

Development of Modern Governmentality in Taiwan: Comparison of Land Reforms under Liu Ming-chuan in Late Qing and Gotō Shinpei in Early Japanese Rule

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ABSTRACT

Though historical studies on land reforms of Taiwan in late Qing Dynasty and in early Japanese colonial era are plentiful, few have explored in depth the different nature of the governing regimes introducing these reforms. This paper argues the necessity and significance of highlighting the transformation of governmentality involved in these land reforms when examining their impact on the modernization of land system, land laws and land management in Taiwan. Firstly, the implementation processes of Liu's land reform and Gotō's land survey are compared in terms of policy planning, organizational logic and investigation methods to shed light on how the traditional governmentality of patrimonial bureaucracy in late Qing and the governmentality of modern bureaucracy in early Japanese rule supported respectively the execution of these two land reforms. Secondly, the concrete achievements of the two reforms and their influences are compared to indicate that although the land administration and taxation systems in late Qing were unified to a certain extent after the completion of Liu's reform, the land administration and legal culture still maintained the traditional style. In other words, Qing officials continued to govern local society and the people indirectly with traditional governmentality. In contrast, upon the completion of Gotō's land survey, the modern land administration system, including the atlas of Taiwan (Taiwan Hozu, Taiwan-Baotu, 臺灣堡圖), the cadastre and the land registration system, was established, and new organizations of legal knowledge such as the Committee on the Investigation of Taiwanese Old Customs (Taiwan Kyukan Chosakai, Taiwan-Jiuguan-Diaochahui, 臺灣舊慣調查會) and the Research Association of Taiwanese Old Customs (Taiwan Kyukan Kenkyukai, Taiwan-Guanxi-Yanjiuhui, 臺灣慣習研究會) were also instituted. With these new establishments, land tenure was modernized and land rights could be validly protected. All these accomplishments enabled the government to exercise direct rule over

local society and the people with modern governmentality.

Keywords: Liu Ming-chuan, Gotō Shinpei, Land Reform, Governmentality, Patrimonial Bureaucracy, Modern Bureaucracy