

Candidate A evidence

How has Cao Cao's representation changed throughout history?

Cao Cao was a warlord serving under the Eastern Han Dynasty in the dynasty's final years. He is mostly known for his campaign in which he tried to unify the whole of China so that it could be ruled under the Eastern Han dynasty, alone. This campaign led to the Battle of Red Cliffs, also known as the Battle of Chibi which was fought over the winter of 208/209 A.D. The Battle of Red Cliffs was where the downfall of the campaign was met. However, there is more than just one account of the battle and this led to different portrayals of Cao Cao's personality and so I will explore these different accounts in the following essay.

The first account of the battle was written by the historian Chen Shou circa 280 A.D. He focused more on giving information about the battle rather than trying to greatly entertain any audience. So, this meant that Cao Cao's personality doesn't show through as much as the later more storyline-focused accounts. Chen Shou was a subject of Shu, whose founder was Cao Cao's rival, Liu Bei and thus, Shou was sure to include an example of Cao Cao being stupid, as shown by how Cao Cao was deceived by Huang Gai, a general of the Sun-Liu alliance. The deception came from a letter, written by Huang Gai, saying that he had surrendered when in fact this was just a method of getting into Cao Cao's camp. Yet, there wasn't too much of this negativity due to the fact that Chen Shou wrote this as an official account for the Jin Dynasty, who had succeeded the abdication of the Wei Dynasty, which Cao Cao had helped to form. Cao Cao was shown to be brave as he would only retreat if he had to. He also never intended on unifying China for his own power. Cao Cao wasn't personally involved in any villainous behaviour, for example, the execution of his doctor, Hua Tuo, or the kidnapping of Xu Su's mother, in fact there wasn't any kidnapping- she just fell into his grasp. The Prime Minister genuinely cared for his men and was reluctant to execute a soldier who had betrayed Cao Cao, named Chen Gong.

The second account was the novel *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, was written by Luo Guanzhong a few hundred years later. The fact that the novel was written a while after the Battle of Red Cliffs happened and also that it was a novel designed to entertain people in the hero versus villain style of the Song Dynasty opera, the story of Red Cliffs had become one of folklore and wasn't historically accurate. Cao Cao became a cunning villain, filled with arrogance as he would laugh in the face of his enemies. Cao Cao was also portrayed to be coward as he would scream and flee at the sight of danger and let others deal with his problems, as shown by his fleeing when Huang Gai advanced on his camp and left his men to burn. In this version of events, Cao Cao is a paranoid character; he will panic when things aren't going his way and he will have his own men executed if he can't trust them. Good examples of this are the multiple executions of his own men, that take place for when they do something wrong, such as the execution of Chen Gong, regardless of that fact that Chen Gong actually saved his life. In this novel, Cao Cao had also ordered the execution of Hua Tuo, Xun Yu, as well as multiple families for reasons of self-defence or paranoia. The Prime Minister also used cheap tactics to get what he wanted, such as the kidnapping of Xu Su's mother and used her for blackmail. However, these twisted events have strong historical

evidence to suggest that they actually never happened, as previously mentioned, and were just conspiracies from the southerners or were just made up by the author, who was anti-Cao himself, in order to make a more interesting story.

