

The Transformation of Local Administration in Post-War Northern Taiwan: From “Taipei Chow” to “Taipei County”

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ABSTRACT

As far as the development of modern Taiwanese history is concerned, with each major political reshuffle or foreign invasion, there was always a counterpointing political transformation. In the case of modern Taiwan, the first political change happened around 1945, when the fifty-year-old Japanese colonial rule was replaced by the rather chaotic administration of mainland China. Such was the transformation in which colonial Taiwan adopted a republic government. The second change took place during the post-1949 period when the KMT retreated to Taiwan. This period saw a drastic political reshuffle which engendered difficult issues such as how to distinguish, combine, or re-constitute local administrations with the central government.

Focusing on Northern Taiwan, the political center of Taiwan since the Japanese era, this paper will explore how “Taipei Chow” transformed into “Taipei County.” It will also investigate the two major political changes in modern Taiwanese history. Moreover, this paper seeks to provide present political development the so-called “Third-wave Change” in the new millennium with historical hindsight.

Keywords: Postwar period, Takeover and Reconstruction, Taiwan Provincial High Commissioner Office, Taiwan Provincial People’s Political Council, Taipei Chow 臺北州, Taipei County 臺北縣

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