

Yuan Dynasty, and Zhu Yuanzhang 朱元璋 attacked Zhang and Fang, causing the frequency of trade to plummet again.

Thus the frequency of trade between Japan and Yuan China corresponded to the degree of domestic strife in the latter. Two additional effects can be mentioned.

First, a new trade route between Japan and China appeared. The Hakata 博多-Goto 五島-Changguo-Qingyuan route was used before the strife, and Taicang was used temporarily at the beginning of the fighting. However, a Higo Takase 肥後高瀬-Satsuma 薩摩-Ryukyu 琉球-Fujian 福建 route also became important during this period.

Secondly, the enthusiasm among Japanese Zen monks to travel abroad declined after 1350, due directly to increased lawlessness in China. The value of studying abroad in China was re-evaluated in the *rinka* 林下 (non-*Gozan* 五山 temples).

On the whole, the domestic strife at the end of Yuan period threw the trade between Japan and China into a state of confusion. From one standpoint, the ban placed on overseas travel and trade (*haijin* 海禁) in the early Ming period aimed at recovery from the confusion and stable trade between Japan and China.

The Diffusion of Japanese Firearms to Ming Dynasty
at the End of 16th Century:

From the Japanese Invasion of Korea to Yang Ying-long's
楊応龍 Revolt in Bo Zhou 播州

by KUBA Takashi

Researchers have conventionally theorized that the first firearms to reach China during the Ming Period were of Portuguese manufacture, but since the Chinese were not able to duplicate them in their complexity, Portuguese firearms would only become common after the 1548 attack on Shuang-yu 双嶼 by the Ming army, which had obtained firearms from its Japanese prisoners.

In the mid-16th century generals like Qi ji-guang 戚繼光 made efforts to obtain firearms, which proved useful in feuding off Japanese pirates (Wo kou 倭寇) and the defense of the northern territories.

It is not very clear, however, just how common firearms really were in China during the early 17th century, and improved versions like those used by the Japanese in the invasion of Korea do not seem to have been known to the Ming dynasty.

On the other hand, the thousands of Japanese taken prisoner during the War played an important part in the diffusion of firearms in Korea, and it seems reasonable to assume the same situation occurred in China.

Previous research has not taken into account how the firearms obtained from the Japanese were put to use by the Ming army, and how they influenced the spread of improved firearms during the period.

In this article, the author discusses how firearms the Ming army took from Japanese during the fighting in Korea were later used to suppress Yang Ying-long's 楊應龍 revolt in Bo zhou 播州 and also examines how these improved weapons spread to Ming China, a point that has received little scholarly attention to date.

Experimental Implementation of the Japanese Local
Self-Government System in Late Imperial China:
The Case of Tianjin County

by HUANG Donglan

In late imperial China, an experiment to implement local self-government in Tianjin County, Zhili Province was the first step in the historical process of China's acculturation to Japanese institutions. This article examines the background of "Tianjin local self-government," the role played by Chinese students returning from Japan, the influence of Japan's Prefecture Cord (府県