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# GENARCH & TENURED NOBLE MENTALITY

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Seen from the point of view of the genearch of a dynastic officeholding in, say, the early 17th century, the process was one of strict family management to guarantee the succession of service over several generations, a process that ~~would~~ he would probably not live to see completed. Seen from the other end, that of the fourth generation officeholder in the early 18th century--someone considered noble from birth with no obligation save to live nobly and stay out of commerce--the situation had to be somewhat different.

Out. It is easy to find anecdotal evidence about the ~~slothfulness~~ slothfulness of ~~the~~ great officials in the later 18th century, and one might assume that they were that way because they were not held in the grip of insecurity ~~that early generations had known~~ to early generations who had had to fight the battle for tenure of nobility. I am myself of quite a different opinion, however. Although I am not prepared yet to document the case, my ~~ongoing~~ study of the problem brings me greater confidence in the ~~off~~ integrity and sincerity of officeholders ~~xxxx~~ in their exercise of power from the beginning to the end of the system. Naturally there were bound to be dolts and dullards in ~~xxxx~~ the generational links of some of the dynastic officialdom, but in the main I feel that ~~every~~ <sup>kin links</sup> succeeding generations in the chain ~~was~~ usually ~~stronger~~ and usually grew stronger over the generations. The growing sense of family pride, the clear marking from birth of ~~education~~ the training and education that would be necessary to fulfil the specific office, the sense imbued in the individual that he was meant to be a ruler and so was psychologically prepared to fulfil the task--all these things I ~~xxxx~~ believe grew stronger and stronger. *It is as much a system of specific goal-oriented training of administrators was, in my opinion, as good a way as any then possible to develop an efficient bureaucratic administrative corps.*

Reverting to my ~~xxx~~ image of the genearch and the fourth generation "born noble" member of a dynasty, it seems logical to me that the development over time is ~~xxx~~ more away from rather than towards narrow family interest. The genearch

was involved in his family's interest above all, one might well believe: ~~his~~ he acquired the office, and planned succeeding generations to keep it, as a way to assure that his descendants would have ~~xxx~~ security from want. In ~~simplexxx~~ rather crude biological terms, if ~~concernxxx~~ concern for the survival of one's dependents is a basic drive, and if society is so organized that with a concerted effort over three generations a given family can acquire a ~~xxxxxx~~ legal status that guarantees ~~xx~~ <sup>its</sup> ~~their~~ superior social position~~xxx~~ for all time, then the system of gradual ennoblement via a repeated exercise of an office held as part of the patrimony, must have been an obsessive drive within a single family unit for the several generations involved in achieving the goal. It is difficult to think of a close sociological comparison in history. For we have in the Dynoff rise to status not the typical family's aspiring to rise, if they be industrious and meet with no catastrophe. Dynoff was a certain path, over a specific number of generations, with provisional (i.e., lifetime) nobility for earlier generations insured by law, and for later generations ~~xxx~~ family tenure of nobility forevermore. The vision of the future for the family in the course of this achievement must have been more exhilarating than that of the noble families of old that ~~had already made it~~, or of these ~~xxxxxxx~~ non-nobles who, however well off and secure for the time being, not to mention the wretched, the 90 per cent of society that had ~~xxxxxxx~~ no basis to even guess about the future in terrestrial existence ~~xxxxxx~~ of their family, nay even to be sure that what they ~~themselves~~ had ~~for the~~ <sup>acquired at a grove</sup> moment would ~~be left~~ survive their own lifetiems.

For the emerging adult ~~xxxxxxx~~ who was to ~~be~~ play his life out ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~but~~ carrying ~~xxx~~ forth the hope of family tenure of nobility that ~~would~~ would be realized only after his time, there must have been a tremendous sense of his responsibility to all his descendants, a care to be sure that the failure of the process would not be due to his personal failure. He would have to be basically conservative, to endorse the existing system in its fundamental structures

since the legality of his ~~up~~ family's striving for tenure of nobility was linked to ~~the~~ a very peculiar French ~~deviser legal social legal administrative~~ conjunction of social and governmental institutions.

It is during the 17th century, the great building era of dynastic officialdom, that the family concern of the officeholder would have been most acute. By the 18th century, when the great bulk of new nobility had already been created, and most were now noble by birth, this family concern no longer had the sense of a long ~~and~~ journey over time; the goal in the sense of perpetual nobility for the family had been won. The urgency about family interest would then have been necessary less in basic respects. In that moment, ~~one~~ one has the choice between saying that

the overwhelming concern for the perpetuation of the nuclear family either ~~gave~~ degraded being a noble, and being able to impart into individual wallowing in delights of ~~the-achieving-forever-of-family--~~ superiority, or that it shifted the other way to the quality to descendants by semen alone; or that ~~this~~ this class of nobles now raised their eyes to higher concern about society ~~than~~ than their own family's status (which was now guaranteed), and became as a class concerned with the problems of society at large.

There are many questions to be answered before this thesis can be asserted with vigour. A few of those problems, and some provisional answers, are worth mentioning.

- Percentage of wealth in office, low return of it--why didn't families simply give up the office when tenure of nobility achieved
- Amount of time of life, in terms of hours of day, that spent on official functions, despite its relatively little material meaning for the family.
- Both these prove a sense of responsibility to perform official functions, ~~and~~ long after its material and status goals were achieved for the family.
- That then, sets the stage for the mentality of the Dynastic Officialdom.