

# The Cut-off Household as a Legal Issue in Traditional China

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## Abstract

This paper intends to trace the origin and development of *hujue* 戶絕 (Cut-off Household), a traditional legal term, starting from the Tang dynasty all the way down to the Qing. This legal term also represented a social phenomenon in different times. In the Song dynasty, *hujue* was often discussed on official and other legal documents probably because it was deemed a significant issue; however, it had drawn less attention of the authorities of later dynasties. The author tries to delve into the development of Cut-off Household as a legal issue, and offers some viewpoints and interpretations.

**Keywords:** *hujue*, Cut-off Household, inheritance, traditional Chinese laws

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