

Treaty Revision in the State Building Process of Meiji Japan

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【Outline of survey】

This research project analyses the revision of so-called unequal treaties of Meiji Japan in light of its relations to Japan's state building process. The domestic process usually connected to treaty revision has been the legislation of modern laws or the reform of judicial system. However, it was the variety of inconspicuous fields of administration such as customs, harbor, police, and quarantine where Japan, since the end of Tokugawa era, had long challenged to promote modernization and independence, which caused constant troubles with foreign prerogatives in Japan. Our main focus is thus on the impact of Japan's quest for unified and independent administration upon the negotiation for treaty revision.

As for methodology, not only the synthesis of the history of diplomacy and internal politics but also the dialogue between historical research and studies of public administration is needed. This project, while making use of written documents and researches, domestic and abroad, plans to procure the cooperation of, and accumulate the knowledge and findings of, some researchers major in various administrative fields that constitute the working of modern state.

【Expected results】

Recently, treaty revision, alleged sedimentation of detailed negotiations around detailed provisions, seems to have been kept at a distance by many scholars. This research project do not depreciate those details as details but grasp them as the emerging character of new modern state.

Through refining the analytical framework that extends from the national agendas of treaty revision to minute administrative matters, the study of treaty revision will compose a rich source of ideas to interpret other important stages of modern history, such as Japan's policy towards China and her interest in the continent after Russo-Japanese War, or the Japan-United States Security Treaty and the status of US military base after Asia-Pacific War.

【References】

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- "Kaikoku to Fubyodo Joyaku Kaisei"(The Opening of the Country and the Revision of Unequal Treaties), Kawashima Shin and Hattori Ryuji(eds), *Higashi Ajia Kokusai Seijishi*(The international Political History of East Asia), The University of Nagoya Press, 2007.

【Term of project】 FY2007 - 2011

【Budget allocation】 1,500,000 yen

(2007 direct cost)

【Homepage address】

None