

John C. Calhoun and William G. Sumner: A Jeffersonian Study

從傑佛遜的觀點透視比較卡爾洪與桑姆納

張其羽 (*Chi-yu Chang*)
育達商業技術學院·應用英語系

【Abstract】

John C. Calhoun and William G. Sumner were famous for their well-organized works and thoughts on contemporary political issues concerned. These issues included the law of nature, natural rights, the origin of individual-state relationship, and relevant others, all of which had much to do with how Americans would proceed and develop with their political life, established an American-mind base, and dissolved in the stereotype of the spirit of the country. Calhoun's and Sumner's doctrines, despite their differences, could be considered those reflected such thinking. For example, Calhoun and

Sumner, based on the notion of limited government, insisted that the majority rule be curbed. The former advocated a concurrent democratic system, whereas the latter maintained a Social-Darwinist kind of individualism. Thomas Jefferson was the third President of the United States of America, whose political belief was believed to have set up and refreshed American political traditions, and whose works to be sure could be regarded as a legacy of American Literature. Hence this research paper is intended to utilize Jefferson's principal thinking as a theoretical spectrum for analyzing the comparison between Calhoun's and Sumner's notions. Seeing that the thoughts closely related to American values are worth exploring, the research aims to deepen and enrich the studies on American Literature, and generally interpret what the American Creed and values are all about.

【摘要】

卡爾洪和桑姆納均為美國立國初期的知名作家，其作品用字洗鍊，立論嚴謹，著重於探討朝野當時所關心的政治問題，包括自然法、自然權利、人與國家之間的權力互動根源等，這些問題不僅關係到美國人民未來政治生活的演進方向，也奠定了美國心靈的基礎，成為該國立國精神的主流原型。吾人於研究美國語文學之餘，為求研究面向的多元與深化，亦當探求美國的思想根源。卡爾洪和桑姆納的觀點，雖然彼此的主張有所差異，正典型地反映了這種思想根源。例如卡、桑二人從有限政府的觀點著眼，認為不宜過度強調多數統治。前者提倡協同式的民主制度，後者則主張社會達爾文式的個人主義。傑佛遜為美國第三任總統，其主要政治主張咸信充實、奠定了美國的政治思想傳統，其作品自是美國文學的一項資產。因此本文嘗試以傑佛遜的基本主張作為比較分析卡、桑二人理念異同的光譜，希望藉此彰顯美國價值與信念之所繫。

Key Words: the law of nature, natural rights, ochlocracy, concurrent majority, states rights, Social-Darwinist individualism, limited government