The third account I have chosen is the film *Red Cliff*, directed by John Woo and released in 2008. This account sticks to the style of *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* with Cao Cao being a cunning villain against the heroes of the Liu-Sun alliance. Cao Cao is still very power-driven, seeking to unify China for his own twisted goals. Something that differs from the novel though is Cao Cao's rival. In the novel, the Prime Minister's main concern was Zhuge Liang, but the film focuses on Zhou Yu against Cao Cao. This rivalry between the two is further emphasized by Cao Cao's desire for Xiao Qiao, Zhou Yu's wife. In fact, this shows an interesting side to Cao Cao's personality which shows obsession over her, even bordering on insanity. This is because he addressed a servant who looked similar to Xiao Qiao, as Xiao Qiao herself; he made her serve tea in the way that Xiao Qiao does. Cao Cao also idolises a painting that he made of Xiao Qiao. This obsession over Zhou Yu's wife also conveyed how that Cao Cao and most powerful men in China, objectified the women of that time. Woo shows this by how Cao Cao referred to Xiao Qiao as a possession, saying 'she will be mine.' In fact, one of the big reasons in the film as to why he launched his campaign against Zhou Yu was to steal his wife, however, when Xiao Qiao seems to surrender herself to Cao Cao, he still has to fight Zhou Yu in order to remain honourable. Another thing that Cao Cao's desire for Xiao Qiao helped portray was Cao Cao's loneliness, which is ironic because he is always surrounded by many people. That was one thing that Woo emphasised in order to show how Zhou Yu was different, and therefore superior to Cao Cao. Cao Cao would try and make people like him through money incentives, for example, he motivated his army by saying they wouldn't pay tax for the next three years if they won. Many of the protagonists in the film said that although Cao Cao is a very smart man, and a great commander, he has no friends. In fact, it pointed out several times that Cao Cao's very large army had a weakness—more than half of the army were people who had surrendered and therefore, weren't loyal to Cao Cao. But Woo makes it clear that Cao Cao's wisdom is great and although he is still arrogant, he isn't blinded by it because he knows when to consult others in areas of their expertise such as when he consults Cai Mao and Zhang Yun and he uses the game of *cuju* to toughen his men while they can still have fun. Cao Cao isn't quite as paranoid as he is in *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, but he still has his best soldiers protecting him and he is situated at the back of the ranks to offer the most protection unlike Zhou Yu who has protection but he is not surrounded by soldiers all the time. He is also still a coward because he doesn't get involved in battle, again, unlike his enemy Zhou Yu. The only time when he confronts Zhou Yu is when Cao Cao has the advantage of surprise.

The final account that I have chosen is also a film, called *The Assassins*. It's directed by Zhao Linshan and goes against the modern portrayal of Cao Cao as a power-driven villain. The film shows Cao Cao in a more delicate manner as he is older in this account compared to the other accounts. The fact that he is older and more mature makes him see the amount of

bloodshed in his campaign to unify China, so he is less of a tyrant. Cao Cao is still a very smart man, but he doesn't cower away from confrontation, this time. Something that emphasises Cao Cao's nobility and respect for others is that one of the assassins trying to kill him, Lingju, respects Cao Cao more and more as the film goes on.

In Summary, Chen Shou was rather vague on Cao Cao's personality because he was writing a historical account for the Jin emperors. Luo Guanzhong made Cao Cao a villainous character due to the writer being from the south of China where they are anti-Cao and because the novel was influenced by the Song Dynasty opera. John Woo kept the hero versus villain style of *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* with Cao Cao, once again being the villain, but changed his personality slightly, so the story could be what Woo wanted. And finally, in *The Assassins*, Cao Cao is portrayed as more delicate character with nobility, wisdom and bravery.

(1476 words)

Bibliography:

- 《三国志》 中华书局， 2007 年 4 月.
- 《三国演义》 罗贯中， 三民书局， 2013 年 4 月.
- Chen Shou: Sanguo Zhi (History Of The three Kingdoms)(Original C. 280, reprint 1959)
- Luo Guanzhong's "Romance Of The Three Kingdoms" – Extracts
- Red Cliff (2008 film), John Woo
- The Assassins (2012 film), Zhao Linshan
- https://www.reddit.com/r/AskHistorians/comments/3h6cy4/was_cao_cao_really_kind_of_a_tragic_hero_of_the/
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Red_Cliffs
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cao_Cao
- <http://www.cultural-china.com/chinaWH/html/en/34History359.html>
- <http://www.3kingdomspodcast.com/2015/12/21/episode-061-whos-laughing-now/#transcript>

Candidate B evidence

What is the Chinese TWO-CHILD POLICY actual effect?

