Nanzhuang Incident in Taiwan: Aboriginal Land rights under the Japanese Colonial Government

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ABSTRACT

In 1902, 7 years after Japan’s occupation of Taiwan, an uprising incident by Taiwan’s aborigines, the Saisyat and Tayal, broke out. At that time, aboriginal land in north Taiwan was famous as a worldwide production area of camphor. Japanese enterprisers threatened the life of the aborigines by invading and occupying their land in order to obtain camphor. Although the aborigines counterattacked against Japanese enterprisers by employing headhunting, the Japanese army prevailed and then governed the aboriginal land completely. This paper attempts to describe this incident, Nanzhuang jiken (incident).

A chronological outline of the paper is as follows.
1. Taiwan and Camphor
2. Nanzhuang Incident: Cause and Expand.
   1) Camphor Industry in Nanzhuang
   2) RI, Akai, a Saisyat Leader
3. Colonial Rules and Land Rights
   1) Two Opinions about Land Ownership
   2) Resistance by the Aboriginals
4. Aboriginal Reservation System
   1) Reservation System under the Japanese Colonial Government
   2) Today’s System of Reservation

Key Words: Nanzhuang Incident, Taiwan, aborigines, land rights