Taizhou Negotiations and the Subei Confrontation: An Aspect of the CCP and GMD Relationship in 1940

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In 1940, the Anti-Japanese National United Front in China was at a crisis, due to the confrontation between the CCP (中共) and the GMD (国民党). In central China, some negotiations were held between the CCP and the GMD in Chongqing (重庆) and Taizhou (泰州). The main objective of those negotiations concerned the sphere of activity for the New Fourth Army (the N4A, 新四軍) and its bases. Above all, the negotiations held in Taizhou, the local city in central Jiangsu (江苏) Province, obtained some support of the local elites such as Han Guojun (韩国钧) and Zhu Lixian (朱лик先) for the N4A, and it laid the foundations of the N4A’s anti-Japanese base in Subei (苏北).

In this article, I will deal with several questions. First, the negotiations in Taizhou was very important for the N4A’s reconstruction after the "Wannan (皖南) Incident" which occurred in January 1941. Secondly, Chen yi (陈毅) was the key person of the whole process of those negotiations. Thirdly, the GMD and Jiang Jieshi (蒋介石) feared that the N4A in Wannan and Jianbei (江北) would become an unified army. This is the true reason of the "Wannan Incident". And, Xiangying (项英) who was the commander-in-chief of the N4A also agreed to the Taizhou negotiations and the N4A’s northern mobilization to Subei. This is different from a common view which Xiangying cosistently hesitated the Wannan N4A’s northern mobilization. Furthermore after formulating the General Headquarters of the Eighth-Route-Army (八路军) and the N4A in Central China in November, 1940, the Eighth-Route-Army and the N4A almost became a unified force. Thus we can refer to the force as the "CCP Army".