

History of Recreational Hunting in Modern Taiwan

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ABSTRACT

Modern recreational hunting was introduced to Taiwan by Westerners after the opening of treaty ports in the middle of the late Qing Dynasty. The local upper class also gradually participated in this activity. It evolved through three time periods: late Qing Dynasty, Japanese rule, and postwar era. Apart from the history of deerskin trade in Dutch Colonial Taiwan (1624-1662), past research on hunting history in Taiwan focused mainly on issues related to hunting rights and hunting culture of aboriginals in modern society. The rich and diverse historical experience of modern recreational hunting was largely overlooked. The main historical materials used in this article on recreational hunting in modern Taiwan include diaries, court archives, periodicals, and media reports. Changes in official hunting regulations and hunter groups are explored. The origin, practice, and end of recreational hunting are examined to understand the development of animal views, environmental ethics, and ecological conservation in modern Taiwan.

Keywords: Recreational Hunting, Hunting Regulations, Hunter Groups, Hunting View, Animal Conservation, Animal Protection