POLICY CHANGES OF THE HAN DYNASTY AND THE DECLINE OF THE HUNS

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Abstract.
This paper aims to delve into the impact of policy changes during the Han Dynasty on the decline of the Huns Empire. Through a comprehensive analysis of the historical background, policy evolution, and interactions between the Han Dynasty and the Huns, it seeks to reveal the influence of various factors such as political, economic, and cultural aspects on the relationship between the Han Dynasty and the Huns. Additionally, the paper explores how these factors contributed to the gradual decline of the Huns Empire.
Key words: reforms, peace agreements, military initiative, the war situation, policy changes

Introduction. This paper aims to conduct an in-depth study of how policy reforms during the Han Dynasty profoundly influenced the fate of the Huns Empire on multiple fronts. Through a thorough historical analysis of the two major civilizations, the Han Dynasty and the Huns, and a comprehensive examination of the policy evolution between them, this paper explores the early governance during the founding period of Liu Bang, domestic reforms during the Wen and Jing periods, and further developments during the Wu Di period. It also considers internal and external factors affecting the Huns, including drawbacks in the ruling system, internal divisions, power struggles, and external influences such as the direct impact of Han Dynasty policy changes and interactions with other neighboring ethnic groups. By providing a comprehensive analysis of the interaction between policy changes in the Han Dynasty and the decline of the Huns Empire, this study unveils the complexity of this crucial historical period and delves into key events in historical evolution. This approach enhances our understanding of the intricate relationship between the Han Dynasty and the Huns, and the profound impact it had on the developmental trajectories of both civilizations.

Research methodology.
This article, based on historical records, analyzes the Huns within a specific historical context. It compares the characteristics of different stages of Huns development and the ever-changing policies of the Han Dynasty. Through this comparative analysis, it gradually becomes apparent that, during the interactions and conflicts between the Huns and the Han Dynasty, the influence of the Huns was gradually fragmented and declined.

Analysis and results.
The huns were a powerful force on the ancient Mongolian grasslands. The "Shi Ji: Biography of the huns" documented the basic situation of the huns, stating, "From Chunwei to Touman, it spans over a thousand years, experiencing periods of expansion and contraction, division, and separation. Though it still exists, the details of its historical transmission are elusive and cannot be precisely ascertained"[i].

During the Qin and Han dynasties, the huns gradually grew in strength. In 209 BCE, Modu Chanyu implemented reforms, establishing a comprehensive national system and forming a well-trained, highly formidable military force. The huns continuously expanded outward, conquering surrounding weaker ethnic groups. "Under Modu, the huns reached

their greatest extent, subjugating the northern tribes and engaging in hostilities with the southern enemy, China. The details of their hereditary transmission of state officials and titles are difficult to ascertain, but they appointed kings on the left and right, kings of Gu Li on the left and right, grand generals on the left and right, grand commandants on the left and right, and bone-attached marquises on the left and right." [ii]"They had over 300,000 strong and skilled archers."[iii]At this peak, the huns became a formidable force. However, this power gradually faded into history and is now only found in recorded accounts.

The decline and eventual disappearance of the huns were undoubtedly part of the natural course of historical evolution, shaped by the principles of survival of the fittest. However, it is crucial to recognize that during this process, the Han Dynasty, which coexisted with the huns on the historical stage, played a significant and undeniable role.

Discussion.

1. Han Dynasty's Strategy against the huns Threat

The frontier crisis posed by the huns was present from the very establishment of the Han Dynasty. According to the "Shi Ji," in the seventh year of its existence, the huns attacked Han Wang Xin at Mayi, leading to Xin plotting a rebellion in Taiyuan. Bai Tu, Man Qiu Chen, and Wang Huang established a rebellion in Zhao, making Zhao Li the king in opposition. Gaozu [Liu Bang, the founder of the Han Dynasty] personally led an expedition against them. Due to the harsh weather, percent 20-percent30 soldiers perished from frostbite, and the campaign reached Pingcheng. The huns besieged Pingcheng, and it was only after seven days that they withdrew. [iv]This event is the earliest recorded threat from the huns during the early Han period. Gaozu was besieged at Baideng Mountain, thirty miles north of Pingcheng County. This crisis in history is known as the "Baideng Siege." Although the Baideng Siege was eventually resolved, it had a significant impact on the early policies of the Han Dynasty towards the huns.

