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Song Refugees and Yuan Loyalists: Identity and Memory across Borders

The paper investigates an important outcome of Mongol military engagement with the South China and Southeast Asia, namely the movement of refugees across the Southeastern frontier of Yuan China. Firstly, it investigates the massive migration of Song subjects into the neighboring countries in the Southeast. Among them, the sources mention generals and officials, whose role of was in some cases crucial in fostering -through military leadership and economical support- an anti-Mongol resistance. Through an analysis of various sources, the paper will give an overall picture of the identity of these prominent individuals, as well as of the social and demographical impact of their migration. A second part of the paper focuses on one of the most relevant sources on the topic, namely the *Annan zhi*, and on his author. By surrendering to the Mongols after the campaign of 1285, in fact, Lê Tắc crossed the opposite path, entering voluntarily at the service of the Yuan. His records are therefore mostly regarded as the work of a Yuan loyalist. A deeper look into the text, however, shows that it was in fact the result of a process through which the author came to terms with his new identity, and with his past. How did he portray the triangular conflict between the Song-Yuan- Đại Việt? And where does his work of historiography become a political statement?

By looking at refugees on the two sides of the Yuan frontier, this paper analyses their different responses to the Mongol invasions in Southeast Asia, and how this brought about the necessity to confirm or reshape their political identity.