

Han-aborigine Boundary Map of Qing Taiwan under Emperor Qianlong (1711-1799): Case Study of Library Collection at Northwest Normal University of Lanzhou, China

Chi-hao Chen

ABSTRACT

Using the library collection at Northwest Normal University of Lanzhou, Gansu, China, this study analyzes the Han-aborigine boundary maps delineated by the Qing Dynasty during the reign of Emperor Qianlong (1711-1799). Examining related historical materials revealed that the Han-aborigine boundary map of 1758 was the first to be created through the collaboration of civil and military officials in Taiwan. It served to illustrate changes in the boundary with the old and new boundary lines drawn in blue and red, respectively. Reconnaissance of Commander-in-Chief Ma Longtu contributed to the detailed depiction of geographical features such as the Zhuoshui Creek. With such precision, accurate demarcation of the boundary could be made using continuous lines to replace the previous dotted boundary. Hence, earthen oxen could be clearly and correctly erected to define boundary lines in Tamsui Prefecture and Zhanghua Prefecture. The drawing of this map also enabled officials in northern and central Taiwan to propose plans for constructing military garrisons and reorganizing agricultural land within their jurisdiction. In other words, this map served as a blueprint for official administration policies as well as defense strategies and marked a turning point in the history of eighteenth-century Qing Taiwan.

Keywords: Aborigine Boundary Map, Territorial Map, Blue-line Aboriginal Boundary, Boundary Demarcation, Earthen-oxen Trench