Two-child policy, which is a family planning policy implemented in China since 2015, is a government-imposed limit of two children allowed per family or the payment of government subsidies only to the first two children.

Why has China introduced this policy? What kind of situation is China facing at the moment?

First of all, China is currently facing a new problem that they need to be concerned about – “人口老龄化” (the ageing of the population). The numbers of old people are increasing every year, and young people feel the strain of looking after old people. Apparently two-child policy can ease the population ageing process, ease the contradictions and problems of “人口老龄化”.

Secondly, China's fertility rate is falling. This was effected by China's one-child policy, also the decrease of fertility, as the “丁克族” (double income no kids, DINK) becomes more and more popular in China. Young people prefer to have no child. On the other hand, people have pressure from different corners. Families in China have expressed concerns over financial instability like an education surge. They think they spend a lot on one child, so they don't want to spend more on one more child. This exacerbates the fertility rate problem as well. However, as two-child policy is introduced, people are getting the encouragement from the

government, therefore they will put more effort into it.

According to research conducted by the Chinese media, what kind of effect does two-child policy bring to China?

Population changes. To a certain extent, it will effect the number of the women of childbearing age and the factor of the two key indicators of population growth and the multiplier. Thus this effects the amount of population growth.

Economics impacts. According to the stock market forecasting, it is expected to be possible to add 1 million to 2 million newborns each year. It might be over 2000 million newborns in 2018. So the profits of different types of companies, like food, toys, clothes, cars and education will be increased tremendously.

The change comes as China's economics is slowing down. However the changes may also increase demand for higher pay and increase the labor costs. For example, more children mean more hospitals and schools etc. It will overall result in massive investment in these areas. Thus these areas are promoting the economic growth.

According to Lei Guo, the reporter from the news. 5 years after two-child policy is introduced, the Chinese economy will roughly increase 0.066% by small steps.

There is an article from FengQing, Yang, the famous Chinese commentator. He mentioned one question- how many people would like

to have the second child?

Two-child policy apparently is a good news for “失独” family (the loss of a parent's only child). But the people who want a second child apparently is 80's or 90's. However, people in 80's or 90's, they don't have stronger wishes for the second child. They are the only child in their family, they need to take care of the old people in their family. So that's why some people are saying: it will be better if this policy comes earlier.

For one child, you need a woman and a man to make a family; you need enough economic base to run your family; you also need 10 months to wait for one child. The parents are concerned over many issues as to whether they should have second child or not. For example, food expenses, hospital expenses, education expenses, buy a house etc. There are a lot of complicated problems they are worried about.

According to FengQing Yang, the most important thing is not to regard children as a big pressure. A baby before 20 years old, is simply like a customer, eats, goes to school, plays sports. Everyday is spending money. However, do you know the more he is spent on, the more job opportunities he will bring? Because he will need teachers, he needs supermarket to buy food; he needs to buy things to do sports. These will bring lots of job opportunities.

So, Mr Yang suggested, as the mother has an ability to have one more child, you could have the second child.

Two-child policy also has a big effect on Chinese families. As China's old one-child policy, a family can only have one child. I have a friend who is the only child in her family. She often says to me she feels lonely, she doesn't know who she can play with. One of the benefits for families from a two-child policy is that children won't feel lonely anymore, they will have brothers or sisters. They will have people to play with.

I did an interview with some my friends around me and some of my mother's friends. They all have different opinions.

Zhong Hua, one of my mother's best friends, has a son who is in his fifth year at the high school. She said she doesn't think anymore about having one more child. A child from birth to 18 years old, it will roughly cost over 130 thousand pounds, this is a huge expense. She also thinks this policy is too late for her, as the child grows up, she doesn't want to spend any more with one more child.

Another is my cousin, she is 29 years old now. She has a daughter who is 2 years old now. However she said she will definitely have the second child in 2 years. She said the two-child policy concerns the country's wealth and power, and she wishes to have the second child. Therefore, her daughter will have a sister or brother to play with, and won't feel lonely anymore.

