

The Development of the Ordinance on the Privilege of  
Exemption from Labor Service (*Yu-mien* 優免 Ordinance)  
and the Legal Position of *Chü-jên* 舉人 in the Late Ming Times

—Through the Examination of the Amount of the  
Standard of Exemption from Labor Service

by Masahiro WADA

Examining how the system of labor duty (*yao-i* 徭役 system) in Ming times developed, we find that the standard of exemption from *tsa-i* 雜役 conformed to that of assignment of *tsa-i*. This article was written to verify the legal position of the gentry 紳士, the amount of the standard of exemption from *tsa-i* for *chü-jên* not holding a government post, which was found in the privileged exemption rules from labor service (*yu-mien* ordinance) in Ming times, compared with that of other *kuan-yüan* 官員 and *chien-shêng* 監生 *shêng-yüan* 生員 classes.

It was not until Ming times that the social position *k'e-chü* 科舉 was established. People in this position were qualified to hold government posts and to take the *hui-shih* 會試 examination. *Chü-jên* and *chien-shêng* 舉人 監生, who had been compelled to attend *kuotzuchien* 國子監 since the early Ming times, had returned home since the latter half of the 15th century as a result of the institutional contradiction of the dynasty state. This proves that in the 7th year *hung-chih* 弘治 (1494), *yu-mien* ordinance was applied to *chü-jên* for the first time.

However, the amount of *yu-mien* for *chü-jên* was equal to that of *chien-shêng* and *sêng-yüan* classes in the period of *jên-ting* 人丁 *yu-mien* under *chün-yao fa* 均徭法 system and even in the period of *liang ting* 糧·丁 *yu-mien* under *i-t'iao-pien fa* 一條鞭法 and *Shih-t'uan fa* 十段法 system. Nevertheless, in the period of *t'ien-mu* 田畝 *yu-mien* under *chün-t'ien-chün-i fa* 均田均役法 system was carried out in Kiangnan 江南 as a result of the compromise between the gentry and the state authorities since the *wan-li* 萬曆 period in the latter half of the 16th century, the amount of *yu-mien t'ien* 優免田 for *chü-jên* had increased 20 or 30 times as much as that of the original rules of *yu-mien*. Besides, *chü-jên* holding a position

of k'ê-chü were accorded p'in-kuan 品官 treatment, while the amount of *yu-mien* for graduates was at most twice as much as that of the original rules. This fact shows that chü-jên in the late Ming times were legally guaranteed a social position in local government as one of the privileged groups within the ruling class.

## The Linchiang (臨江) Incident in 1927

### —A Turning Point of the Anti-Japanese

### Movement in Northeast China

by Yôichi OGATA

In May 1927, the Japanese Government was intending to set up a branch of the Japanese consulate of Antung (today's Tantung) at Linchiang, by the upper reach of the Yalu river. This scheme, however, was completely frustrated by force by the people of Linchiang. Moreover, this incident opened the way to the total and fierce anti-Japanese imperialism movement in Northeast China.

Nevertheless, in this writer's opinion, insufficient attention has been paid to this important problem up to this time. It is no wonder, because the Japanese Government concealed all of the documents relating to the "failure," and at that time the so-called the first "Shantung Incident" occurred.

Why then, did the Japanese Government attempt to establish the Linchiang branch? Originally that was closely related to Japanese colonial rule over Korea. After the so-called the "Dispatch of troops to Kando" in 1920, the Japanese Foreign Ministry tried, on the one hand, to check the unannounced border transgressions by mobilizing the Japanese police of the Governor-General of Korea; and on the other hand, to suppress the anti-Japanese movements of the Korean Nationalists in Northeast China by that branch. But this original reason made no sense as time went by. In the long run, "protecting the Japanese interests" became the main cause.

In this article, this writer traces the fluctuations of the decision making process about the matter, clarifies the relations among various Japanese