

# Covering of “Formosa Expedition” in Yokohama’s English Press

— *The Japan Punch* and *Japan Weekly Mail* —

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The Japanese government sent forth a powerful fleet and multitudinous army to Taiwan in 1874 on the pretext of some Ryukyuan castaways drifted there being killed by Native Formosan. English newspapers and periodicals in Yokohama, such as *The Japan Punch* and *The Japan Weekly Mail*, had long-lasting interest in “Formosan Expedition” and kept on covering it. At the very beginning, they both meant to have a fairly neutral position in reporting the “Formosa Expedition,” supporting China while condemning Japan unanimously. But as the situation changed for the good of Japan, their attitude reversed gradually. They turned to laugh at China, some reports in *The Japan Weekly Mail* even tried to seek defense for the Japanese action. Stance of both publications changed, still there were details of differences between them two in the way of their reporting. The standpoint of the press were strongly influenced by factors both at home and abroad, especially the interest of the editors’ motherland and the worldwide public opinions. The subtle relation between *The Japan weekly Mail* and the Japanese government played an important role as well. They somehow touched upon its influence, yet both *The Japan Punch* and *The Japan Weekly Mail* failed to dictate the profound and lasting consequence of the “Formosa Expedition” to both China’s and Japan’s internal affairs and diploma policies. They also failed to forsee the challenge and impact on the situation in East Asian countries and international order of East Asia.

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