

13. Peace 平

There is no word for “war” in the CC. There are situations of more or less permanent hostility, but save for the series of northern solidarity covenants, there is no formal recognition of what we would call “a state of war” between two polities or groups of polities. Peace (píng 平) *does* get mentioned. Those occasions tell us that peace in Spring and Autumn was not a condition either, but a cessation of hostility or tension. Píng is basically a verb: “pacify.”

Data. There are 17 occurrences of píng 平 in the CC, one of which we ignore as belonging to the DJ extension of the CC beyond 0481. We deduct 5 place names¹ and 5 posthumous epithets of rulers,² leaving 6 to be considered. Most of them are late. The only early one occurs at Yǐn 1/6:1:

• 0717 1/6:1. 鄭人來輸平

An officer of Jǜng came to offer³ peace.

Lǚ and Jǜng had been at odds in previous years (Lǚ, Sùng, Chǔn, Tsà, and Wèi had invaded Jǜng in 0719, and Wèi, evidently the chief interested party, had killed the recently installed ruler of Jǜng and put another on the throne; Jǜng and Sùng had exchanged invasions in 0718). This 0717 visit is an offer to separate Lǚ from the other powers hostile to Jǜng.

The following year, without other previous contact, Jǜng sent an envoy to return the territory of Bǔng 昉 (near the Tà-shān and thus north of Lǚ), perhaps (as DJ thinks) in exchange for some discontinuous territory of Lǚ, thus rationalizing the territories⁴ of both. Lǚ promptly occupied Bǔng.

The 0717 peace agreement held. In 0713, Lǚ met with the rulers of Chí and Jǜng, and that summer, the two invaded Sùng. Bilateral nonaggression has matured into active cooperation. A meeting between Lǚ and Jǜng, and a Lǚ/Chí/Jǜng joint campaign, followed in 0712, Yǐn-gǔng’s last year.

The 0717 offer was thus informally accepted. It held through Yǐn-gǔng’s reign.

¹At 7/1:6, 7/8:9, 7:10:9, 10/13:4, and 10/3:5.

²At 10/10:5, 10/11:2, 10/18:4, 10/21:1, and 10/24:7. These rulers (of Jǐn, Sùng, Tsáu, Tsà, and Chǐ 杞) all were given their posthumous names within a 15-year period; it may have been the fashion at this time to claim peacebringing as a virtue of rulers. And in fact, those 15 years were indeed notable for their relative lack of armed conflict. For Jǐn Píng-gǔng, the first Píng-gǔng and perhaps the trend-setter, see **League**.

³DJ has yú 渝 “renounce.” This word never appears otherwise in CC; we follow Gǔngyáng and Gǔlyáng, which are often orthographically superior. DJ at 2/1:2 and 5/28:3, 5 has 渝盟 “renounce the previous agreement” (a process unknown to CC), which may have influenced the orthography of the CC text associated with DJ.

⁴Not the boundaries, on which see the **Rúng** chapter. Exchanging far for near territories was a precursor of the later boundary initiative. Another exchange of territory with Jǜng (where Lǚ gets a precious jade; the territory is cultivated land 田 near Syǔ) occurs in 2/1:2, following a meeting with the ruler of Jǜng.

- 0605 7/4:1. 公及齊侯平莒及郟。莒人不肯，公伐莒取向。

The Lǚ Prince together with⁵ the Lord of Chí sought to make peace between Jyǔ and⁶ Tán. The representative of Jyǔ was not willing. The [Lǚ] Prince attacked Jyǔ and took Syàng.

The first appearance of Tán in the chronicle. The Lǚ Prince's eldest daughter had been married to the ruler of Tán (her return to Lǚ is recorded in 7/16:3). The strategic importance of Tán becomes clear in 0584 (8/7:2), when Wú invades Tán. Then (8/7:5), following a friendly mission from Jìn, Lǚ joins Jìn (and Jū) in counterinvading Tán. Large issues are at stake.

In retaliation for Jyǔ's refusal to end its hostilities toward Tán, Lǚ takes the much contested town of Syàng, between Jyǔ and Tán, which Jyǔ had entered in 0721 (1/2:2), and which had often changed hands since then.