The Great Han Dynasty, established after the tumultuous period at the end of the Qin Dynasty and the struggle between Chu and Han, can be described as economically devastated, with myriad tasks awaiting attention. The people's production and livelihoods had reached the brink of collapse. The "Han Shu" records the dire situation at the time of the founding of the dynasty, stating, "Upon the establishment of the country by Gaozu, there were seventy major battles and forty minor ones, causing the people throughout the land to suffer immeasurable hardships. The fields were strewn with the bodies of fathers and sons, and the cries of mourning seemed endless."[v]"Han Xing inherited the deficiencies of the Qin Dynasty. Men went to the military campaigns, and the elderly and weak supplied provisions. The labor was intense, but wealth was scarce. Even the Son of Heaven could not afford to equip his horses with equal yokes, and generals sometimes rode on ox carts. The common people had no spare covering. Unscrupulous individuals, driven by profit, hoarded goods and accumulated surplus to manipulate market prices. Prices soared, and a stone of rice cost ten thousand coins, while a horse was priced at a hundred gold pieces."[vi]During this period, the Han Dynasty lacked the essential conditions for large-scale warfare. Meanwhile, the huns, at this time, were growing increasingly powerful, having unified the Mongolian grasslands and achieved a north-south consolidation of the vast desert. Consequently, Liu Bang formulated a fundamental policy towards the huns. He aimed to maintain a stable relationship with this formidable force, leading to a proactive pursuit of peace from the first monarch of the Han Dynasty.

In order to achieve reconciliation, the Han Dynasty consistently dispatched envoys to engage with the huns, culminating in a method to preserve peace between the two sides—intermarriage. This form of intermarriage went beyond establishing ordinary

familial ties; the princesses involved were required to bring substantial wealth. The "Han Shu" records that due to incessant huns raids on the Han border, "Gaozu [Liu Bang] was troubled by this and sent Liu Jing to present a princess from the imperial family to the Chanyu as a wife. Annually, they sent various items such as textiles, silk, and food to the huns, making a pact of brotherhood through intermarriage, and Modu [Chanyu] then diminished his hostilities."[vii] Simultaneously, the huns gained access to significant wealth from the Han Dynasty through these intermarriages. The negotiated limits on the amount of wealth for both parties were a crucial aspect of these intermarriage agreements.

During the reigns of Emperor Wen and Emperor Jing of the Han Dynasty, "The huns were audacious on the borders, frequently killing officials, civilians, and frontier ministers." The huns remained a significant threat to the northwest frontier of the Han Dynasty. Faced with an insufficient strength to confront the huns directly, during the period of Emperor Wen, an agreement was made with the huns, establishing a relationship akin to brothers. The terms of the agreement included refraining from harming the border regions, and in return, the Han Dynasty provided substantial tribute to the huns.[viii]Even Emperor Wen of the Han Dynasty expressed relief at the prospect of reaching a peace agreement with the huns and avoiding war, stating, "Now, the Chanyu has returned to the ancient ways, calculating the security of the state and the benefit to all people. He has willingly abandoned minor grievances, embraced the great path together with me, and established the bond of brotherhood to safeguard the people throughout the world. The peace agreement has been settled, beginning this year."[ix]During the reign of Emperor Xiao Jing, "He made peace with the huns: trade and tribute were sent to them, and princesses were dispatched according to the previous agreement. By the end of Emperor Xiao Jing's reign, incursions and thefts were minor, and the border faced no major threats." [x] "With clear peace agreements and generous treatment, trade flourished, and tribute was abundant. The huns, from the Chanyu down to the lower ranks, became close to the Han, frequently coming and going beneath the Great Wall."[xi]

Emperor Wen also sent envoys to the huns, conveying a message: "The late emperor decreed that beyond the Great Wall, the land where bows are drawn receives orders from the Chanyu, while within the Great Wall, the area adorned with crowns is governed by me."[xii] He aimed to establish clear boundaries with the huns.

The substantial wealth supplied by the early Han Dynasty to the huns contributed to their increasing strength, further enhancing the huns's intimidation and control over neighboring tribes.

2.Policy during the Reign of Emperor Wu of the Han Dynasty

After several decades of light taxes, reduced levies, and a focus on recuperation during the early years of the Han Dynasty, the Western Han Dynasty achieved social stability and economic development, entering a period known as the "Wenjing Era." By the time of Emperor Wu of the Han Dynasty, nearly 70 years had passed with minimal military conflicts, and the national treasury had accumulated considerable surplus. The "Shi Ji: Regulations on Equalization" vividly describes this period, stating, "During the rise of the Han Dynasty, over the course of more than seventy years, the country experienced peace, except for occasional natural disasters like droughts or floods. The people had enough to sustain their households, and granaries in various regions were full. The national treasury was abundant, accumulating vast sums of money in the capital, reaching hundreds of millions. The surplus was so extensive that it could not be accurately measured. Granaries in the Taihang Mountains were filled to the brim, and the surplus overflowed, rotting and becoming inedible. Horses were abundant in the streets and

alleys, forming groups along the roads."[xiii] The efforts of Emperor Wen and Emperor Jing laid the material foundation for Emperor Wu's campaigns against the huns.

