

Modern Japan's "Nanpo Kan'yo" (Participation towards the South)

English Summary

1995 is the golden anniversary of the end of World War II in Japan. There was much discussion about the 50 years since the war in Japan. However, we historians are afraid of ignoring the origin of the war. Therefore, we planned this symposium to discuss the roots of the war in pre-war Japan.

Firstly, Hajime Shimizu (Nagasaki Prefectural University) discussed "Asianism" and "participation towards the South". He concluded that a source of the ideology the Daitoakyoei-ken (The Great East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere) emerged during World War I. This ideology was connected to the "participation towards the South", which was more a tendency of anti-Asianism rather than Asianism during the Meiji period (1868-1912), and later became the ideology of invasion towards the South.

Secondly, Shinzo Hayase (Osaka City University) discussed the relations between "the theory towards the South" during the Meiji period and "the Great East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere" from the viewpoint of Japanese emigrants in the Philippines. Emigrants to the Philippines were encouraged as an advance party for the future colonization during the Meiji era. The Japanese population of Davao grew to 20,000 by the beginning of the war. However, they were not well-organized under the Japanese military government, because these emigrated Japanese were considered "lesser Japanese" by newly coming Japanese from mainland Japan.

Finally, Sumio Hatano (University of Tsukuba) discussed "the new order of Asia" during World War II and the post-war conception. Japan showed these new conceptions in the conference for Great East Asia and so on in 1943-44. One of main themes was how to decolonize and how to create a new international order after the war.

Through these three papers we recognized that the Japanese view of the South has not changed much even 50 years after such a disastrous war, revealing a concealed view of the South among modern Japanese.