

国家社会科学基金资助期刊



近代史研究

MODERN CHINESE HISTORY STUDIES

2023·2

中国社会科学院近代史研究所主办

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Chinese Path to Modernization: Commonalities and Chinese Characteristics

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How Should We Integrate the Basic Marxism Principles with Chinese Excellent Traditional Culture: Some Preliminary Ideas

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Course Changes of the Yellow River and the Resultant Land Ownership Disputes

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To rein in the unruly Yellow River, the Ming and Qing governments built dykes along the course of the Yellow River east of Lankao county, which were over 500 km in length and between half km and dozens of kilometers in width. Apart from water transportation, the dykes also created a vast wastelands close to the river. Since the Yellow River course was a busy water transportation route, the Ming and Qing governments banned agricultural activities on these wastelands. Things came to a head in 1855 when the Yellow River changed its course northward, leaving its vast old course with the possibility of cultivation. However, the Qing government was undecided on whether it should green-light agricultural development on the Yellow River's old course, a situation persisting well after the outbreak of the 1911 Revolution. In the early days of the Republican China, Feng Guozhang, the governor of Jiangsu, submitted a report to the central government, in which he suggested that the local government should be responsible for the disposal of the old course of the Yellow River. Nevertheless, the Beijing Government had been addicted to selling out government properties at the time, making Feng's suggestion a nonstarter. Strongmen politics emerged in local China after the death of Yuan Shikai. Under such circumstances, Qi Xieyuan, then the Jiangsu governor, green-lighted agricultural development on the old course of the Yellow River, defying the directive of the central government. The following Nanjing Nationalist Government went to great lengths to implement the the Diversion Project of Huai River, which involved the disposal of the Yellow River's old course. Although the Nanjing Nationalist Government entrusted the Huai River Diversion Commission to handle related issues of the Yellow River's old course, related work moved slowly in Jiangsu, Shandong and Henan. Land ownership disputes in the Yellow River's old course brought the poor governance capability of the Nationalist Government to the fore.

The Wartime Yellow River Conservancy System of the Nationalist Government and Its Dilemmas in Practice: A Case Study on the Water Conservancy Projects in the Yellow River-flooded Area

..... *Zhang Yan* (30)

After the outbreak of the all-out War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, the Nationalist Government shifted its Yellow River Conservancy system to the wartime mode. Previously under the direction of the Economy Department of the Executive Yuan, the Yellow River Conservancy Commission was also put under the leadership of the First Theatre Command. As a result, a complicated system featured with a dual leadership mode and three-party interactions came to the fore. Nevertheless, this new system turned out to be a disaster in practice: the implementation of Yellow River conservancy projects was unacceptably behind the schedule and a chaotic situation emerged due to the overlapping functions of and blame avoidance tactics by relevant actors. Such a result laid bare the defects in the wartime system of the Nationalist Government in terms of functional design, priority setting and administrative capacity.

Special Funds and the Chinese Financial System during the Late Qing Dynasty: A Case Study on the Policy of "40% Tariff"

..... *Chen Yong* (47)

As an addition to the Local-central Transfer Payment system and the Inter-provincial Transfer Payment System, special funds played an important role in ensuring the operation of the Chinese financial system during the late Qing Dynasty. As one of the major sources of tax revenue during the late Qing period, the tariff was successively used for foreign debt repayment, increasing the national budget and supporting defence along the coastal area. Apart from foreign debt repayment, the revenue from customs duty earmarked for either increasing the national budget or supporting defence along the coastal area did not fully realize their expected purposes, depriving special funds of their special purposes. The

haphazard implementation of special funds resulted from the overall financial situation during the late Qing Dynasty, the dominant views on finance and the loopholes of the Special Fund System. It indicated the inherent instability of China's financial system during a period of government function readjustment and budget priority shift.

The Impasse of the New Salt Management System in Sichuan during the Early Days of the All-out War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and Its Solutions Dong Qingping(63)

Re-establishing the Order: Militias, Local Party Branches and the New Fourth Army at Jiangnan Donglu during the Early Days of the Resistance War Li Leibo(74)

The KO Operation Plan of Japanese Military and the Battlefield behind the Enemy Lines in North China Liu Feng(89)

The KO Operation Plan was an important part of the Operation Ichi-go in 1944. To implement the KO Operation Plan, the Japanese North China Army redeployed a large number of troops from its rear areas, leaving more room for the guerrilla war in north China. Relevant Japanese archives demonstrated that the Japanese army, confronted by the soldier shortage problem, was on the defensive in north China, thanks to the aftermath of the KO Operation. All its countermeasures and conspiracies utterly failed in the end. Such a development set the stage for the counteroffensive of the Chinese military and the final defeat of Japan.

Introduction, Dissemination and Application of the Satellite-Town Theory during China's Republican Era Bao Shufang(103)

Telegraph Communication Links during the “Xishou” Period between 1900 and 1902: A Case Study on the Communication between Beijing and the Royal Court in Exile Zheng Zemin(119)

Ways of communications between the capital and the royal court in exile changed completely during the “Xishou” period. In the early days, officials in Beijing had to report in person to the royal court in exile or send messages to the latter via businessmen. For its part, the royal court in exile generally sent their messages back to Beijing through couriers via Baoding. However, such efforts often became fool's errands since the royal court in exile always changed its headquarters unpredictably out of security concerns. During the Royal court's stay in Shanxi, cable telegraph became the major communication link between the royal court and the capital. A new communication network mixed with cable telegraph and traditional couriers came into being, with Shanghai becoming the information hub and Xi'an and Baoding the two support centers. After the royal court fled to Shaanxi, the royal court could communicate with Beijing by telegraph, thanks to the military telegraph lines between Beijing and Tianjin and between Shanghai and Tanggu. As the royal court's core organization, the Grand Council was responsible for handling telegraph communications between the royal court and Beijing. The Grand Council categorized the telegraph into the “public” type and the “private” type, depending on the content of the telegraph. The royal court in exile accepted telegraph communications out of its determination to maintain the rule of the Qing government on the one hand and the royal tradition of touring its realm on the other. Conducive to improving the efficiency of communications, telegraph inadvertently exacerbated the conflicts of different opinions during decision making or negotiations with foreign powers. In addition, changes in the procedure of handling telegraphs to some extent weakened the royal court's power. Thus, telegraph was a double-edged sword to the royal court.

Ambiguous Neutrality, Covert Assistance and Strategic Planning: The Japanese Involvement of the First Zhili-Fengtian War Chen Taiyong(136)

Summary of the Proceedings of the First Youth Forum on Modern Chinese History Zheng Binbin and Zhang Yong'an(152)

近代史研究

JINDAISHI YANJIU

主 管 中国社会科学院
主 办 中国社会科学院近代史研究所
主 编 葛夫平

编 辑 《近代史研究》编辑部
出 版 近代史研究杂志社
出版日期 单月27日
地 址 北京市朝阳区国家体育场北路1号(100101)
投稿网址 jdsyj.ajcass.org
电子信箱 jdsyj-jd@cass.org.cn
电 话 010-87420921
国内发行 社会科学文献出版社
全国各地邮局
邮发代号 82-472
国外发行 中国国际图书贸易集团有限公司(北京399信箱)
国外代号 BM-298
印 刷 三河市龙林印务有限公司

ISSN 1001-6708
CN 11-1215/K

如有印装质量问题,请与社会科学文献出版社联系调换
电话:010-59366562



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社科期刊网

ISSN 1001-6708
9 771001 670233 03>

定价:50.00元

万方数据