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# 近代史研究



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# 近代史研究

Modern Chinese History Studies

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## 专题论文

密县故事:民国时代的地方、人情与政治 ..... 黄道炫(4)

天险变通途:鸦片战争时期英军在中国沿海的水文调查 ..... 王 涛(24)

同治初年江苏减赋新探 ..... 周 健(38)

### 赈务对洋务的倾轧

——“丁戊奇荒”与李鸿章之洋务事业的顿挫 ..... 朱 浒(60)

### 晚清民国山林所有权的获得与证明

——浙江龙泉县与建德县的比较研究 ..... 杜正贞(78)

蒋介石与战前中国农民银行的纸币发行 ..... 贾钦涵(92)

### 抗战大后方的民众教育馆

——以四川省和重庆市为中心的研究 ..... 朱 煜(105)

“述文化于史”:宋育仁与近代经史之学的省思 ..... 张 凯(118)

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**学术评论**

**视角选择与叙事平衡**

——评黄自进《蒋介石与日本：一部近代中日关系史的缩影》……徐勇(131)

**读史札记**

**福祿诺节略与中法战争两个阶段的转变**

——从《泰晤士报》的一篇报道说起……张振鹞(146)

**清代咸同年间湖南东征局兴废考析**……王静雅(153)

**英文目录与提要**……(160)

**书讯** 《翁文灏与抗战档案史料汇编》(上、下册)(159)

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# Modern Chinese History Studies

No. 4, 2017

## **The Mixian County Story: Locale, Personal Relationship and Politics in Republican China**

..... *Huang Daoxuan* (4)

In Republican China, the essential ideas, political institutions and governmental authorities all appeared in an ambivalent status, which resulted from the continuous changes in modern China. Henan was located in a region where the central power and the local powers intersected. Mixian County of Henan, because of the key figure, Fan Baiquan, became an ideal locale to closely observe this intersection. Fan Baiquan's rise in Mixian County and his complicated interaction with the county authority and local society, as well as the wartime development of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in Mixian County, were all related to this ambivalent background. Only could the CCP insist its principles, like a pure current in this ambivalent time. However, the United Front of the CCP also opened multiple possibilities and to some extent kept the connection with the general condition of the time.

## **Turning the Natural Moat into a Thoroughfare: British Navy's Maritime Surveys in the Chinese Coastal Areas during the Opium War** ..... *Wang Tao* (24)

Before the Opium War, the British had little geographic knowledge about the Chinese coastal areas and they also lacked accurate maritime maps. This was an essential shortcoming that restricted the British Navy's military actions. Therefore, during the Opium War, the British Navy conducted large-scale maritime surveys in the coastal areas in Zhejiang, Jiangsu, and north China, as well as the important rivers such as the Pearl River and the Yong River, and the Yangtze Delta. The Qing court did not have the idea of maritime rights, nor a strong navy, so it failed to stop the British surveys. The surveys changed the British Navy's geographic knowledge and thus had a great impact on the result of the Opium War.

## **Revisiting the Decrease of Land Tax in the Early Tongzhi Reign of the Qing Dynasty**

..... *Zhou Jian* (38)

In 1863 – 1865, the officials and local gentry in Jiangsu Province proposed to reduce the quota of land tax after the war against the Taiping Rebellion. Their efforts resulted in a decrease of more than 540,000 dan of tax rice, or 26.77% of the original quota. It helped relieve the heavy burden of land tax in Jiangnan in the Ming and Qing periods. Local officials played a leading role in this reform. However, in the three decades after the decrease of the land tax, the local officials in Jiangsu were still unable to collect the full quota of the land tax, somehow because local officials fabricated famines and embezzle some of the tax. The decrease of the land tax in the Tongzhi Reign and the tax collection and transportation afterwards illustrated that, against the background of the structural change of the Qing court's fiscal income in the late Qing period, all the levels of the bureaucracy lacked motivation and courage to fundamentally reform the land tax system in order to recover the tax income to the level in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## **Famine Relief at the Cost of Self-strengthening: the Great Famine in 1877 – 78 and the Setback of Li Hongzhang's Self-strengthening Enterprises** ..... *Zhu Hu* (60)

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**Acquisition and Verification of the Property Rights of Mountains and Forests in the Late Qing and Republican Period: A Comparison between Longquan County and Jiande County in Zhejiang**  
..... *Du Zhengzhen* (78)

**Jiang Jieshi and the Note Issue of Farmers Bank of China in the Prewar Period**  
..... *Jia Qinhan* (92)

**Mass Education Centers in the Home Front during the War of Resistance: A Study Focusing on Sichuan Province and Chongqing City** ..... *Zhu Yu* (105)

**“Express Culture in History:” Song Yuren and the Reflection on the Study of Classics and History in Modern China** ..... *Zhang Kai* (118)

In the modern time, the New Culture generation of scholars promoted the transformation of classics into history and challenged the older generation’s scholarship. They made judgments based on methods and materials of research so they unconsciously cut the connection between traditional learning and modern disciplines, between knowledge and value. Song Yuren, one scholar of the older generation, proposed to “express culture in history” and tried to use the four divisions of Confucius’s teaching to replace the modern academic disciplines, so as to link ideas and institutions, and reconstruct the Confucian value system and political-educational institution in the Republican context. Tracing the converging and separation of Song Yuren and Hu Shi’s academic routes, we can tease out the complex process of modern academic transformation, enrich our understanding of Chinese history and culture, and reflect on the Westernized disciplines of scholarship, so as to provide intellectual sources to build a new academic system that integrates the modern and the traditional, the Chinese and the Western.

**Selection of Perspectives and Balance of the Narratives: A Review of Huang Tsu-chin’s *Jiang Jieshi and Japan: A History of Modern Sino-Japan Relationship Writ Small***  
..... *Xu Yong* (131)

Huang Tzu-chin’s book *Jiang Jieshi and Japan: A History of Modern Sino-Japan Relationship Writ Small* provides a comprehensive research on Jiang Jieshi and the Sino-Japanese relationship, with a focus on Jiang’s perception of Japan and his “personal attachment”. In this book, the author reckons Jiang had “deep concern” for and “special attachment” to Japan and Jiang was a “representative” political figure having “good friendship” with Japan. This “emotional” perspective is quite innovative, compared with the existing scholarship mostly focusing on the military and political aspects. However, the narrative of “good friendship” is overemphasized in this book so much so that it influences the author’s selection of historical materials and interpretation of historical facts. Some important historical questions, such as young Jiang Jieshi’s perception of Japan, the negotiation between Jiang and Tanaga during the Northern Expedition, the Japanese invasion of North China and the total war afterwards, Jiang Jieshi’s military and political policies and the postwar treatment of Japan, need to be studied from multiple perspectives including the military, political and emotional aspects.

**F. E. Fournier’s Memorandum and the Transition between the Two Phases of the Sino-French War: Notes on a Report in *The Times*** ..... *Zhang Zhenkun* (146)

**The Establishment and Abolition of Hunan East March Bureau in the Xianfeng and Tongzhi Reign of the Qing Dynasty** ..... *Wang Jingya* (153)

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主管 中国社会科学院

主办 中国社会科学院近代史研究所

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