

Retrospect and Prospect of Research on White Terror in Postwar Taiwan

Jui-chiang Su

ABSTRACT

This paper discusses the retrospect and prospect of research on White Terror in postwar Taiwan. First, related research results are presented under four themes, namely historical materials, case classification, handling process and transitional justice.

A comprehensive evaluation on these results reveals more diversified approaches to the study on White Terror in recent years, as well as an increase in cross-disciplinary researches, studies using official archives as core historical materials, master and doctoral dissertations on this issue. In addition, past investigations focus more on famous cases and Communist-related cases of the 1950s, and less on assessment of pro-communist figures or analysis of their conversion to communism. Moreover, topics such as the authoritarian party-state system and culture of the ROC under the Kuomintang (KMT) governance, changes of the times, regional networks, political cases of nominally non-political crimes have rarely been studied. Furthermore, there is still significant room for improvement in examining the association of the 228 Incident with White Terror, collective research, and studies of political prisoners' families.

Finally, the prospect of the abovementioned themes including historical materials, case classification, handling process and transitional justice is proposed and more integrated research results are expected. Suggestions for the use and collection of archival records as well as the organization and application of recollection materials are also put forward. It is hoped that *Encyclopedia of White Terror* and *White Terror Research Report* can be published soon and studies on White Terror would be encouraged to reach a new milestone in the research on national violence and development of human rights in postwar Taiwan.

Keywords: Postwar Taiwan, White Terror, Political Cases, Retrospect, Prospect