The political conditions that led to the shift in Han Dynasty's strategy towards the huns were marked by the emergence of an ambitious and visionary ruler, Emperor Wu of Han. After a period of recuperation, during which the Han Dynasty became a formidable power, adjustments were made to the frontier policies. The turning point in the Han Dynasty's approach to the huns was marked by a shift from diplomatic efforts to military confrontation. In the second year of the Yuanguang era (133 BCE) under Emperor Wu, "Han deployed an army of over three hundred thousand near Mayi. Han Anguo, the Grand Marshal, guarded the country and positioned the Four Generals to ambush the Chanyu." [xiv]The strategy transitioned from seeking appeasement through tribute and intermarriage to a forceful counterattack. However, the campaign ended in failure, leading to the eventual breakdown of relations between Han and huns. "After that, the huns rejected peace treaties, attacked the strategic passes, and repeatedly raided the Han border, causing countless losses."[xv]

The deterioration of relations between the two sides further convinced the Han Dynasty that the only solution to dealing with the huns was through military conquest. Resolving the security issues along the northern border through military means became the most radical demand at the time, and this idea became the mainstream ideology within the Han court.

Table 1. This military initiative aimed to reverse the war situation between Han and Huns.

Time	Commander	Outcome:
Year of Yuan Shuo II (127 BC)	Wei Qing	Han Dynasty occupied the Hetao region.
Year of Yuanshou II (121 BC)	Huo Qubing	Han forces, led by Huo Qubing, killed the Lan King and Lu Hu King of the Huns, capturing the son of the Hunxie King,Hunsofficials, and the golden man used for sacrificial offerings.
Year of Yuanshou IV (119 BC)	Wei Qing Huo Qubing	The Han forces successfully annihilated approximately 90,000 Hunnish soldiers.

These wars resulted in significant losses for the huns, with casualties reaching as high as 130,000 people and livestock. The losses in other wars are difficult to quantify. Additionally, the huns lost vast fertile lands such as the Hexi Corridor, Qilian Mountains, and the Hetao region. Forced to retreat far north, the barren lands took a heavy toll on the pastoral economy of the huns tribes, hindering their social and economic development.

In the contest for control over the Western Regions, the Han Dynasty weakened external forces supporting the huns. When a defector from the huns reported to Emperor Wu, Liu Che, it was mentioned that "the huns defeated the king of the Yuezhi, using his head as a drinking vessel. The Yuezhi fled and harbored resentment against the huns, unwilling to join forces with them."[xvi]Emperor Wu perceived this as an opportune moment to deal with the huns and gain allies. Consequently, he decided to recruit envoys to venture westward in search of the remnants of the Dayuezhi, aiming to collaborate against the huns. From 138 BCE to 115 BCE, Zhang Qian undertook two missions to the Western Regions. Although he did not succeed in making the Dayuezhi a direct ally of the Han Dynasty, these diplomatic efforts facilitated communication between the Han Dynasty and the Western Regions. Gradually, the Han Dynasty established its image and

