

## Information on Concessions in Bulletins of the East Asia Common Culture Society

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After its victory in the First Sino-Japanese War (from 1894 to 1895), Japan colonized Taiwan and established a number of concessions in China, and received various kinds of privileges, including leased territories and railway-attached land, whenever opportunities arose. Although this was how Western powers advanced into China, and Japan followed suit, Japanese people, placing importance on relations with China in the Meiji period (from 1868 to 1912), thought that their advance into China was invasive, but Japan's was not, and that Japan would defend Asia from their invasion, joining hands with China. Insisting that China be reformed to that end, Japan took various actions, which only led to the Manchurian Incident, the establishment of "Manchukuo," the Second Sino-Japanese War, and the defeat in the Pacific War in 1945.

As I realized that no research on concessions thorough enough to update research done before the war had been undertaken yet in Japan even though 60 years had passed since the end of the war, I carried out documentary research on the former Japanese concessions in China and research on their present conditions over the past more than 10 years with a number of my colleagues with the cooperation of local researchers, and gained a certain extent of understanding of their realities. However, I feel that there are many things yet to be revealed.

As part of efforts to make up for the inadequacy of our research, this paper is aimed at clarifying things not found in diplomatic and other documents of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chinese government by reading articles about the Japanese concessions in China written over a period of 11 years soon after their establishment mainly in *Toa Jiron* (from December 1898 to December 1899) and *Toa Dobunkai Hokoku* (from December 1899 to June 1910), which were bulletins of the East Asia Common Culture Society, established in 1898 advocating "maintaining the integrity" of China.

It was not until recently that I learned that the society's bulletin published until the end of the war had contained information not only about the Japanese concessions, but also about other countries' concessions in China, and about Japanese and Chinese concessions in Korea. This paper will refer to these pieces of information to the minimum extent necessary, intending to examine them in future joint research.