

Research on Relationship between Modern History of Northeast China and East Asia

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Abstract: Since modern times, with the changes in the territory of Northeast China, the relationship between Northeast China and East Asia has undergone significant changes, especially from the late 19th century to the first half of the 20th century. The relationship between Northeast China, East Asia, and even the world's major powers directly affects the social development of the entire Northeast China and East Asia. Therefore, this paper analyzes the correlation between the modern history of Northeast China and East Asia from the late 19th century to the first half of the 20th century based on the modern history of Northeast China.

Keywords: Northeast China; Modern History of Northeast China; East Asia

1. Introduction

East Asia is the abbreviation of Eastern Asia, which mainly includes countries such as China, Japan, North Korea, Mongolia, etc. During the late 19th century to the first half of the 20th century, significant changes occurred in the Northeast region of China. Under the invasion of foreign powers, the territory of the Northeast region of China constantly changed, directly leading to significant changes in the development of society, economy, military, culture, and other aspects at that time. During this period, Northeast China was the invaded main region, its development had a very important impact on the overall development of East Asia. Throughout the modern history of Northeast China, analyzing its connection with East Asia, we can analyze the significance of historical development from a new perspective^[1].

2. Modern History of Northeast China

The modern history of Northeast China has gone through three stages, namely the stage from being ignored to being contended, the

stage of nationwide resistance against Japanese Aggression, and the stage of liberating Northeast China. Since ancient times, Northeast China has always been a sparsely populated area, which is related to the fact that the region has been in winter for six months. In addition, due to the fact that the number of people moving out of Northeast China has exceeded the population growth rate since ancient times, the development of Northeast China has been relatively backward. After the Taiping Rebellion, the national defense, economy, and public security of Northeast China have entered a period of comprehensive decline. During the Second Opium War, Russian Empire invaded Heilongjiang Province, and over 600,000 square kilometers of territory in Northeast China had been forcibly ceded, resulting in a continuous plundering of resources and wealth in this region. And the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War led to the occupation of the Liaodong Peninsula by the Japanese army, leaving Northeast China devastated. Under the continuous outbreak of war, Russian Empire successively gained the right to build roads, military, judicial and other privileges in Northeast China. With the invasion of Lushun Port and Dalian Bay, Lushun built the Middle East Railway. Subsequently, in the Russo-Japanese War that broke out in 1904, Japan divided up Northeast China, and Manchuria became the new title of Northeast China^[2]. During the second stage, with the outbreak of the Wuchang Uprising in 1911, it stimulated Russian Empire to plan for the independence of Outer Mongolia, so Japan was about to plan for the independence of Manchuria and Mongolia, leading to further chaos in the situation in Northeast China. However, after the Sino-Japanese War and the Russo-Japanese War, a large number of immigrants caused a sharp increase in the population of Northeast China, stimulating its economic activities. But as Japan occupied the entire territory of Northeast China and established them Manchukuo, the people of

Northeast China rise up to resist Japan's atrocities. The Communist Party led various anti Japanese armed forces, established the Northeast Anti Japanese Alliance, and promoted the nationwide resistance against Japanese aggression. During the stage of liberating Northeast China, with Japan's surrender, the Communist Party of China led the people to carry out the work of liberating Northeast China^[3].

3. The Impact of Geopolitical Changes in Northeast China in Modern Times on the Geopolitics in East Asia

In the analysis of modern history in Northeast China, it is mentioned that the geopolitical changes in Northeast China have had a certain impact on geopolitics in East Asia in the process of continuous geopolitical changes. Since modern times, the territory of Northeast China has undergone tremendous changes, that is, the boundary between China and Russia has changed, Outer Mongolia has been independent, the boundary between China and North Korea has been determined. The changes in the boundary between China and Russia during the geopolitical changes in modern Northeast China were mainly based on the signing of the Treaty of Aigun and the Treaty of Beijing between China and Russia. Under these unequal treaties, over 1 million square kilometers of territory belonging to Northeast China were occupied by Russian Empire, resulting in the loss of the geographical advantage of the Northeast region in the Arctic Ocean and the Pacific coast. It was precisely this change in the boundary that made Russia a country in Northeast Asia. In addition, due to the support of Russian Empire for the independence of Outer Mongolia in 1911 and the signing of the Declaration between China and Russia in 1913, Outer Mongolia had suzerainty and autonomy. In 1921, the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Government was officially established, making Outer Mongolia a country in Northeast Asia. In summary, since modern times, the changes in the territory of Northeast China have been made Russia a country in Northeast Asia and Outer Mongolia an emerging country in Northeast Asia. The territorial changes in the Northeast region directly related to the overall international relations in Northeast Asia at the end of the 19th century, and it was precisely

because these changes that geopolitics is better interpreted^[4].

