

Subject/Title	The Document Reviewing Function of the Reviewing Policy Adviser in South Song Dynasty (AD1127-1279)
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Abstract	<p>This essay is intended to carry out a study of the document reviewing function of the reviewing policy adviser in the South Song Dynasty. First, I analyze the degree to which the function was substantially executed by arguing that four kinds of factors are involved. These factors are: political arena, the morality and capacity of the emperor, the possible manipulation of the councilors, and the courage and integrity of the reviewing policy advisers. Second, I try to elaborate on these factors and find that combined together they all so weakened the function as a whole to the point that it was not effective as it was anticipated to be. Third, I proceed to cast doubt on the hasty assertion that the function was basically void in the South Song Dynasty by presenting many concrete examples that show the function, especially in terms of court personnel power, did not perish and was, even though reluctantly, in many cases accepted by the emperors. Finally, I conclude by arguing that no matter how feeble the censorial system of the South Song Dynasty as a whole, the document reviewing function of the reviewing policy advisers was still operated as a checking power to the emperors and councilors and as long as such power persisted and was wielded then the claim that the South Song Dynasty is an absolute monarchy is untenable.</p>
Keyword(s)	the reviewing policy adviser ; the document reviewing function ; South Song Dynasty ; councilors ; absolute monarchy