

Liu Ming Chuan's Practice and Influence on the Construction of Taiwan's Coast Defense

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Abstract

Taiwan's strategic position is very important, strengthening Taiwan's coast defense construction will help safeguard the reunification of the motherland, territorial integrity and consolidate national defense. Late Qing Taiwan coast defense in Shen Yu, Ding Zhichang on the basis of the construction of an upgrade, Taiwan's first patrol Liu Ming Chuan took office, spare no effort to continue to develop Taiwan's coast defense: political, administrative system, Kaishan Fupan; , mining plants, military training, military industry, weapons and equipment innovation, in public utilities, the establishment of postal services, the establishment of telegraphs, the construction of railways, pay attention to shipping, military ships, in education, the establishment of new schools, push western learning. It has promoted the strengthening of Taiwan's coast defense strength and people's livelihood, strengthened exchanges and ties with the Mainland, and promoted the development of Taiwan's economy, which has accelerated Taiwan's modernization to a certain extent.

Keywords

Taiwan's coast defense; Coast defense modernization; Liu Ming Chuan.

1. THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Taiwan is the gateway to Guangdong, Fujian, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Shandong, Hebei and Liaoning provinces. In 1874, Japan, under the pretext that the boat people were killed, landed from Taiwan and launched an invasion of China, which caused a great blow to China, and immediately set off a dispute about Taiwan's coast defense in the late Qing. At first, the Qing government did not recognize the true weight of Taiwan's coast defense, and its understanding of Taiwan's coast defense was limited to the passive construction of the invasion by Western powers, lacking in initiative.

Soon, France launched the China-France war in an attempt to expand its interests in China. The War between China and France was divided into two battlefields, the first on the border with northern Vietnam and Vietnam, and the second on the coast of Taiwan and Fujian. In August 1884, the French attacked Keelung, Taiwan, the outbreak of the War between China and France, the court of the following purpose: "the former Zhili Tiao Liu Ming Chuan, to reward the rank of patrol, supervision of Taiwan affairs[1]." Liu Ming Chuan against the French attack form analysis, precision arming, in the face of the French blockade of the water, aid materials can not be delivered in time, Liu Ming Chuan will launch the masses, gather everyone to pay for the effort, thus to a certain extent to supplement the shortage of materials and the army, in preparation for the defense war. In March 1887, the Battle of Nangan, a French town, was defeated and the War between China and France was over. The Taiwan defense war exposed serious problems--- Taiwan's backward coast defense, Taiwan is out of touch with China's overall coast defense, resulting in Taiwan's almost alone and completely passive defense situation. The Qing government therefore recognized that China's coast defense force is weak,

and Taiwan's coast defense is particularly serious. The War between China and France caused the Qing government to lose the Nanyang Fleet and matal shipyards, and china's underdeveloped coast defenses were even tighter.

2. SPECIFIC MEASURES

In the process of defending Taiwan against law, Liu Ming Chuan's awareness of coast defense has gradually increased, and his sense of distress is strong. After the war, Liu Ming Chuan mentioned that "defense is the most important to govern Taiwan[2]", and Taiwan changed its province to become China's 20th province, and Liu Ming Chuan naturally became the first Taiwanese patrolman. During his tenure, he highlighted defense and based Taiwan's construction on coast defense. Liu Ming Chuan is well aware of the great responsibility, as soon as he took office, he went all out to carry out various operations, and comprehensively strengthen the construction of Taiwan's coast defense. Put into action in politics, economy, public utilities, military affairs, education, etc.

2.1. Politics

During his tenure, Liu Ming Chuan was a period of rapid development in Taiwan. He made a new provincial administrative system more perfect, and by opening the mountains, Taiwan's coast defense has been politically guaranteed.

2.1.1. Administrative system

Liu Ming Chuan believes that to strengthen the construction of Taiwan's coast defense, we should first rectify the rule of law, adjust the administrative divisions, and set up the division of officials. He proposed the addition of Taiwan's government, the addition of Taitung Zhili state, Taiwan was transformed into 3 provinces (Tainan, Taiwan, Taipei), 11 counties (Anping County, Jiayi County, Fengshan County, Hengchun County, Taiwan County, Yunlin County, Miaoli County, Changhua County, Freshwater County, Hsinchu County, Yilan County), 3 halls (Penghu Hall, Puri Hall, Keelung Hall), 1 state (Taitung Zhili County). The foundation of Taiwan's administrative divisions today has been laid, and such administrative divisions are also conducive to the governance of Taiwan by the Qing Dynasty.

