

Reports Comments, and Change in Discourse on Sino-Japanese Amity and Union of Asia in *Taiwan Minpao* (1924-1926)

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ABSTRACT

Between 1924 and 1926, *Taiwan Minpao* published a series of articles on Sino-Japanese Amity (Nikka Shinzen) and the Union of Asia (Ajia Renmei). Analyzing these articles reveals the change of Taiwanese political activists from initial belief in Sino-Japanese Amity that would support the petition drive for the establishment of the Taiwanese Parliament to disillusionment and distrust.

The USA Immigration Act of 1924, which prevented immigration from Japan, resulted in a vigorous rise of the Union of Asia doctrine, along with the idea of Sino-Japanese Amity; both contributing to the formation of a political party in Japan. While Korean national activists unequivocally opposed Japan's leadership in policies and activities of the Union of Asia, their Taiwanese counterparts—or at least some of them—showed enthusiastic responses by actively translating relevant articles for *Minpao* and praising the doctrines as promising. Such enthusiasm was due to their conviction that the Union of Asia would necessarily include meaningful advancement of Sino-Japanese Amity, which would in turn drive the establishment of the Taiwanese parliament. Through textual analysis of the articles in *Minpao*, this paper examines how their conviction was formed and expressed. The analysis also uncovers cases of contextomy (quoting out of context) in the translated articles as well as those of subjective interpretation—most notably of Sun Yat-sen's speech on Pan-Asianism in Kobe.

However, the failure of the 7th petition drive for the establishment of the Taiwanese parliament in March 1926 and the launch of Northern Expedition in China worsened the division between the right and the left. The political changes at home and abroad shook the activities' conviction in Sino-Japanese Amity. While the right-wing nationalists still insisted on the need for Sino-Japanese Amity and the establishment of the Union of Asia,

the left-wing activists began focusing on the social class conflicts in Taiwan. The unification of the two parties for the petition drive crumbled. The need for Sino-Japanese Amity and the establishment of the Union of Asia were no longer on the left-wing's agenda.

Keywords: Sino-Japanese Amity (Nikka Shinzen), Union of Asia (Ajia Renmei), USA Immigration Act of 1924, Translation Issues in *Taiwan Minpao*, Sun Yat-sen's Speech on Pan-Asianism in Kobe