

The 228 Incident

二二八事件

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『祖國』的幻滅

二次大戰結束後，擺脫日本統治的台灣人民，將希望寄託在海峽對岸的中國，熱烈迎接這個心目中的『祖國』。沒想到，真正的中國降臨台灣後，他們才發現這個中國與心目中的『祖國』相差甚遠，簡直難以適應。

Illusions of the “fatherland” shattered

After the end of the Second World War, the people of Taiwan had shaken off the Japanese colonial government and had placed their hope in China on the other side of the Taiwan Strait. They welcomed what they saw as the “fatherland” with open arms. They never dreamt that after the real China arrived in Taiwan, they would discover that this China was very different from the image of the “fatherland” they had held in their minds, and it was difficult for them to adjust.

以『征服者』的心態凌駕台灣

新來的中國政權以『征服者』的心態凌駕台灣。首先，無視於台灣人早有追求民主自治的歷史經驗，在台灣設立了無異於日本總督府的『台灣行政長官公署』的制度，是集行政、立法、司法、軍事等大權於一體，無異是日本殖民統治的延續。在『台灣行政長官公署』的新殖民體制下，大陸人壟斷權位、牽親引戚、苟且徇私、外行領導內行、『接收』變成『劫收』、官場貪污腐化之風，立刻讓台灣人民開了五十年

Riding roughshod over Taiwan with a conqueror mentality

With the mentality of conquerors, the newly-arrived Chinese regime rode roughshod over Taiwan. First, they disregarded the fact that the people of Taiwan had earlier in their history pursued democratic autonomy. Instead they set up a “Taiwan Provincial Governor's Office” system that was no different from the Japanese governor-general system, by gathering together the major authorities -- administrative, legislative, judicial and military -- into one body, exactly as if they were carrying on Japanese colonial rule. In the new colonial system of the Taiwan Provincial Governor's Office, the mainlanders

未開之眼界。

monopolized power and position, favored their friends and relatives, and put those without expertise over those who had it. Taking over responsibility became outright plunder. Officialdom became rife with corruption, and immediately the Taiwanese people's eyes were opened to a reality unseen for fifty years.



民眾團聚在台灣省專賣店台北分局前抗議

Crowds protested in front of the Taipei office of the Alcohol and Tobacco Monopoly Bureau.

民不聊生

在經濟方面厲行全面壟斷的統治經濟。標榜『國家社會主義』的行政長官陳儀，有鑒於日據時代專賣制度成效卓著，因此不顧本身的政治文化與官場陋習，一味沿襲。對樟腦、火柴、酒、菸、度量衡等物品全部納入專賣。此外尚有許多民生物資，則由專賣局之外的機構來厲行統治，無論從交通、運輸、堆棧、農產品、漁業畜牧、鋼鐵、電力、水泥、機械製造、石油、工程、造紙、印刷、紡織、磚瓦、油脂、電工器材、化學藥品、製鹽等等，無一不在統制之列。統制經濟如果能公事公辦，亦非不可取。但是，偏偏在『紅包通神』的官場文化下，官商勾結，或亦官亦商，使得許多違禁的進出口品能夠自由進出，官商從中獲取暴利。這套伴隨著貪污文化的經濟統制措施，帶給台灣的禍害是至為明顯不過了。尤以米糧的短缺，造成民生的痛苦、社會的不安最為顯著。而米糧的短缺，除了因為應付國共內戰，在台灣強徵米糧以支援國府軍之外，又因為官商勾結、囤積米糧、哄抬物價，有以致之。以台北市

Life becomes impossible

In terms of economic management, total monopoly was rigorously enforced. Administrative head Chen Yi vaunted “national socialism” in view of the outstanding results of the Japanese-era monopoly system. Consequently, despite the KMT's own political culture and official abuses, he began to follow this practice without exception. Camphor, matches, alcohol, tobacco, and measuring instruments were all sucked into the monopoly. Apart from this, there were still many everyday necessities which were strictly dominated by bodies outside of the Alcohol and Tobacco Monopoly Bureau, no matter whether they were communications, transport, warehouses, agricultural products, fisheries and pasturage, iron and steel, electricity, cement, mechanized manufacturing, petroleum, engineering, paper mills, printing, textile industries, bricks and tiles, oil, electrical equipment, chemicals, salt industry – every last one of these came under their control. If the controlled economy had been practiced according to principle, it would not necessarily have been undesirable. But it so happened that under this official culture where bribes could bring you anything you wanted, officials and businessmen collaborated, or else officials were themselves businessmen. The result was that many illicit imports and exports were

零售米價上漲情形來看，從終戰到二二八事件前，一年四個月之間，台北市零售米價漲了四百倍。台灣的財富受到有系統的掠奪，日本人所留下的兩百三十七家公私企業，六百多個單位，通通納入『台灣行政長官公署』所屬各處局所設的二十七家公司來經營。加以『外行領導內行』，以及人謀不臧，因此生產力大降，戰後第一年的生產指數，竟不及戰前的一半，台灣人享受到比戰前更民不聊生的果實。失業人口激增，六百多萬人口的台灣，就有四十萬到八十萬失業人數的紀錄。