Big-state diplomacy fails to produce a desired result. Lǚ turns to medium-state diplomacy (in the form of military action) as another way of gaining that result. But this second peacemaking effort seems to have proved insufficient as well, since Lǚ and Jìn invade Jyǔ in 0598, and Chí alone invades Jyǔ in 0596.

You have to give credit to a small non-Sinitic state: Jyǔ is holding its own.

- 0594 7/15:2. 宋人及楚人平。

An officer of Sùng made peace with an officer of Chǔ.

In the previous year, Chǔ had invaded Sùng and besieged its capital. Lǚ had conferred with Chí at the end of that year, and at the beginning of 0594 a Lǚ envoy met with the ruler of Chǔ, still leading the siege force, in Sùng. The result was a cessation of hostilities, and accord between Sùng and Chǔ. Perhaps as a matter of face, the Chǔ ruler has an unnamed deputy negotiate that agreement, but the agreement nevertheless did get negotiated.

A more successful application of outside force. With Chí behind him, the Lǚ envoy can confront Chǔ with a situation in which Chǔ's best interest is to retire. Lǚ and Chí wanted to keep Sùng intact against Chǔ, and they succeeded.

The previous two peacemakings mentioned negotiators; in the remaining three (as in the first), peace is made (or sought) between states.

- 0535 10/7:1. 暨齊平。

[North Yēn] made peace with⁷ Chí.

This looks like a peace between Lǚ and Chí, but it follows the last entry of 0536, in which it is reported that Chí attacked North Yēn 北燕. Chí has been expanding east and north; its greater strength naturally worries Lǚ. Yēn, here all but unknown to Lǚ, will later be a major power, expanding into the Korean peninsula, and at one point all but obliterating Chí itself.

⁵及 “seconded by.” Lǚ was the primary interested party; see the **Nuances** chapter.

⁶及 “toward.” Jyǔ is the principal aggressor, as becomes plain from the sequel.

⁷暨 is a variant form of 及. Chí, here the aggressor, is thus subtly disapproved.

• 0500 11/10:3. 及齊平。

We made peace with Chí.

Lǚ had attacked Chí twice in 0502; Chí in response had infringed the Lǚ western border. In autumn 0501, the Lords of Chí and Wèi had camped at Wǔ-shì, in the territory of Jìn, no sequel being given in CC. The threat to Lǚ was not the invasion, but the alliance. The peace was probably arranged in consequence; the presence of 及 (and nonmention of the Lǚ Prince)⁸ suggests reluctance, and probably constraint, on the part of Lǚ.

After it was concluded, the Lǚ Prince met the Lord of Chí in Jyá-gǔ (location uncertain). Chí next returned several towns to Lǚ, including the border town of Yǔn, which Chí had seized in 0517 to provide a location for the exiled Jāu-gūng. All this looks like a clearing up of unfinished business. Evidently Lǚ had something that Chí wanted, if only acquiescence in its collaboration with Wèi against Jìn.

Toward the end of 0500, the Lords of Chí and Wèi again met, with an officer from Jǔng. Lǚ was not included. An envoy from Lǚ was promptly sent to Chí, presumably to clarify the situation. Shortly afterward:

• 0499 11/11:4. 及鄭平。

We made peace with Jǔng.

The accession of a third party to the agreement between Chí and Wèi has sufficiently concerned Lǚ that they seek a separate peace with Jǔng. That a peace was not itself a covenant is shown by the fact that a Lǚ envoy was next sent to *arrange for* a covenant. We note that Lǚ is aligning itself with states which had recently attacked Jìn. Lǚ is taking sides in the next war.

Overview

Píng 平, perhaps peacemaking, does occur in the posthumous names of rulers. It may be that peace was considered to be a civic good, and rulers who achieved it were entitled to remembrance for doing so. Actual peacemaking between states is rare, especially if the two cases of outside compulsion are eliminated. To the remaining four, the sixteen túng-mǐng solidarity covenants⁹ might be added as the other side of the coin: peace as the prevention of attack. But the situation there sought is probably best described as collective security.

These peace actions express a wish not to be on the wrong end of a possible action by other states. The concept of a general peace is conspicuous by its absence, in Spring and Autumn and in the Warring States period which follows. The state, in both periods, was designed for war, and war was what it made

⁸See the **Nuances** chapter.

⁹See the **League** chapter.