

Aborigine Military Colony System and Establishment of Villages in Qing Taiwan: A Case Study of Jiuqionglin Village in Zhuqian Area

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ABSTRACT

Using the case of Jiuqionglin village in Zhuqian area, this paper illustrates how new villages were established under the aborigine military colony system of Qing Taiwan in 1790. While previous studies on aborigine military colony system are abundant, their focus has been mainly on ethnic relationships and little has been said on the effects of aborigine military colony system on land reclamation. To fill in such gap, this study explores the process of land development and the historical significance of aborigine military colony system with a case study of Jiuqionglin village.

It was found that following the implementation of the aborigine military colony system, the local government tried to integrate the farmlands surrounding Jiuqionglin under the military colony by subsidizing or lowering land rents. The scale of land reclamation was gradually extended. For example, after Jiuqionglin became a village established under the aborigine military colony, the chief tenant farmer continued to reclaim lands beyond the aboriginal frontier and petitioned to the local government for land rent alterations. In this way, new villages were set up one by one under the aborigine military colony system. Moreover, the establishment of villages was closely related to the actual operation of the aborigine military colony system. For instance, though the development of Chunghsing village (Houdong) followed that of Jiuqionglin village, they were two distinct village societies due to different operations of their respective aborigine military colony system. Jiuqionglin village was reclaimed and managed by the chief tenant farmer who recruited other tenant farmers to rent and cultivate the farmland. In contrast, the farmland of Chunghsing village was cultivated by the farmer-soldiers who were required to pay land rent regularly to Ma-shu-Jiou-She. In other words, the aborigine military colony system was brought into the local society through the negotiation

between the government authority and tenant farmers, which then gave rise to villages. With differences in operation of the aborigine military colony system, the villages established showed variations in features and administration styles.

Keywords: Reclamation beyond Aboriginal Frontier, Aborigine Military Colony System, Chief Tenant Farmer (Dian-Shou), Jiuqionglin, Houdong, Chiang Shen-chih