

## **Image of Taiwan Frontier before Lin Shuangwen Incident by Taiwan Purple-Line Aboriginal Boundary Map of 1784**

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### **ABSTRACT**

With Taiwan incorporated under Qing rule in 1684, there was a massive influx of Han immigrants from the China Proper. They invaded the living space of the aborigines, resulting in constant disputes and conflicts. There were even major social unrest and outbreak of anti-Qing rebellions involving the aboriginal regions. To exercise its ruling authority and to maintain law as well as order, the Qing court delineated clear boundaries between the Hans and the aborigines, thus separating their living areas and preventing further Han encroachment of aboriginal territories.

During the reign of Emperor Qianlong, four cadastral surveys were conducted on the lands outside the aboriginal frontier. Four maps were thus drawn up, each using lines of different colors, namely red, blue, purple and green. Among these, the blue-line map was the only aboriginal boundary map of Qing Taiwan preserved till today and served as the basis for related studies and discourse. However, there are missing place names, annotations and errors in the blue-line map. Hence, exploring other aboriginal boundary maps will contribute to the reconstruction of the frontier scene of eighteenth-century Qing Taiwan.

Housed in the Palace Museum of Beijing is a large-sized landscape painting map back to 1784. It is titled “Illustration of Taiwan Paddy and Dry Land Reclamation and Prohibitions of Land Use”. There are red, blue and purple lines marked on the map. The map shows emphasis on demarcating the aboriginal boundaries along the mountain areas and hence should be the “Purple-line Aboriginal Boundary Map of Qing Taiwan”, drawn up toward the end of Qianlong’s reign. There was also a 14,000-word description above the map, detailing the regulations and prohibitions for land reclamation in areas beyond the aboriginal frontier.

With reference to this precious purple-line map, this paper describes the demarcation of aboriginal frontier, which separated the living space of the aborigines from the newly reclaimed regions, thus providing an overall image of the frontier scene of Qing Taiwan in 1784 and the imperial territorial policy during the reign of Qianlong.

**Keywords:** Illustration of Taiwan Paddy and Dry Land Reclamation and Prohibitions of Land Use, Aboriginal Boundary, Frontier, Lin Dan Incident, Cadastral Survey