I think it depends on what kind of situation your family is in. If you have enough economic base, you might be able to have one more child. You

also have to pay more attention to your children if you have got two children. So make sure you can do well with your children before you want to have your second child.

There is also a Chinese TV drama called “二胎时代”(the two generation Era). It's about there is an 85's mother CanCan, who has a four year old daughter. She wants to have the second child, but she has got her mom's opposition. While she is thinking whether she wants one or not , she realises she is pregnant. Now her and her husband need to work harder to get enough economic base to have one more child. However finally they solve all the problems, they realise the meaning of children and family, and stay together, stay stronger.

As this TV drama shows, a normal family as an example, it shows all the problems that will happen in terms of the second child. For young parents, they have more responsibility to teach their children, it might have challenges. But as a parent, children are your responsibility. There are a lot of examples about the families who want a second child. It really depends on themselves, but once you decide to have the second child, you need to know what you should do.

In my view, I would like to have the second child. It's not just good for a family, but also the children can help each other no matter they are young or getting older. To teach one more child, it's also teaching myself. Your children will teach you a lot.

So the two-child policy is running now. No matter you have only one child now. No matter you are thinking you are gonna to have the second one, the chance is here. Two-child policy still need time to see what benefits it can bring to China, after all, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. China also needs to discover the problems from the two-child policy and what they need to do to improve.

Anyway, two-child policy is a popular topic in China at the moment. We will see what different it will make.

Sources:

1. **pcbaby:** <http://baike.pcbaby.com.cn/qzbd/17314.html>
2. <http://baike.baidu.com/item/%E4%BA%8C%E5%AD%A9%E6%94%BF%E7%AD%96/18761690?fromtitle=%E4%BA%8C%E8%83%8E%E6%94%BF%E7%AD%96&fromid=4671776&type=syn>
3. <http://opinion.caixin.com/2015-10-30/100868365.html>
4. <http://learningenglish.voanews.com/content/will-new-two-child-policy-lift-china-economy/3055002.html>
5. <http://www.201980.com/blog/jijiao/1095.htm> I

Candidate C evidence

Achieving Prosperity after Times of Despair

“中国合伙人” is a film that revolves around the inspirational success story of the lives of the protagonist Cheng Dong Qing (成冬青) and his friends Meng Xiao Jun (孟晓骏) and Wang Yang (王阳) as they become wealthy owners of an English language school enterprise. This film illustrates how they are able to overcome various difficulties and challenges in their lives in order to achieve success.

The film is set in China during the 1980s, a time when many people believed that success could be found in the USA. In the film, the company founded by Cheng was named “新梦想”, which means “New Dream” possibly as a reference the American Dream, the belief that anyone can rise to the top through determination and hard work in the USA. However later in the film, they became cynical towards the American Dream and hence started pursuing their own “Chinese Dream”.

The three companions are initially very optimistic about their pursuit of the American Dream. All of them apply for visa interviews. However in the end, only Meng is successful in gaining a visa to enter America. Cheng, although unsuccessful in gaining entry to America himself, becomes a man who helps others to do so. The irony of this is made clear in his soliloquy:

“他不会想到, 20年后, 我最擅长的是帮助人去美国。”

This turn of events demonstrates to the audience that, despite his initial personal failure, Cheng still manages to become successful later on in his life.

Cheng is a character who has been often referred to as a “土鳖”, which is a very misleading nickname. This name mocks his background as he is from rural China and implies that he is a weak, unintelligent person. On the contrary, it can be seen throughout the film that Cheng is in fact a very knowledgeable man who is capable of running the “新梦想” company. His rural background means that he expects to face a lot of hardships in order to succeed in the city. His character represents a large number of rural Chinese people who, just like him, leave their families in order to seek for work in big cities in the hope of a better life. They dare to take risks because they have no other escape route, and it is this spirit that leads some of them to success, just like Cheng in the film.

