jiang'an County)	1239	Zhongba Village, Tongzi Town, Jiang'an County, Sichuan Province	
	3.Chengdu Fu Circuit			
28	Fu, Sangui, and Jiuding Fortress (subordinated to Jiading Superior Prefecture)	1261-1265	Jiufeng District, Leshan City, Sichuan Province	Seat of Jiading Superior Prefecture
29	Ziyun Fortress (subordinated to Jiading Superior Prefecture)	1247	Ziyun Village, Xiaogu Town, Qianwei County, Leshan City, Sichuan Province	
	4.Kuizhou Circuit			
30	Baidi Fortress (subordinated to Kui Prefecture)	1243	Baidi Mountain, Fengjie District, Chongqing City	Seat of Kui Prefecture
31	Chongqing Fortress (subordinated to Chongqing Superior Prefecture)	1239	Yuzhong District, Chongqing City	Seat of military prefecture with military chief in Sichuan
32	Duogong Fortress (subordinated to Chongqing Superior Prefecture)	1268-1274	Cuiyun Mountain, Cuiyun Sub-district, Yubei District, Chongqing City	
33	Santai Castle (subordinated to Fu Prefecture)	1266	Dongbao Village, Lidu Town, Fuling District, Chongqing City	Seat of Fu Prefecture
34	Huanghua Fortress (subordinated to Chengchun Superior Prefecture)	1254	Huanghua Village, Shunxi Township, Zhong County, Chongqing City	Seat of Chengchun Superior Prefecture
35	Tianci Castle (subordinated to Daning Industrial Prefecture)	1262	Tianci Mountain, Tiancheng Village, Longxi Town, Wushan County, Chongqing City	Seat of Daning Industrial Prefecture
36	Chiniu Fortress (subordinated to Liangshan Military Prefecture)	1242	Niutou Village, Shuanggui Town, Liangping County, Chongqing City	Seat of Liangshan Military Prefecture
37	Shaoqing Fortress (subordinated to Qian Prefecture)	1272	Shaoqing District, Pengshui County, Chongqing City	Seat of Shaoqing Superior Prefecture and Qian Prefecture
38	Longyan Fortress (subordinated to Nanping Military Prefecture)	1255	Manao Mountain, Manao Township, Sanquan Town, Nanchuan District, Chongqing City	Seat of Nanping Military Prefecture
39	Tiansheng Fortress (subordinated to Wan Prefecture)	1243	Tiancheng Mountain, Zhoujiaba Town, Wanzhou District, Chongqing City	Seat of Wan Prefecture
40	Panshi Fortress (subordinated to Yun'an Military Prefecture)	1243	Aiguo Village, Shuangjiang Town, Yunyang County, Chongqing City	Seat of Yun'an Military Prefecture
41	Hailongtun Fortress (subordinated to Bo Prefecture)	1257	Hailongtun Village, Huichuan District, Zunyi City, Guizhou Province	Seat of Bo Prefecture
42	Yangma Fortress (subordinated to Bo Prefecture)	1257	Gaoping Town, Huichuan District, Zunyi City, Guizhou Province	

Information source: author self-drawn

This system takes into consideration all major anti-Yuan fortresses in the upper reaches of Yangtze River built in Southern Song (Table 1). It includes not only what is called “the eight solitary rocks in a turbulent stream” (Diaoyu Fortress in He Prefecture, Yunding Fortress in Huaian Military Prefecture, Dahuo Fortress in Lang Prefecture, Baidi Fortress in Kui Prefecture, Qingju Fortress in Nanchong City, etc.), but also the seat of local government of circuit-, superior-prefecture-, military-prefecture-, industrial-prefecture- and district-level. Besides, Hailongtun Fortress and Yangma Fortress are also included, which were built by local chieftain to deal with the Mongolians’ strategy of outflanking. This system is broader than any one that is studied within Sichuan or within Chongqing. Besides, the analysis from the perspective of cultural landscape makes us better understand this anti-Yuan system holistically. This will contribute to further analysis on its value in completeness and authenticity.

Notes: ① Chongqing Superior Prefecture was built by extending the existing fortress in 1239; Baidi fortress was built by expanding the existing fortress in 1243; there was no consensus on the time when construction of Shaoqing Fortress began. Thus, here we tentatively referred to the time when Shaoqing Superior Prefecture was relocated in Shaoqing Fortress as its founding time.② In Record of Zhang Shi’s Giving Its Name to Xiaoning Fortress, it was said that in 1245, the Military Commissioner of Yu Jie designated Zhang Shi as the commander in chief of this fortress. It concerned the rise and fall of political powers of ethnic Han, so main armed forces were dispatched to supervise

its construction. Combining this with another fact that Pingliang Fortress was built in 1251, it can be inferred that Xiaoning Fortress was set as the top priority among all military strongholds in Ba Prefecture. With support from Pingliang and Dehan Fortress, Xiaoning Fortress was qualified as the base area against the Mongolia. To sum up, it was very likely that local government of Ba Prefecture moved into Xiaoning Fortress.^③ Kong Xian, the booster for building the Yunding Fortress, called himself the commander-in-chief of Tongchuan Superior Prefecture. Thus, it can be inferred that Tongchuan Superior Prefecture was initially set in Yunding Fortress and moved into Shenbi Fortress at a later stage.^④ In 1244, Daliang Fortress was built as seat of the local government of Qu Prefecture. This government had moved into Liyi Fortress since it was built in 1255.



Information source: author self-drawn, based on the topographic maps from National Geo-information Service Platform (www.tianditu.gov.cn)

Figure 3: The Composition of Anti-Yuan castle defense system of southern Song Dynasty in the upper Reaches of Yangtze River from the perspective of cultural landscape

5. Conclusions and Future Directions

From the perspective of cultural landscape, we analyzed the Anti-Yuan Mountain fortresses defense system in the upper reaches of Yangtze River and deem it as a cultural landscape. Literature review and field investigation are combined to get the whole picture of this landscape. It covers Chuanxia Four Circuits with a gross area of 179400 square kilometer. And it is roughly equivalent to Sichuan, western part of Hubei, southern part of Shaanxi, northern part of Guizhou, and so on at present. Forty two Castles are brought into the system, which includes not only the famous “eight solitary rocks in a turbulent stream for anti-Yuan”, but also seats of circuits, and superior, military, and industrial prefectures in Sichuan in wartime. Deeming this system as a cultural landscape captures its essence that it is a product from interactions between human activities and natural environment. And this also fits with gist of the theory, which goes that research should be done in large scale, focusing on dynamic changes, combing material and non-material objects, and integrating culture and nature. The study of planning and construction of such mountain fortresses defense system is also extended, in the sense that a new perspective is introduced. This provides theoretical basis for protection of large scale cultural heritage in the area of Chengdu-Chongqing Twin City Economic Circle.

Since the dynamic changes are emphasized based on cultural landscape theory, we will be able to see that adjustments will be made to picture of the system, with subsequent research from archaeology and history. As the composing unit of the system and the forefront of battle, every single fortress constitutes the second layer of the landscape, has not been involved in this article yet. Surroundings and layout of each fortress constitutes the landscape morphology. An elaboration of changes, layout and historical remains of each fortress is the prerequisite for further discussion about morphological features and the motivation behind. With further research, features about each member of the second

layer and about this cultural landscape as a whole system will also be better clarified.

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