

Dubious Cross-Strait Relations: Exchange on Economic Development and Agricultural Investigation between Fujian and Taiwan (1934-1937)

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ABSTRACT

Previous research on the relationship between Taiwan and Fujian during the Japanese colonial era focused mainly on the evolution of Taiwan Government-General's southern expansion policy and the activities of Taiwanese in Fujian. In contrast, this article explores the exchange activities on economic planning and development as well as agricultural investigation between Fujian and Taiwan during 1934-1937, a topic which has received little academic attention. The present study found that after Chen Yi became the governor of Fujian province in 1934, official interactions between Fujian and Taiwan became increasingly frequent. A series of exchange activities related to economic planning and development as well as agricultural investigation were conducted. Officials from Fujian carried out three large-scale investigations on Taiwan's economic and agricultural development; while experts of agricultural administration and water conservancy were sent by the Taiwan Government-General to Fujian for inspection on economic development and consultation on agricultural technology. This article highlights the complex relationships of these exchange activities with Fujian's policy of emulating economic planning and development of Taiwan, as well as Taiwan's southern expansion policy. Moreover, it further analyzes the different intentions of the Taiwan Government-General and Fujian Provincial Government behind the cooperation and exchanges. Furthermore, it discusses the significance of these exchanges on the modernization of Fujian Provincial Government administration especially its agrarian reform, another issue that has been overlooked by the academic circles.

Keywords: Learning from Taiwanese Economic Development, Agricultural Investigation, Exchange of Knowledge, Southern Expansion Policy, Fujian's Administrative Modernization