

Political History Research of Postwar Taiwan 2018-2019: Retrospect and Prospect

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ABSTRACT

This article focuses on the political history research of postwar Taiwan during 2018-2019, and discusses the major issues examined. Moreover, this article also traces the changing trend of political history research of postwar Taiwan since 2007. Between 2018 and 2019, there are four domains of intense research, namely Taiwanese in foreign affairs, political events like February 28 incident, internal governance and propaganda, and military affairs. In fact, for more than a decade, white terror and February 28 incident have been the leading research topics, while the governance of the ROC, the change of regime from wartime to postwar era, and the status of Taiwan in the political arena have also been widely studied. Thanks to newly opened archives, recent political history studies on Taiwan can have complementary internal and external perspectives.

Directions for future research will be on “how the ROC evolves” and “what Taiwan should become”. Topics related to internal affairs such as the role of the Taiwan Provincial Government and international issues such as cultural cold war are also worth exploration. Furthermore, beyond the concepts of non-governmental, resistance and oppression, the thoughts and activities of Taiwanese in important foreign affairs still await more attention. In line with the abovementioned would be research on the role of overseas Taiwanese during the formation of the Taiwan Relations Act, the Taiwanese government after the year 2000, and the history and primary data of other political parties in addition to KMT. Last but not the least, a general political history of postwar Taiwan by Taiwanese scholars would be much anticipated.

Keywords: Political History, Postwar Taiwan History, Foreign Affairs, Political Events, Cold War History