One of the central concerns of the film is that, in order to achieve success, one must face challenges and experience a degree of failure. Cheng's hard-working

character certainly reflects this idea. In an interview, his answer to the reason behind his success is:

“当你意识到失败只是成功的弯路的时候，你就已经成功了一半！”

This statement suggests that Cheng firmly believes that one should not worry about failure, as the realisation of failure means that one is already on the path to success. Therefore he should not allow his failures to cause him to lose confidence and hope. In one of his lessons, he teaches his class the idea that:

“失败并不可怕，害怕失败才真正可怕。”

This further consolidates his attitude towards finding success. He is a man who is not afraid of failure, but instead tries to seek success by turning misfortunes to his advantage and by not backing down from a challenge. His determination to study English is a prime example of this. After being ridiculed by classmates at school for his poor English, he decides to memorise an entire dictionary during his time at university. Eventually, his memory skills and his English abilities prove to be useful when he manages to shock the American committee in the conference room by reciting codes of law to defend his company against false accusations.

Cheng faces many challenges throughout his life. One major challenge is his divorce with his wife. During one of his lessons, he teaches the English phrase: “man who was left behind”. This mirrors his feelings of regret and despair after he becomes the man who was left behind by his wife. However, instead of dwelling on the past, Cheng moves on to forge his path towards a successful career.

Similarly, Meng also faces many challenges. As one of the most influential persons in the running of the company, Meng is shown to be an extremely hard worker. From the very beginning, he takes his job as a mock interviewer very seriously and his service quickly gains popularity as the company grows larger. He is heavily involved in the marketing side of their company, assisting it to become the leading English language school in China. He achieves all of this by overcoming adversity. Despite being fired from his laboratory job and being forced to work in a restaurant where he felt undervalued, he was able to start anew and succeed in his new role at “新梦想” through sheer perseverance.

However, as the two men grow more successful and powerful, their character flaws also become more apparent and this is a major factor in the conflict that develops between them. Meng has ambitions of making “新梦想” globally famous in order to satisfy his need to feel more valued. He feels that this way, his hard work will finally become recognized by the world. In order to achieve this, he proposes to launch the company on to the stock markets. However to his surprise, Cheng firmly disagrees.

Cheng's stubbornness and refusal to accept Meng's proposal of entering IPO is the prime source of their conflict. His reasoning is as follows:

“只有学会 'Say no!' 才会显示出 'Say yes' 的价值。”

Cheng wants to take things slowly. Instead of agreeing with Meng, he decides to reject Meng's views. It is clear that at this point in their life, no matter how close their relationship is, the differences in their personal and professional ambitions have started to drive them apart. Each has a distinct perspective on his life and on the future, and therefore the two men are inclined to act in different ways in order to achieve their dreams. Despite Wang's efforts at resolving the conflict, Wang eventually gives up and decides to bail out from this turmoil. At Wang's wedding scene, he says:

“千万别跟好朋友合伙开公司。”

This demonstrates the extent of the friends' conflict and Wang's irritation towards the situation as he is able to sense the upcoming disintegration of their relationship. At the climax of the film, Meng and Wang finally decide to cease cooperating with Cheng to run the company as a consequence of their quarrels.

However their friendship is not completely destroyed as, despite the conflict, at the end of the film we witness the friends becoming reunited. Meng and Wang both return to help Cheng fight for their company after “新梦想” is accused by the American company “ETS” of copyright infringement. Although they have parted company with Cheng earlier, it is apparent that despite their differences, the power of friendship still prevails. They have already faced many challenges together, therefore they are able to overcome their differences and reform their alliance in the end. Near the end of the film, Cheng's surprising act of suddenly putting up “New Dream” for stock market flotation, reflects his accommodating character. He is trying his best to become a better friend and to protect the company that the men had created together.

The film ends with panning shots of Meng strolling the streets of 1980s New York and Cheng turning off lights as the concluding scene fades to darkness. These two scenes effectively help the audience to remember how these men are able to achieve success, providing a satisfactory ending to the film.

