

Abstract

Yoshihiro Kajii

Modern Japan was formed the West as a Model, and although the Japanese empire was the only non-Western empire of modern times, the argument whether the Japanese empire was the system which was similar with the Western colonial empire was often repeated.

This study focuses on the Japanese empire (Korea, Taiwan and Manchuria) during the interwar period and examines how British diplomat(consul) of those days was evaluating the Japanese colonial rule based on the "Annual Report" which they were drawing up every year, as a key for comparing the Japanese empire with the Western colonial empire.

The evaluation of the Japanese colonial rule by the British diplomatic reports was follows.

1. High evaluation to supply of "material profits", maintenance of social capital It contributes to "civilizing" of "uncivilized" ground, and stability of colonial rule.
2. Severe evaluation to forcing of culture and customs of Japan (especially "Kominka" or the Japanization) and military rule.
3. Low evaluation to the Korean and the Chinese people who were under the Japanese colonial rule. Influence delicate in the postwar period design for the Pacific War. Britain came to consider that the Japanese colonial rule (especially Korean rule) is the model of the Japanese occupation rule in East Asia expected from now on.

After all, although these reports did not affect British foreign policy since Britain had almost no interest and concern in the Japanese Colony (Korea, Taiwan and Manchuria), they became the "prototype" of the method of an understanding to the Japanese colonial rule in the West which had delicate influence on the minus image to Japan after the World War, and prospered in recent years.