

Formation and Transformation of Aborigine Small-rent Land Tenure: Land Tenancy of Tribesman's Ration Plot in Anli New Territory

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ABSTRACT

The cadastral survey data collected by the Japanese at the beginning of colonial rule revealed an atypical land tenancy of tribesman's ration plot in the Anli new territory. The land survey eventually confirmed, not without fierce dispute, that the rent collected from tribesman's ration plot was a kind of small-rent, in contrast to big-rent widely taken as an attribute of the aborigine land tenancy. As shown in the data, rent from ration plot constituted the bulk of aboriginal rent and was essential to tribesman's subsistence. Moreover, it forms the key to understanding ethnic relations and conflicts between aborigines and Hans in the region. Using Qing archives, this article explores the formation of aborigine small-rent land tenure in the Anli new territory and explicates its distinction from as well as relation with big-rent. Tracing the transformation of land tenancy in tribesman's ration plot, the author aims to illuminate the land dispute between aborigines and Hans as a consequence of changing tenancy terms. The cadastral survey data collected by the Japanese colonial government provide a detailed portrayal and make possible verification of figures, character, and location of Anli aborigine small-rent documented in Qing archives.

Keywords: Aborigine land rights, tenancy terms, tenancy dispute, ethnic relations