credibility in the Western Regions, leading to a gradual distancing of the Western Regions from the huns. After the opening of the Silk Road, the Han Dynasty adopted a strong stance against provocations from the huns. According to the "Shi Ji: Biography of the Da Yuezhi," in 111 BCE (in the sixth year of Yuanding), Emperor Wu ordered Zhao Poni, the Marquis of Bo, to decisively defeat the huns. As a result, Zhangye and Dunhuang were established in the Hexi Corridor. [xvii]According to the "Biography of Zhang Qian" in the "Han Shu," in 108 BCE (the third year of Yuanfeng), Emperor Wu of the Han Dynasty ordered Zhao Poni and Wang Hui to "defeat and capture the ruler of Gushi."[xviii] In 102 BCE, the Qin Great Wall was extended westward from Lingju (modern Yongdeng County, Gansu) to Dunhuang. Yumenguan was constructed west of Dunhuang, serving as a key defensive gate in the northwest. In the second year of Yuanshuo (121 BCE), "From the time of Han Xing to Emperor Xiao Wu, campaigns were conducted against the Four Barbarians, expanding the virtue and prestige. Zhang Qian laid the groundwork for the opening of the Western Regions. Later, the General of Chariots and Cavalry defeated the huns in the right region, surrendering Hunxie and Xiuwu kings. The land was emptied, the construction of Lingju to the west began, and Jiuquan Commandery was initially established. Over time, people were gradually moved to populate the area, leading to the establishment of Wuwei, Zhangye, Dunhuang, and Jiuquan, forming the foundation for the four commanderies, and the strategic importance of the two passes was realized." [xix]During the reign of Emperor Wu, the Western Han Dynasty had already established the commanderies of Jiuquan, Dunhuang, Wuwei, and Zhangye in the Hexi Corridor, serving as crucial strongholds along the route to the Western Regions. In the third year of Shenjue (59 BCE) during the reign of Emperor Xuan, the central government of the Western Han Dynasty established the Protectorate of the Western Regions in Wulei City in the Western Regions. Zheng Ji was appointed as the first Protector of the Western Regions. The Protectorate of the Western Regions represented the central government's supervision of the various countries in the Western Regions, "establishing a protectorate in the Central and Western Regions, governing from Wulei City, pacifying and governing various countries, and eliminating those who harbor rebellion."[xx]From then on, the Western Han Dynasty held authority over the Western Regions.

3.The division of the Huns

The First Division of the huns.During the first year of Wu Feng in the reign of Emperor Xuan of Han (57 BCE), a power struggle erupted among the five Chanyus, marking the first division of the huns. Faced with immense external pressure, the huns experienced a significant internal upheaval in 57 BCE, resulting in a fierce competition for leadership among the five Chanyus. Ultimately, this conflict led to the split of the huns into the Northern and Southern huns, bringing an end to the once powerful huns Empire. In 54 BCE, the outnumbered Southern huns, unable to resist the Northern huns, submitted to the Han Dynasty under the leadership of Chanyu Huhanye.

The Second Division of the huns.In the fifth year of Tianfeng in the Xin Dynasty (18 CE), Yuji succeeded to the position of Chanyu. Intent on changing the ancestral system of "passing the rule to a younger brother" and passing the throne to his son, Yuji faced strong opposition from his eldest son, Right Woyanquren Rihe Wangbi. This discontent manifested in the sparse court gatherings.[xxi]Chanyu harbored suspicions against Yuji and subsequently dispatched two Bone Chief Generals to monitor him closely. As Yuji repeatedly failed to ascend to the throne, his resentment deepened, and his dissatisfaction grew. At that time, the huns region experienced consecutive years of drought and locust infestations, resulting in thousands of miles of barren land, with vegetation withering away and widespread famine and epidemic. The harsh living

conditions intensified discontent.[xxii]Taking advantage of the dire situation, Yuji secretly communicated with the Han Dynasty, presenting maps and seeking to submit to its authority. The Han Dynasty granted its consent. In the twenty-fourth year of Jianwu (48 CE), under the support of the leaders of the Eight Tribes, Yuji, known as Rihe Wangbi, was established as the new Chanyu. Leading his followers, he willingly submitted to the Han Dynasty. From this point onward, the huns officially split into the Southern and Northern huns, each holding its own power, initiating a prolonged period of confrontation.

Following the huns's retreat to the northern deserts, internal conflicts escalated, and struggles for succession continued, leading to political turmoil. Responding to the internal strife within the huns, the Western Han Dynasty actively intervened, taking advantage of these internal conflicts to weaken or eliminate the huns.

When Huhanye submitted to the Han Dynasty, he received considerable favor from the Han court. According to the "Han Shu, huns Annals," in the first year of Ganlu (53 BCE), Chanyu Huhanye led his tribe southward and arrived in Chang'an in the third year of Ganlu (51 BCE). There, he met Emperor Xuan of Han, expressed his submission to the central government, and was treated with special honors, being ranked above other kings and princes. The emperor bestowed gifts such as "luxurious fabrics and various silks." In the first year of Huanglong (49 BCE), Chanyu Huhanye returned to the court, and the Han court continued to bestow gifts as before. In the first year of Jingning (33 BCE), Huhanye visited Chang'an once again, and Emperor Yuan of Han gave him a Han imperial princess, Lady Wangqiang, in marriage, further strengthening the connection between the central Han dynasty and the local huns authority. Huhanye's tribe was settled in the region of Hetai, becoming a frontline force for the Han Dynasty against the Northern huns.

