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Qu Qiubai and the Chinese Translation for “Hegemony”: A Revolutionary Journey of the Hegemony Concept in China (1923 – 1927) *Li Fangchun* (4)

The CPC’s Strategic Decision and the South Expedition of the No. 359 Brigade of the Eighth Route Army *Huang Zhenglin* (19)

After the Japanese launched the Operation Ichi-go in April 1944, the CPC Central Committee adopted the South Strategy, aiming to establish an Anti-Japanese Base in the border area between Hunan and Guangdong. If successful, it would link the CPC’s base areas in northern, central and southern China together. To set this strategy in motion, the CPC Central Committee ordered the No. 359 Brigade of the No. 120 Division to go on an expedition to the south. The task of the No. 359 Brigade was two-pronged: first, it was expected to escort CPC cadres to the No. 5 Division of the New Fourth Army at the border area between Hubei and Henan; and second, it was tasked to establish a base area along the borders between Hunan and Guangdong. When the No. 359 Brigade finally arrived at the border area between Hunan and Guangdong, however, the Japanese had announced its surrender. So the task to establish an anti-Japanese base area there became out of the question. To pressurize the KMT to carry on with the peace negotiation in Chongqing, the CPC Central Committee decided to voluntarily withdraw its troops from Guangdong, Henan and all the other provinces in between. This was a testament to the flexible strategic decisions of the CPC Central Committee around the time of the victory of the Resistance War, who timely adjusted its strategy according to changes of domestic and international situations. When the South Strategy became unfeasible, it shifted its strategic focus to China’s Northeast, a move that turned out to be a success.

In Pursuit of Taxation Equity for the Peasants: Patriotic Grain Collection in the Shandong Anti-Japanese Base Area *Zhou Zuwen* (34)

Big Farmers vs Small Farmers: Debate on the Optimal Scale of Agriculture in the Late Qing and the Republic of China *Li Jinzheng* (51)

Under the circumstances of collision and communication between China and the West in the modern era, the Chinese society in general and the Chinese academia in particular consistently engaged in the debate on the optimal scale of Chinese agriculture during the late Qing and the Republic of China. The debate witnessed a transition from the dichotomy of big farmer vs small farmer to the juxtaposition of large-scale farming and subsistence farming. Debate on the pros and cons of large-scale farming and subsistence farming was especially heated. Specifically, people at the time were increasingly concerned about the prospect of subsistence farming. In contrast, most people viewed large-scale farming as the only way forward. To realize large-scale farming, some people initially put their hope in commercial farms while others soon believed that cooperatives would carry the day. Some advocated large-scale farming, but they viewed the American-style ranch and the Soviet Collectivized Farm model with reservation. As a matter of fact, large-scale farming was a nonstarter in China at the time and the very dominance of subsistence farming largely persisted. Due to this reality, some people came to believe that subsistence farming still had its merits and then oppose the introduction of large-scale farming. This debate mirrors the complexities surrounding the Chinese perceptions on the optimal scale of agricultural production at the time.

Irrigation Projects, Politics and Local Society: A Case Study on the Yuanyangchi Reservoir in the Period of the Republic of China *Zhang Jingping* (67)

Built in 1947 in Jinta County of Gansu Province, Yuanyangchi Reservoir was the first modern earth-dammed reservoir in China. Yuanyangchi Reservoir was originally built to cope with the local crisis triggered by irrigation-related disputes. However, the political process that endorsed this project was full of setbacks. Proponents of this project finally won the day by taking advantage of the government’s Northwest Policy and Chinese authorities’ preoccupation with “maintaining solidarity with the rear base” during the Resistance War against Japanese Aggression. During the building of the reservoir, local gentries used their local influences to actively engaged in social mobilization efforts, mirroring the transition of organizing Chinese irrigation projects from a traditional mode to a modern one. During the implementation of this project, technicians

went extra miles to put in place consultative mechanisms for stakeholders from the river basin and modernize the management of construction sites. Such efforts left behind some profound legacies beyond the benefits of irrigation and played a delicate role in the modernization of the local society.

The Politics of Flood Control : The Dispute over “Diverting Water from the Yellow River into the Huai River” in 1930s *Li Fagen*(81)

The Tragedy of Conventionalists: MacMurray and the Rise and Fall of The Washington System *Ma Jianbiao and Liu Chang*(96)

After the outbreak of World War I, President Woodrow Wilson advocated the principle of “open diplomacy”, which later merged with the tradition of international conventions and resulted in a new “Conventionalism” that aimed to replace the “old international order”. The Harding Government continued to pursue this policy after its succession to the Wilson Administration. MacMurray, a disciple of President Wilson, became an important practitioner of “Conventionalism”. In 1921, MacMurray served as the Chief of the Division of Far Eastern Affairs of the State Department. He was one of the architects of the “Washington Plan”, which was indeed an implementation of “Conventionalism” in Asia. The resultant Washington System upheld the principles of “open diplomacy” and “concert of powers” in an attempt to restrain Japan’s aggressive expansion in East Asia. However, Chinese anti-imperialist movement, with its determination to abolish unequal treaties, strongly shook the Washington System and forced the U. S. government to abandon the principle of “concert of powers”. As a disciple of “Conventionalism”, MacMurray, who had become Minister to China at that time, came into sharp conflict with the Department of State. According to MacMurray, it was the Department of State who spearheaded the betrayal of “Conventionalism” and indirectly contributed to the rise of Japanese militarism, which ultimately led to the loss of peace in East Asia. The failure of MacMurray was nothing but a “tragedy” for U. S. modern foreign policy. And the root cause of his failure was that the United States had always tried to evaluate and transform East Asia according to its own criteria. The rise and fall of the Washington System was essentially a process in which the U. S. government forcibly exported its domestic laws and values to East Asia, revealing the “legal imperialism” tendency of the United States.

Duke Yansheng Mansion and the History of Amending the *Regulation on Consecrating Confucius* (Chongsheng dianli) *Li Xianming*(116)

The Formation of Chinese Marxist Historiography and the Debate on Social History *Zhang Yue*(130)

Guo Moruo and others first attempted to apply historical materialism to the holistic research of Chinese history. Historiography of Historical Materialism in China first took shape when *Dushu* magazine initiated the debate on Chinese social history. *Study on Ancient Chinese Society* authored by Guo Moruo and the debate on Chinese social history initiated by *Dushu* magazine followed two different approaches: the former centered on the “why” question and the latter attempted to study social history through exploring the nature of the Chinese society. Guo based his arguments on the unearthed archaeological findings and tried to ascertain the appropriate boundaries of materialism. In contrast, participants in the Chinese social history debate explored the logic behind history based on their analysis on the nature of the Chinese society. Both represented the conscientious efforts to examine the the development of Chinese history and the nature of the Chinese society at different historical stages through the lens of historical materialism. The debate on Chinese social history stemmed from concerns for concrete issues on the ground, but it was manifested in the approach of “embedding historical materials into theories”. Such an approach was incongruent with the academicism tradition in history study which concentrated on historical materials and advocated “seeking truth” in historiography. It was no wonder that it was not recognized by mainstream historians for quite a while.

An Investigation of Cai E’s Premature Death in Japan *Zeng Yeying*(143)

Between the Public and the Private: Zhu Jiahua and Hehe Primary School *Wang Longfei*(151)

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