

Prince Flag and Rattan Cane: Colonial Rule and Indigenous Appropriation

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ABSTRACT

The paper discusses how the Dutch utilized the prince flags and the rattan canes for their pre-modern colonial rule when the Dutch East India Company governed Taiwan, as well as how the indigenous peoples appropriated the flags and the canes for their own political purposes. The flags and the canes were the items that the Dutch bestowed to the indigenous peoples when the latter submitted themselves to the company. The paper describes the origins of the flags and the canes respectively in the context of Dutch colonial rule in Taiwan, and then portrays their designs for usage and the meanings behind. At last it discusses how the indigenous peoples appropriated the aforementioned two objects.

Keywords: Dutch East India Company or VOC, Colonial Rule, *prinsvlag*, *rotting*