2.1.2. Open the mountain to caress pan

Taiwan is home not only to the Han, but also to a large number of indigenous people. This part of the people is known as Panmin, Panmin and according to the degree of the Qing Dynasty, divided into raw and familiar; more difficult to govern, Liu Ming Chuan in line with the idea of an internal and external protection, in the playing compromise mentioned that "now both set up Taiwan patrol, must first gradually caress, clear the internal problems, expand the border reclamation, widespread cultivation of the people, it becomes a province[2]." In order to make Taiwan better connected as a whole, for pan-people, the Qing Dynasty adopted the measures of kaishan care, that is, Taiwan's indigenous people into the jurisdiction of the Qing Dynasty, before and after the mountain connection. Liu Ming Chuan took measures to reclaim, open mountains and instigate, in 1886 set up the General Administration of Reclamation, Lin Weiyuan as the general office, for the minister of reclamation, to promote the reclamation of the back mountain, to facilitate the development of the back mountain. Then the force opened the mountain, speeding up the process of care. To educate Panmin, strengthen ideological education for students, and improve regional cohesion. After months of efforts, fu fushan north and south two roads to give birth to 218 society, more than 50,000 people.

2.2. The Economy

Politics is the guarantee of the construction of coast defense, and the economy is the basis of the development of Taiwan's coast defense. Liu Ming Chuan promoted Taiwan's economic construction, Taiwan's coast defense had been further developed and consolidated.

2.2.1 .Yoshida Qingfu

It will cost a lot of money to strengthen the construction of Taiwan's coast defense, in order to make up for the financial loopholes, to eliminate the accumulated shortcomings, Liu Ming Chuan ordered to measure land and calculate taxes, investigated accouts and land by the end of 1890 basically completed. This is Taiwan's first land inventory since its reunification, which lasted three years. According to Liu Ming Chuan in June 1890, after the inventory, it can be determined that 512,969 liang of silver will be collected every year, and the remaining silver will be collected. Together with the tax from the government estates, a total of 674,448 liang of silver will be collected. Compared with the old amount , the new one overflowd 491502 liang silver[3].

2.2.2. Development of industry and commerce, mining plant

In order to promote the construction of coast defense,Liu Ming Chuan developed Taiwan's modern industry and commerce at that time ,Liu Ming Chuan said "the people are business, business is also the people's industry."He actively introduced foreign investment, attracted overseas Chinese to vigorously build transportation, paid attention to foreign trade and trained commercial personnel.At the same time, he also encouraged to develop and invest private industry .The development of the economy for the construction of coast defense provided funds.

Taiwan is rich in coal resources, Keelung region is rich in coal mines, which quality is better. In order to make better use of resources, China's first modern coal mine was opened in Keelung. During the Sino-France war, Keelung coal mine was destroyed and forced to self-destruct in order to prevent it from falling into the enemy's hands. After the war, Liu Ming Chuan was re-established it. The Keelung coal mine used to be operated by the government, but its income was not ideal, and it suffered from long-term losses. Liu Ming Chuan allowed private businessman- Zhang Xuexi to undertake the contractor, but these still did not solve the practical problems. So he planned to cooperate with foreign businessmen.

2.3. Military

During the Sino-French war, Liu Ming Chuan wrote the famous words: "Coastal fortification should be prioritized in order to control the point; Coastal forts should also be rebuilt for strict prebention;The navy should be organized to defend the frontiers; Fuzhou ship bureau,and Shanghai machinery Bureau should be rectificated to develop the industry;To buy a large number of guns to saving funds and avoid bullying;In the introduction of talent, please set up a bureau to translate the Western books[4]." Although Taiwan's importance had not been singled out, Liu Ming Chuan's sense of defense had increased significantly.

2.3.1. Whole army

Liu Ming Chuan adjusted the strength of the whole of Taiwan, laid off soldiers.The original 40 battalions of the Taiwan Communist Defense Forces, mostly located in Tainan, while Taipei only located 9 battalions. Due to the northern part of Taiwan's weak back mountains, He strengthened defense. Before Liu Ming Chuan governed Taiwan, Liu Ao had focused on the Tainan region, dividing Taiwan into five zones,there were before, after, south, north, and central.In October 1887, Liu Ming Chuan identified the new zone as north, middle, south, and back mountain 4 Zones [5]. Liu Ming Chuan employed foreign coaches to train soldiers and improve the fighting capacity of the army.

2.3.2. To set up a military industry

In the Sino-French war, because Taiwan blocked the water surface, the mainland armament materials difficult to reach, And Taiwan located overseas solitarily. To make long-term plans, must run their own military industry on the island. Therefore, Liu Ming Chuan set up a machine bureau in Taipei, hired the German Bidea to imitate Western ordnance. In 1888, a large machine factory was built to make shells. In 1894, the Machine Bureau and Ordnance Institute were built, which makes guns and ammunition [6].