4. The Connection between Modern History of Northeast China and East Asia

4.1 At the End of the 19th Century

Although Russian Empire annexed the vast territory of Northeast China in 1858, it did not bring modern things to the development of the Northeast region. It was only after the opening of Yingkou Port in 1861 that new changes were brought to the development of Northeast China. In the Treaty of Tianjin signed between China and the United Kingdom in 1858, it was mentioned that the Qing government allowed the opening of five trading ports, among which Niuzhuang was one of the five trading ports. And Niuzhuang was also the first treaty port in the Northeast region to open to the outside world. With the opening of trading ports, Chinese history underwent a transformation, and the opening of Yingkou port had a very important impact in the history of Northeast China. It was the beginning of foreign capitalist countries invading Northeast China, and was also the beginning of the Northeast region becoming semi colonial and semi feudal. During this period, Chinese society gradually began to undergo changes.

It can be seen that the latter half of the 19th century had an immeasurable impact on the modern history of Northeast China. Firstly, due to the Russian Empire's occupation of over 1 million square kilometers of territory in China, the boundary of Northeast China has changed, and Northeast China has basically transformed from a coastal area to an inland area. It is a significant geographical change that has had a huge impact on the modern development of Northeast China. Secondly, due to the continuous plundering and occupation of the Northeast region by foreign invading forces, the Northeast region entered modern times earlier. With the development of industrialization processes such as railways, Northeast region has achieved certain development. Thirdly, due to a large number of immigrants from a belt area west of Shanhaiguan or east of Jiayuguan to Northeast China, as well as many Russian and Korean immigrants coming to the Northeast region, the population of Northeast China continues to grow, leading to changes in the population and ethnic structure of the

Northeast region. From then on, the Northeast region has entered a new historical stage^[5].

In this context, the connection between modern history of Northeast China and East Asia has also become closer. From a diplomatic perspective, with the opening of Yingkou Port, the relatively backward Northeast gradually developed, and the use of Northeast as a medium strengthened the connection between Northeast China and world powers. The relationship between Northeast China and East Asia became closer. Overall, with the opening of Yingkou Port, the foreign trade in Northeast China developed, and the import and export of goods in Northeast China increased. And as the Northeast was heavily occupied by Russia and used as an opportunity to build the Middle East Railway, Russia's power continued to strengthen in the late 19th century. Furthermore, after the First Battle of the Sino-Japanese War, Japan invaded the northeastern region of China and occupied the Liaodong Peninsula, making it one of the countries with the most invasion of China among East Asian countries. Due to Japan's increasing influence in the Northeast region, the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese War was triggered, and the struggle in the Northeast region was one of the direct reasons for the outbreak of the war. At last, the relationship between China and North Korea has also undergone a transformation. The opening of trading ports has led to the development of trade relations between China and North Korea on the border, and has made North Korea one of the neighboring countries with close relations with China^[6].

4.2 In the First Half of the 20th Century

The 20th century was an era of war and revolution, which had a significant impact on the development of Chinese history. In the first half of the 20th century, the Northeast region became increasingly turbulent, and compared to the late 19th century, the situation inside and outside the Northeast region became more tense in the first half of the 20th century. From the perspective of the domestic situation, this period experienced the downfall of the Qing Dynasty, the establishment of the Republic of China, warlord rule, the revival of Japanese puppet rule, and the civil war between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party. During this period, the Northeast region experienced very turbulent changes and social and political

changes in twists and turns. And during this period, due to the increase in migration within belt area west of Shanhaiguan or east of Jiayuguan and international migration, the total population growth in Northeast China significantly increased. With the increase of population, the composition of ethnic groups in Northeast China has also undergone changes from a predominantly Manchu ethnic group to a mixed phenomenon of Han, Manchu, and Korean ethnic groups. During this period, Northeast China developed from a nomadic and agricultural economy to industrialization, making it the most prosperous region in China at that time. From the perspective of foreign situations, in the early 20th century, the Northeast region continuously suffered from various wars, was invaded by Russian Empire army, and became a victim of the Russo-Japanese War. In such a turbulent situation both domestically and internationally, modern China and even modern East Asia are facing extremely severe challenges. By analyzing the connection between modern history of Northeast China and East Asia, it can be found that the greatest impact on Northeast China in the first half of the 20th century came from Russia and Japan.

It can be seen that in the first half of the 20th century, the relationship between Northeast China and East Asia became closer, and the direct reasons for affecting the social status and triggering historical changes in Northeast China were related to the relevant countries in East Asia. During this period, Northeast China was the target of aggression by East Asian and even world powers, resulting in Northeast China becoming the main battlefield of the Russo Japanese War and the birthplace of the Sino-Japanese War. During this historical period, wars and conflicts occurred between the Northeast region and East Asian countries. It can be said that the Northeast during this period had a very important impact on the development of the entire East Asia, and the modern history of the Northeast was closely related to the development of East Asia^[7].

5. Conclusion

In summary, at the end of the 19th century, the relationship between the changes in modern history of Northeast China and external forces was mainly influenced by East Asian countries such as Russia, Japan, and North Korea, so that

the Northeast region gradually became one of the core areas for foreign powers to compete for the Northeast Asia region at the end of the 19th century. In the first half of the 20th century, the relationship between Northeast China and East Asia became closer, and Northeast China played a very important role in the development of the entire East Asia.

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