To conclude, the film “中国合伙人” is one that explores the central themes of success, friendship and failure through characterisation of the three protagonists in an inspirational story about entrepreneurship. However, this film is not simply another business story: it is ultimately about how prosperity can be found in spite of adversity, misfortune and despair through the exercise of resilience and mutual support.

Word Count: 1372 words

Bibliography:

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/>

<http://www.sfgate.com/movies/>

<http://www.slate.com/articles/>

<http://aapress.com/arts/film/>

Candidate D evidence

How has Zhuge Liang's representation changed throughout history?

Zhuge Liang is perhaps one of the most well-known of all Chinese Strategists to come out of the three kingdoms age. However the accomplishments of this man may not be as great as represented in the modern day image of Zhuge Liang. As we know from modern day movies as well as older operas and literary texts Zhuge Liang is said to have played a pivotal role in the overall success in the battle 赤壁。 However the same perhaps cannot be said for the historical records of Zhuge Liang's involvement in the battle which present him in a much less flattering light.

We can first of all look at the portrayal of Zhuge Liang in historical context. We know that he was born in Yangdu however the exact details are not clear and often become confused with the information gained from works of fiction. However looking towards Chen Shou's historical account which is an attempt at a genuine historical depiction of what happened, however there is the argument that this account may actually be a bias view as he was working for the descendants of Cao, as well as, being a Native of Shu. In the work 'The History of the three kingdoms' we can clearly see that he is portrayed as a fairly minor role, in the war and acts more as a ambassador for Sun Quan and Liu Bei. This is further supported through the view given in Zhou Yu's biography. Indeed the fire attack which Zhuge Liang is so often credited for, seems more likely to have come from Zhou Yu "Possible to repel the enemies if they launched a fire attack at them" (Zhou Yu AD 175-210)

In the novel 'The romance of the three kingdoms' written by Luo Guanzhong the 14th century. Luo's version built on folklore which had grown up around the historical version. Cao Cao is now cast as a villain, Liu Bei is the champion of the oppressed and Zhuge Liang has emerged as the wizard like hero. Meanwhile, in this version, Zhou Yu is presented as self-serving and cruel as the author doesn't want him to overshadow Zhuge Liang.

In this book Zhuge Liang also comes across as a war lord as he takes over Xiangyang with cunningness. He had been watching and waiting the whole time therefore he took it over effortlessly and he also took over Nanjun from right under Zhou Yu's nose as well as Jing province. Zhou Yu then tries to take back Xiangyang but his troops are rained upon with arrows. People are impressed with Zhuge Liang's work as when Lu Su shows up at Jing province he is really with how the flags and troops are placed on the wall which emphasizes how good a leader he is. The book also reinforces that he is a good doctor 'when the vital ether are following smoothly and in the right direction, then your health will naturally be restored in a matter of moments' and that he knows how to make up medicines; 'I have a prescription that will take care of it'. This shows that he is a wizard like figure as he is able to produce medicines.

In the book people believe that he is crazy, 'Zhuge Liang's claims are absurd' and they doubt his powers but don't believe we would deliberately lie 'it's the dead of winter how can there be southern winds' and 'I don't think Zhuge Liang would lie to us'. But yet again he prove

people that he's right and uses the genius plan of using fire boats wind the southerly winds to his advantage which later helps them to defeat Cao Cao's army. People hugely respect him for his knowledge and magical powers and are grateful for his evasive action plans; 'Zhuge Liang has the ability to bend heaven earth, and the spirits to his will! If we allow him to live, he would surely be trouble for Dongwu'. Zhuge Liang even knows that his plan is so good that he doesn't even stay for the execution of it as he knows they will win it as he leaves in his boat; 'please tell commander Zhou to deploy his troops wisely'. Overall the book shows that Zhuge Liang is a heroic like figure.