社會上的動盪與不安

而社會上，盜賊橫行，軍憲紀律敗壞。許多來自中國大陸的軍人，除偷竊之外，耍賴、詐欺、恐嚇、調戲、搶劫、殺人…無所不為，欺民擾民，作威作福，一派土匪作風，另台灣民眾痛心疾首。1946年，台灣社會已經動盪不安，軍人開槍滋事，與民眾衝突的案件，屢見不鮮。因此，國民政府接管台灣第二年，社會治安嚴重惡化，一年之間刑事案件增加了二十八倍。

freely traded, and both officials and businessmen made vast profits from this. This controlled economic system was accompanied by a culture of corruption, and the disaster it brought Taiwan was extremely evident.

The rice shortages in particular created incredible hardship in everyday life, and social unrest was very clear. But the rice shortages were due not only to the enforced support of KMT troops to meet the needs of the civil war between the KMT and the Communist Party in China, but also to official-merchant collaboration in hoarding rice for market speculation and to artificial price hikes leading to rice shortages.

Looking at the inflation in retail rice prices in Taipei City in the sixteen months from the end of the Second World War until just before the 228 Incident, retail rice prices in Taipei City shot up 400-fold. Taiwan's wealth was systematically plundered, and the 237 privately- and publicly-owned enterprises left behind by the Japanese, and over 600 government units, were completely absorbed into the 27 companies set up and run by the various offices of the Taiwan Provincial Governor's Office. On top of this, the placing of outsiders into specialist positions and incomplete planning led to a huge fall in productivity. The production index for the first year following the end of the war was less than half of pre-war annual productivity, and compared to the pre-war period, the Taiwanese people no longer had enough to live on. Unemployment soared; with Taiwan's population at over six million, there were a record 400 to 800 thousand people out of work.

Social upheaval and unrest

Socially, Taiwan was overrun with thieves, and military police discipline was a corrupt shambles. Apart from petty pilfering, many military personnel from mainland China were also dishonest, went in for scams and intimidation, they molested women, robbed and killed -- they stopped at nothing, they insulted and harassed people, abused their power like a bunch of bandits on the rampage, and caused deep and bitter resentment among the ordinary people of Taiwan. In 1946, Taiwan society was already in upheaval, and cases of soldiers opening fire, stirring up trouble and clashing with ordinary people were nothing out of the ordinary. As a result, in the second year after the KMT government took over control of Taiwan, social unrest took a serious

turn for the worse, and in the space of a year, criminal cases increased 28-fold.



1945 年 10 月 25 日，台灣民眾在台北中山堂前歡慶「光復」，誰知道這股歡喜在很短時間內消失殆盡

On October 25, 1945, the Taiwan public celebrated the “Retrocession” in front of the Chungshan Hall in Taipei. Who could have guessed that in such a short time this euphoria would turn into loss and sacrifice?

二二八事件的爆發

總之，經過一年半的蹂躪與掠奪，台灣社會倒退了三、四十年。因此，在所謂『光復』的一年四個月後，終於爆發了二二八事件。1947 年 2 月 27 日晚，台北市延平北路發生專賣局查緝員打傷女菸販並釀成槍擊民眾致死命案，二十八日台北市民向相關機關抗議未果，反遭行政長官公署機槍掃射，情勢一發難收，擴及全島，各地蜂起，全島騷動。事件的發展循著兩條路線進行，一為武裝抗爭路線，一為政治交涉路線。前者指的是出現在各市鎮的武裝民兵，對憲警機關的攻擊行動；後者則是由民意代表及地方士紳組成的『二二八事件處理委員會』，與行政長官陳儀交涉善後處理事宜，進而提出政治改革要求。在『二二八事件處理委員會』的交涉與斡旋之下，情況漸趨穩定，然而陳儀對於『二二八事件處理委員會』提出的政治改革，表面上虛與委蛇，宣稱民眾如有任何意見，可經由處理委員會反映，他會盡量接納改進，但一方面卻打電報向南京中央政府請兵來台。國府主席蔣介石聽信在台軍政特務人員一面之詞，貿然派兵來台。三月八日晚，國府軍隊奉派抵台，展開鎮壓，釀成屠殺，繼之以『清鄉』之名，進行全島性捕殺，台灣

The Eruption of the 228 Incident

In sum, after a year and a half of devastation and plunder, Taiwan society was pushed back thirty or forty years. As a result, 16 months of so-called “Retrocession” culminated in the eruption of the 228 Incident. On the evening of February 27, 1947, an agent from the Alcohol and Tobacco Monopoly Bureau struck and injured a woman illegally peddling tobacco on Yenping Road in Taipei City. This led to a member of the public being shot and killed. On February 28, citizens of Taipei protested to the relevant organizations, but to no avail. In fact they met with machine-gun fire from the Governor’s Office. Once the situation had erupted, it was hard to contain, and it spread across the island, as people rose up in every place and rioted all across Taiwan. The development of the Incident proceeded along two main lines: one was armed resistance, the other was political negotiations. In every town and city the former manifested itself in the appearance of armed militiamen, carrying out attacks on police and military bodies. The latter was the organization of popular representatives and local gentry into a “February 28 Incident Settlement Committee,” which negotiated with Governor Chen Yi over how to deal with the problems arising from the Incident. It also went further, raising demands for political reform. With the negotiations and mediation of the “February 28 Incident Settlement Committee,” the situation gradually began to stabilize, but Chen Yi paid no more than lip service to the suggestions of the