Yuchendu Wangbi, along with his people, migrated to the Central Plains, and although different from Huhanye, he also received generous treatment from the Eastern Han Dynasty. At the beginning of the Southern huns's submission to the Han, due to their customs, the Han court issued an edict to open the northern frontier, select fertile land, and assess water and grass resources for their settlement.[xxiii] Initially, a Southern Chanyu Court was established eighty miles west of Wuyuan. Later, a decree summoned the Southern Chanyu to settle in Yunzhong, and another decree directed the Chanyu to move to Xiyu Meiji. Soldiers were dispatched to station and guard these areas. The various tribal kings led their people to graze in the eight major border commanderies of Beidi, Shuofang, Wuyuan, Yunzhong, Dingxiang, Yanmen, Daijun, and Xiyu, helping observe movements, assist in Han defense, and become a crucial barrier and force against Northern huns incursions into Han territory.

When the Southern huns submitted to the Han, they repeatedly expressed their sincerity and determination to "forever serve as a frontier shield, defending against northern barbarians"[xxiv], and "to guard against the northern Di tribes' intrusion" [xxv]. In the second year of their submission to the Han (49 AD), the Southern Chanyu dispatched the King of the Left Virtuous to lead an army of over ten thousand to attack the Northern huns, achieving a great and complete victory. They not only captured the younger brother of the Northern Chanyu, the King of the Left Virtuous, but also decisively defeated the Northern Chanyu's forces, capturing over ten thousand people, as well as ten thousand horses, cattle, and sheep. The Northern huns's Chanyu, Puyuan, was greatly terrified, leading his followers to retreat a thousand miles away and settle in the northern desert. For many years thereafter, the Northern huns did not dare to easily invade Han territory. In the second year of Emperor Zhang's Yuanhe era (85 AD), internal strife arose among the Northern huns, the Dingling tribes rebelled against them, the Xianbei attacked from the left, Western Regions attacked from the right, and the Southern huns took advantage

of the situation to launch a fierce attack from the front. Surrounded on all sides, the Northern huns found it difficult to stand on their own and were forced to withdraw to a distant location.

The split between the Southern and Northern huns naturally led to a decline in the overall strength of the huns. While conflicts between the Southern and Northern huns had their reasons, they were more driven by the Southern huns's determination to express allegiance to the Han Dynasty. However, the continuous wars that ensued further weakened the huns's overall strength.

4. Han Dynasty's Strategy Toward Southern huns.

Policy Towards Huhanye Chanyu.

In the third year of Ganlu, when Huhanye Chanyu first visited Chang'an, the Han court granted him a golden seal inscribed with the characters "huns Chanyu Seal." From then on, starting from the Chanyu down to the twenty-four Changs, along with Qian Changs, Bai Changs, Shi Changs, Bi Xiao Wang, Xiang Feng, Du Wei, Dang Hu, Qie Qu, and others, all possessed seals issued by Han with the inscription "Han"·, signifying the delegation of political authority by the Han Dynasty. With the assistance of the Han Dynasty, Huhanye Chanyu, in the third year of Jianzhao (36 BCE), saw the annihilation of the Zhi Zhi Chanyu by Han generals Gan Yanshou, Chen Tang, and others, aiding Huhanye Chanyu in reunifying the huns.[xxvi]Southern huns's return to the North.

After a prolonged period of continuous warfare, the huns suffered immense losses with casualties numbering in the tens of thousands, extensive depletion of livestock, and severe famine, leading to desperate measures such as burning and looting for sustenance.[xxvii]The economic devastation reached an extreme point. Reconstruction took several years to materialize. The submission of Huhanye Chanyu to the Han Dynasty had a profound impact, fostering pro-Han sentiments among many factions within the huns. Increased interactions with the Han Dynasty gradually became the norm. The states in the Western Regions, observing and evaluating the Han attitude towards Huhanye's submission, began to shift their perspectives on and interactions with the Han Dynasty amid these transformations.

The Eastern Han Dynasty implemented genuine subordination management over the Southern huns led by Rizhu Wang. The Southern huns's submission and migration southward not only gained political recognition from the Eastern Han government but also received substantial support and assistance economically and militarily. They gradually established a stable presence in the Central Plains, fostering further development. While achieving the goal of acknowledging allegiance to the Han and seeking assistance from the Han, the Southern Chanyu found themselves under constant supervision by the Eastern Han Dynasty:

Eastern Han government dispatched troops to the Chanyu's location to "participate in legal proceedings and observe developments."[xxviii]

The Chanyu had to send his son for annual attendance, and at year-end, an envoy was required to visit the capital to present tributes and report on the situation.