In the film 'RED CLIFF' directed by John Woo explained that he wished to bring the original Chen Shou historical back to the centre. As such Zhou Yu plays a more heroic role than Luo allowed him; however woo also retains many of the best loved traditions from Luo's literary version (villainous Cao Cao, wizard like Zhuge Liang). He also makes further additions to the story to appeal to the cinema audience.

During the film my views changed of Zhuge Liang at first I thought that he was a coward as didn't participate in any battle physically. However I then discovered that he was more the brain behind the wars and is very manipulative managing to convince the 'lord' to go to war in an early battle before the battle of 'RED CLIFF' in which Zhuge Liang showed off his wizard like abilities making his army perform impressive tactics to make the enemy walk into his trap and defeat his enemy easily with clever beats of a drum. The fan that Zhuge Liang holds is also significant to his character as he uses in in pressure situations to keep himself calm and that's exactly what he said in the film. Viewers can also see that he is calm under pressure because in every war situation his facial expressions stay the same and comes across as fearless. A prime example of this is when he is in the boat at the start of the battle of 'RED CLIFF' which was getting rained upon with arrows but only hitting the straw scarecrows which he made while he was inside the boat having a few drinks with a drunken soldier .Again Zhuge Liang is a genius because not only did he predict the fog but also used it heavily to his advantage as teased the enemy(Cao Cao) into shooting 100,000 arrows across the sea of fog into all of his hay which he deployed. After this attack he then looted all of the 100,000 arrows which then were later used against Cao Cao. This plan was so effective and skilful that it had a domino effect of success it made Cao Cao so mad that when he realised his 2 navy admirals had wasted 100,000 of arrows on straw scarecrows he had them both executed which then left them even weaker as then they didn't have anyone with experience to command the ships. To add further to Zhuge Liang's success he also made a bow and arrow which required no reload therefor could shoot even more arrows at the enemy.

To reinforce that Zhuge Liang is a wizard like figure throughout the film shows his skilful attributes and his connection with animals. Firstly he helps give birth to a horse by talking out the baby horses two hoofs at the same time. Secondly he uses the dove to communicate with Sun Shangxiang who was behind enemy lines which lead to them to getting a whole

map of the enemy camp which was a major reason for which they won the battle of Red Cliff as they could then target the enemy's weak points. Lastly he uses the turtle help predicts the fog and also the change in wind which were also major factors for their victory in the battle of Red Cliff as then used fire to help beat Cao Cao as fire would then blow towards their camp. From this we can take that he is like an animal whisperer and in general a genius. Zhuge Liang also comes across as very modest as when asked can he played music 'you know a great deal you are hiding it' and yet again when plays music he is also very skilful.

Lastly Zhuge Liang shows further amiability when dismisses Cao Cao's 'attack' when he sends infected enemies with typhoid to their boot camp. Luckily Zhuge Liang tests a body for typhoid and quickly tells everyone to flee as could have been lethal if they were around the bodies any longer as it's very contagious and very deadly.

In conclusion we can clearly see that Zhuge Liang, a real person has had his own history muddled through his appearances in works of fiction. While in life he very well might have been a very important figure in a political sense. However his high level of popularity in fictional works, has perhaps led to people giving him credit for deeds that he himself did not actually complete. Furthermore it has led to an exaggeration of his abilities often attributing them to magical power which he could not have possessed. However there are occasions where his portrayal in more modern works of fiction have humanised the character and taken away the image that he is somewhat of a god. Therefore, we can see that while important in the overall success of the battle at 赤壁 he was far less significant than what he has currently been credited for.

1538 words

Bibliography:

- 《三国志》 中华书局， 2007年4月.
- 《三国演义》 罗贯中， 三民书局， 2013年4月.
- Chen Shou: Sanguo Zhi (History Of The three Kingdoms)(Original C. 280, reprint 1959)
- Luo Guanzhong's "Romance Of The Three Kingdoms" – Extracts
- Red Cliff (2008 film), John Woo
- The Assassins (2012 film), Zhao Linshan