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Foreign Policy Making by the Qing Dynasty Prior to the Sino-French War

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In this article, the author examines how foreign policy was determined by the Qing Dynasty during its last years of existence, using both official documents and personal diaries and letters written by its bureaucrats. The focus is on the policy making process at court before the Li-Fournier negotiations of 1884, which aimed at avoiding war France; in particular, who drafted the original plan, who was influential in the process and what groundwork was laid behind the scenes.

There is much informative research to date about the process of the actual negotiations conducted between Li Hongzhang 李鴻章 and Fournier. However, several aspects remain unclear, particularly about the role played by Empress Dowager Cixi, Prince Chun 醇親王奕譞 and high ranking officials in the foreign policy making process. In order to clarify their roles, the author analyzes *Puyuan Yueyi* 樸園越議, recently published correspondence written by Prince Chun to Weng Tonghe 翁同龢, concluding that it was Li Hongzhang himself who proposed the peace negotiations. Prince Chun agreed with him and helped sway the Empress from her position to declare war immediately. In the matter of the Empress wanting to dismiss Zeng Jize 曾紀沢 as ambassador to France, Prince Chun took it under advisement; and after the court council 廷臣會議 did not act as he had intended, the Prince acted resourcefully in order to influence the terms of peace that followed.

From the above discussion, it becomes clear that foreign policy at the time of the *Tuilian Tingzheng* 垂簾聽政 was determined via *zhaojian* 召見, in which the opinions of subjects could have some influence on the Empress. The core figures in making foreign policy in that manner were Prince Chun

and the Grand Councilors, while the *Zongli Yamen Dacheng* 總理衙門大臣 took charge of diplomacy.

Economic Policy of the Chongqing Nationalist Government and the Foreign Concessions in Shanghai at the Early Stages of the Sino-Japanese War: The Setting Up of Export Regulations Concerning Products under Embargo

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At the early stages of the Sino-Japanese War, the foreign concessions in Shanghai (i.e., the International Settlement and the French Concession) remained as unoccupied zones and were at the time of the war boom more profitable for Shanghai businessmen than before the war. This paper discusses what kind of attitude the Chongqing Nationalist Government adopted toward these concessions, noticing in particular the process by which “regulations concerning the export of products under embargo to concessions” were set up.

At the beginning, the Nationalist Government prohibited trade between the area controlled by the Government and the Japanese-occupied territories, part of which the Shanghai concessions was regarded. In response, merchants in Ningbo and Wenzhou petitioned Chongqing to relax its export restrictions on the concessions. As a result, the Government set up the above-mentioned regulations, allowing exports to the concessions according to specified procedures. The reason why the Government changed its policy was not only to protect merchants, but more importantly, was to change the distribution route, due to the fact that the Yangtze River route was destroyed and occupied by the Japanese, resulting in Ningbo and Wenzhou becoming the main ports for trade between Chongqing and Shanghai. All of these events, which occurred between the end of 1938 and early 1939, show the Nationalist Government’s admission of the special character and strategic importance of the Shanghai concessions, which resulted in setting up of the export regulations.