

The Manchukuo Military: Collaboration, Resistance, and Heritage

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論 文 内 容 の 要 旨

This dissertation examines the origin, nature, and post-war fate of the Manchukuo Military, which existed in 1932-1945. The Manchukuo Military was founded by Japanese occupiers and local collaborators, and served as the longest-running collaborationist army within the Japanese Empire, and is therefore a useful case to study attempts at national defense, nation-building, and ethnic policies in East Asia. This dissertation goes beyond previous research by focusing three issues of the Manchukuo Military which have not been discussed thoroughly in the past. First, an examination of the reasons behind the Northeastern military leaders' decision making which led them to collaborate or resist in 1931-32, including their careers in the 1910s-20s, ethnic and educational backgrounds, personalities, and pressures they encountered. Second, an analysis of the nature of the Manchukuo Military and the interactions between the Japanese and the local collaborators. This includes a study of the intentions of the Japanese military, including the Kwantung Army and the Imperial Japanese Navy, the collaborators reactions to the Japanese policies, and how those relationships played out in the Mongol units, the Navy, and around the military support organizations. Third, a study of the aftermath of Manchukuo's collapse, the fate of the various units, and their impact on the Chinese Civil War and Chinese multi-nationalism.

The study focuses on five individuals from the Manchukuo Military who serve as narrative threads that clarify the larger story of the Military, from before 1931 to after 1945: the Han military figures Ma Zhanshan, Zhang Jinghui, and Wang Jiashan, and the Mongols Jengjuurjab and Asgan.

Chapters One and Two examine the reasons behind the Northeastern military leaders' decision making on collaboration or resistance, the thinness of modern Chinese nationalism among military leaders in the Northeast, and the fear of losing power, which led many officers to take the collaborationist opportunity. Chapter One focuses on the history of Zhang family's Northeastern Army, and examines the lack of Chinese nationalism and factional differences, which were factors in many Han Chinese officers choosing to collaborate. Chapter Two examines the pre-history of Inner Mongolian military men in the region, and their troubled history with the Chinese state, and connections with Japan, which were factors in their decisions to collaborate. It follows the history of the Mongolian units up to 1945, focusing on their increasingly strained relations with the Japanese.

Chapter Three is a study of the Manchukuo Navy, which patrolled the rivers of Northern Manchuria. Originally created by the Republic of China, it was focused on the threat posed by Russia and the Soviet Union throughout its various incarnations. It was a source of conflict between the Imperial Japanese Navy and the Kwangtung Army.

Chapter Four examines the mutual influences between the Manchukuo Military and the wider Manchukuo society through focusing on the military's social education organizations. These include the Manchukuo Military Support Association, a military-related civil institution, and the Manchukuo Daode Association, a government-affiliated organization, under-studied institutions that were focused not on guiding servicemen, but rather on mobilizing civilians.

Chapter Five shifts to focus on a vitally important but largely unstudied moment: the collapse and aftermath of Manchukuo Military and the crucial participation of its former units in the Chinese Civil War, a subject has been intentionally neglected in postwar Chinese scholarship. In particular, the successful acquisition of trust from the former Manchukuo Mongol units was pivotal for the Chinese communists in developing relationships with regime in Eastern Inner Mongolia. Their interactions with minorities within the Manchukuo Military contributed to the formulation of norms for engaging with ethnic regimes that continued into the PRC regime.

The conclusion features an argument that the Manchukuo Military, as a multi-ethnic army under Japan's control, had an impact on the development of modern Chinese nation-state. The ethnic policy of the Manchukuo Military turned out to be a fiasco, due to Japanese domination. This helped to instigate a stronger sense of nationalism among the members of the military, and acted as a seedbed for the Chinese Communist Party's ethnic autonomous policies. It also places the Manchukuo experience within the larger history of collaborating and military client regimes, and attempt to contribute new insights and theoretical frameworks to this field.