2.3.3. Weapon and equipment innovation

Liu Ming Chuan once pointed out: "to rectify the coast defense, in order to take care of the urgency of the time, to be armed, to establish the basis of self-preservation [2]", Liu Ming Chuan hired Westerners Bowens as supervisors. Spend 800,000 two silver, has built 4 forts in Penghu, Keelung, Shanghai tail each built 2, through the British foreign bank to buy "Amaszhuang" new Western cannon 31, and purchase 200 water mine, in each sea mouth. In the process of preparing to strengthen Taiwan's defense, Liu Ming Chuan repeatedly asked the Qing court to increase the number of warships and ships, but they were not taken seriously. In 1887, Liu Ming Chuan newspaper "Long live", "Fubo" has been damaged, has purchased from abroad "power" "Weiding" two ships for military transport.

2.4. Public Utilities

At the same time, Liu Ming Chuan was also fully aware of the importance of communication and traffic in the construction of coast defense. Taiwan's roads are rugged, and mountain roads are numerous, contacting with the outside world was not convenient. Therefore, the construction of communications, transportation and other public utilities related to coast defense and the interests of the people.

2.4.1. Founding postal service

Liu Ming Chuan established the Taiwan General Post Office on January 30, 1888. Postal to Taipei as the center, south to Hengchun, north to Yilan, initially developing Taiwan's postal business.

2.4.2. set up a telegram

Telegram is an important communication tool in modern times. Under the leadership of Liu Ming Chuan, Taiwan built a telegraph line length of more than 1400 miles. He established Anping, Shanghai Tail, Penghu, Sichuan Shi around the waterline room, Taipei, Changhua, qi, Anping, Tainan, Taipei, Keelung Lake eight places as telegraph bureau [7].

2.4.3. To build a railway

Liu Ming Chuan believes that railway construction and coast defense are closely related. He said "Preparation of the railway in order to self-improvement": "To be strong, it is important to train the army and make weapons, the most important of which is to build railways [4]. " He believed that the key reason why the Sino-French war in Taiwan was passive was because Taiwan did not have railways. He reported to the court, "When the railroad was built, it was easy to move our troops and not worry about the enemy cutting off the road [2]." After obtaining the approval of the Qing Government, Liu Ming Chuan stepped up the construction of Taiwan's railways. By the time Liu Ming Chuan left office, the railway had not been completed. In 1893, the railway was built to Hsinchu, about 185 miles.

2.4.4. Focus on shipping construction

Taiwan is an island nation, all around the sea, shipping status is important, during the War of China and France Taiwan's transportation is not convenient, military power can not be delivered in time, in 1886, he caused a stock purchase of ships, the development of Taiwan's shipping industry, promote economic development, but also facilitate taiwan and the Mainland exchanges and contacts.

2.5. Education

Liu Ming Chuan set up new type of school, pushing Western studies to train specialized technical personnel. He deeply realized that if the country is to be rich and strong, it must first do a good job in education.

As early as when he resigned from his post as the governor of Zhili and returned to the field, he set up the Feixi Academy to strengthen his understanding of Western science and technology, which laid the foundation for his future education and construction in Taiwan. In March 1887, Taiwan's first Western School was founded. He bet the president and hired foreign people to tell the story of Western culture, science and technology, thought, geography, arithmetic, English, French and other courses. Western School education was strict, students were regularly assessed, and students were distributed silver every month [8]. Until Liu Ming Chuan left Taiwan, the 64 students trained had devoted their lives to the modernization of Taiwan.

In order to make the telegraph construction develop smoothly and independently, and therefore Liu Ming Chuan trained telegraph professionals. In order to promote the strengthening of military forces, a mine school had been set up to train military personnel.

3. THE IMPACT OF TAIWAN'S COAST DEFENSE CONSTRUCTION

From his arrival in Taiwan in 1884 to his resignation from the Taiwan Patrol in April 1891, Liu Ming Chuan spent seven years in Taiwan, contributing greatly to the construction of Taiwan's coast defense. He put all energy into Taiwan's provincial construction, coast defense and modernization. As some scholars have pointed out: "Liu Ming Chuan contributed his energy and wisdom to the construction of Taiwan's coastal defense. Under the historical conditions at that time, all the measures he knew about coastal defense construction, he did his best to plan and achieve results." It is Liu Ming Chuan's keen awareness of coast defense, prompting him to bold reform and innovation, Taiwan at that time appeared such a situation. Liu Ming Chuan deservedly is Taiwan's coast defense construction of the doer!

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