

Retrospect of Economic History Research in Taiwan (2018-2019)

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ABSTRACT

This paper reviews the research on economic history of Taiwan between 2018 and 2019. It begins with a discussion on the context of economic history research by summarizing the development of various sub-topics of the field from 2008 to 2017, followed by a general review of research on economic history of Taiwan between 2018 and 2019, and finally the author's views on the future development of the field.

Studies conducted between 2018 and 2019 are divided into several sections, with the aim of discussing and summarizing the overall trend of the field. Titles of these sections are: (1) "State, Economic Policy, and Fiscal System," with subcategories of "Qing Dynasty and Japanese Colonial Rule" and "The Early Post-war Period and the Contemporary Era"; (2) "Regional History," in which Northern, Central, and Southern Taiwan were discussed respectively; (3) "Industrial History," dealing with agriculture, industry, commerce, forestry, electricity, and communications; (4) "Diet, Consumption, and Recreation"; and (5) "Environmental and Socio-Economic Changes." With easy access to research materials on regional history and local industrial history, a lot of scholars have been concentrating on these topics. On the other hand, topics such as diet, recreation, and environment history have drawn increasing attention nowadays. There is also a trend of combining economic history studies with social and culture history studies. Moreover, traditional research topics have been gradually transformed or revised due to the emergence of new historical materials.

As the Taiwan government promotes regional revitalization, the development of local culture and history will become a trend. In addition, thanks to local governments' ongoing promotion of cultural and historical projects or local studies, as well as several public sectors' efforts in making rare historical materials accessible to the public, local economic history studies will continue to grow in the coming years.

In summary, although the overall research trend still contains worrisome elements mentioned in previous review articles, research on economic history of Taiwan is expected to move in a positive direction because of continuous improvement of methodology and emergence of new historical materials.

Keywords: Economic History of Taiwan, Regional History, Industrial History, Local Studies, Economic Policy