

# **Ethnic Interaction, Migration and Expanded Living Space of *Shufan* in Mountain Peripheral Areas of Jia Nan Plain during Qing Dynasty: A Study of *Duo-luo-guo-she***

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## **ABSTRACT**

The migration of ethnic groups has been an important topic in history. This paper traces the migration and the expanded living space of ethnic groups in the mountain peripheral areas of Jia Nan Plain during Qing Dynasty. Ancient literature, historical materials of Qing Dynasty, household registry records of the Japanese colonial era, oral histories and other religious data were reviewed. Field work was also carried out to examine in particular the migration of *Duo-luo-guo-she* to hillside areas in face of competition from both the Hans and other aborigines.

With the influx of Han immigrants, *shufan* of *Da-wu-long-she*, *Madou she* and *Xiaorong she* not only faced intense competition for survival but also suffered the reduction in living space. As a result, beginning from the 1850s, they moved out from their original settlement in Jia Nan Plain and the hills of Neimen northward to the living territory of *Duo-luo-guo-she*. This study analyzed the migration of three tribes of *shufan* to new distant settlements and their interaction with *Duo-luo-guo* aborigines was also explored in the light of the change in living space.

Before the 1860s, the Qing government began putting T'u-niu boundary epitaphs (*tu niu xin jie*) all over Taiwan, clearly demarcating territories under Qing rule. The main reason behind the migration of *shufan* to the hillside near Bai-shui River was competition for survival, rather than driven by state policy or motivated by their desire to preserve their traditional lifestyle. From the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century when the *shufan* first migrated and then settled, they had remained the dominant tribes in the hillside areas of Jia Nan Plain. Poor accessibility of the areas and sterile land had contributed to the preservation of their living space. Findings of this study not only shed light on the somber history and social

development of *shufan* communities, but also the interaction between ethnic groups and migration patterns along the mountain peripheral areas.

Keywords: Ethnic Relationship, Bai-shui River, *Duo-luo-guo-she*, *Xiaorong she*, *Madou she*, *Da-wu-long-pai-she*, T'u-niu boundary