Rituals for the mourning of the deceased Southern Chanyu and the inauguration of the new Chanyu were attended by envoys sent by the Eastern Han, who also provided military protection as a customary practice.

The Southern huns had to pay respects at the imperial tombs, perform rituals for the Han emperor, and seek approval through written memorials for significant matters.

The Han Dynasty sought to pacify the sentiments of South huns, appease North huns to surrender, and further weaken the overall strength of the huns. To foster closer ties with the Eastern Han, North huns, in the years 51 and 52 during the Jianwu era, took the

initiative by sending envoys consecutively to offer tribute to Han, seeking peace, requesting musical instruments, and expressing sincere intentions.[xxix]The envoy Zheng Zhong's perspective on this matter was: "The Northern Chanyu's intention in sending envoys to the Han was to create a division among the followers of the Southern Chanyu and to solidify the unity of the thirty-six tribes. Moreover, by promoting peace with the Han, he aimed to boast before neighboring enemies. This would also create uncertainty among those in the Western Regions who desired to submit, causing them to hesitate. The people of the frontier regions would lose hope of returning to China." [xxx]The Eastern Han court, having discerned the intentions of Northern huns, naturally would not agree to peace in order to appease Southern huns. Since the beginning of the split between the North and the South, there were successive defections of Northern huns tribes. In the 25th year of Jianwu (49 CE), the Northern Chanyu, unable to withstand the heavy blows from Southern huns, retreated to the north of the desert. Seeing this, the Bone and Right Bone Chiefs, along with their followers of over 30,000 people, surrendered to the Southern Chanyu. In the winter of the 26th year (50 CE), the son of the Five Bone Chief led 3,000 people back to the Southern part. Upon learning this, the Northern Chanyu sent cavalry to pursue, but the Southern Chanyu intended to provide support.

In the 8th year of Jianchu (83 CE), more than 30,000 people from the Sanmu Louzi tribe, led by the elders Ji Liusi and others, surrendered at Wuyuan Pass. In the 2nd year of Yuanhe (85 CE), with leaders such as Daliren Cheli and Zhubing, a total of 73 batches, entered the Han frontier. The strength of Northern huns was greatly weakened as a result, and the enslaved tribes seized the opportunity to rebel. Nearly every year, thousands of people from Northern huns surrendered. In the 1st year of Zhanghe (87 CE), the Northern Chanyu was killed by the Xianbei, causing a great turmoil in Beiting. Qulan, Chubei, Hudu Xu, and others led 58 tribes, with a population of 200,000 and 8,000 skilled warriors, seeking submission in Yunzhong, Wuyuan, Shuofang, and Beidi counties. Various Northern huns kings and chiefs led their followers to seek refuge in the south. This exposed the weakness of the Chanyu's control over these tribes, and the strong attraction of the South, which was "highly favored by the Han"[xxxi].

Conclusion.

The adjustment in the Han Dynasty's policy towards the huns was a pragmatic response based on its own strength. In the early period of the Han Dynasty, due to weakened national power, a policy of compromise and concessions was adopted. From Emperor Gaozu to Emperor Wen and Emperor Jing, all actively dispatched envoys, presented large amounts of wealth to the huns, sent princesses for marriage alliances, and engaged in mutual trade. As their strength was insufficient to resist the huns, border defense efforts were made whenever faced with huns incursions. However, the response was often limited to sending troops to repel the huns, and once the immediate threat receded, military activities ceased, with a focus on maintaining stability and security along the frontier.During the reign of Emperor Wu, after several generations of efforts and accumulation, the Han Dynasty finally gained sufficient strength and launched counterattacks. Subsequently, the Han Dynasty's power grew stronger, and it strategically exploited internal conflicts within the huns, leading to their fragmentation. The surrendered Southern huns became the frontline defense force for the Han Dynasty's border security. This approach ultimately yielded positive results.

The decline of the huns was influenced by external and internal factors. Internally, the key factor contributing to their decline was their reliance on external plundering rather than developing their own productive capacity and technology. Throughout their rise and fall over several centuries, the huns engaged in almost constant external warfare.

However, the lack of focus on internal development, failure to address the vulnerabilities of a nomadic economy, and the reliance on plundering and warfare to overcome crises led to a sustained disadvantage for the huns, resulting in their gradual decline.

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