社會菁英犧牲殆盡，民眾傷亡慘重，死亡人數約一萬至兩萬人。

Committee concerning political reform. He announced that if the populace had any suggestions, they should make them to the Committee, and he would do his best to accommodate them. But he also sent a telegram to the central government in Nanjing asking for troops to be sent to Taiwan. The KMT government leader, Chiang Kai-shek, was receptive to the one-sided statements of military agents stationed in Taiwan and hastily sent troops. On March 8, the KMT troops arrived, and began a suppression which turned into a massacre. It continued in what became known as a “countryside eradication,” an island-wide program of arrest and slaughter. The elite of Taiwanese society was sacrificed almost in its entirety, and there were heavy civilian casualties, with a death toll somewhere between ten and twenty thousand.



台灣省行政長官陳儀。因為國民黨政府統治失當致使二二八事件的爆發

The new provincial governor, Chen Yi, brought the misguided policies to KMT rule of Taiwan, causing the breakout of the 228 Incident

埋下黑金政治的伏筆

二二八事件帶給台灣的，不只是家破人亡的悲劇而已，還為台灣往後的政治與社會種下既深且鉅的影響：一方面，台灣人的性格受到嚴重的扭曲，過去一直處於外來殖民統治下的台灣人，顯得更加卑屈自辱，處處都要表現其不敢違抗統治者以求安全自保的奴隸性格；另一方面，台灣人民對政治產生恐懼、灰心、失望。這種對政治的恐懼感與冷漠感，有利於國民黨的一黨專政，不利於民主憲政的發展；再者，台灣社會領導階層架

Sowing the seeds of ‘black gold’ politics

The 228 Incident not only meant the tragedy of death and destruction of Taiwanese families. It also had a huge impact on future political and social developments. On the one hand, the character of the Taiwanese people was severely distorted: in the past they had been colonized by foreign rule, but now they were even more lowly and humiliated than before, and began to show slave-like personalities which sought only their own safety and protection, and didn’t dare defy the rulers. On the other hand, the people of Taiwan were terrified of, disheartened by and disappointed in politics. This fear and lethargy towards politics

空，便利國民黨的統治。許多劫後餘生的社會菁英不願再與聞政治，地方政治體質改變，劣幣驅逐良幣，土豪劣紳、黑道流氓、地方政客，逐漸進入地方政壇。台灣的黑金政治在二二八事件之後早已埋下伏筆。

helped the KMT's one-party dictatorship, but not the development of democratic, constitutional government. Furthermore, Taiwanese society was now devoid of people of leadership caliber, which was convenient for KMT politics. Many of the surviving members of the social elite were unwilling to get involved in politics again, the constitution of local politics changed, the bad chased out the good, and corrupt local gentry and criminal elements along with local politicians gradually began to dominate the local political world. The seeds of Taiwan's "black gold" politics were sown in the aftermath of the 228 Incident.

深切的教訓與啓示

撫今追昔，二二八的歷史應給我們深切的教訓與啓示：1945 年的所謂『台灣光復』是台灣與中國的一次『統一』。1947 年的二二八事件，則是這次『統一』的後遺症。引起這個後遺症的主要癥結，在於台灣與中國兩個社會的差距太大，體質不同，彼此適應不良。這種適應不良，可說是統治文化水準較落後的一方統治文化水準較高的一方，所產生的壓制與反抗的循環過程。今天，大陸上的中華人民共和國無論是政治制度、社會結構、法律系統、文化內涵、生活價值、人權指數…，都與台灣迥然互異，落差極大。台灣若再被『統一』，真令人擔心二二八事件又要重演！台灣全體住民能不能從歷史與現實中展望未來嗎？

Heartfelt education and inspiration

Reflecting on the past in the light of the present, the history of the 228 Incident is both educational and inspiring: the so-called "Taiwan Retrocession" of 1945 was the first "unification" of Taiwan and China. The 228 Incident of 1947 was the "sequel" to this "unification." A crucial factor leading to this reaction lies in the excessive difference between Taiwanese and Chinese societies. Their constitutions were too different, and so they did not adapt well to one another. This unsuitability may be said to have arisen through the cyclical process of repression and resistance, where the side with the lower political cultural standards ruled the side with the higher ones on the other. Today, the PRC on the mainland is too distant from Taiwan, and too far behind in everything, be it political system, social structure, legal system, cultural content, lifestyle values or human rights indices. If Taiwan is "unified" again, there is a real concern that the 228 Incident will be replayed. Can Taiwan's inhabitants have any hope for the future based on the past and present?

(林玫君編輯／何麗薩翻譯)