

materials.

HBK is thought to have been compiled based on the information provided to the Court for Dependencies (*Honglusi* 鴻臚寺) by envoys from Baekje. It describes the history of Baekje during the transition period between the Sui and Tang Dynasties; that is, between 624 and the early 630s. Since *HBK* contains unique text and articles not found in any other source, it could be a very valuable piece of historiography in such areas as institutional change during the 6th and 7th centuries, after the correction of errors and omissions in transcription and a textual critique in comparison with contemporary and semi-contemporary sources.

The Shandong Food Situation in Relation to Economic Structural Changes in Local Rural Society during the Second Sino-Japanese War

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During the Second Sino-Japanese War, the amount of wheat produced in Shandong Province, being second only to that of He'nan Province, drew a great deal of attention in Japan. In addition, since wheat was not the staple food of Shandong's agrarian population, due to its high price, it was milled at Jinan and Qingdao, the two terminals of the Jiaoji Railway. Consequently, wartime surveys conducted by Japanese exploration teams tended to intensify around the Jiaoji Railway and that hinterland. The present article discusses socioeconomic changes that occurred in Shandong Province at that time through an analysis of the Province's wartime food situation, in terms of production, distribution and consumption.

In the western part of Shandong Province, which is particularly well-adapted to wheat cultivation, many farm families were accustomed to cultivating wheat to sell in exchange for cash to buy cheaper cereals for self-consumption. However, with the Japanese invasion of the Province, together with changes in and shrinkage of the wheat collecting sphere, the amounts of other grains in distribution also decreased, resulting in food shortages and rising food prices throughout the region around the Jiaoji Railway. In response to this situation, many farm families stopped selling wheat to appropriate for self-

consumption, leading to further decreases in the distribution of wheat. Furthermore, as one measure in dealing with the increases in the flow of the migrant population from the cities back to the country, cultivation was shifted to growing sweet potatoes, which produced the largest output per unit of land than any other staple. It was in this way that rural Shandong, which had been enjoying the expansion of its commercial economy, was forced to revert to self-subsistence farming.

In sum, the Japanese invasion of Shandong brought about not only a reversal in the development of its rural economy, but also significant changes in the economic structure of local agrarian society.

A Case of “Property Retention” Tactics in Nineteenth Century Iran:
Based on the Analysis of Fath ‘Alī Khān Donboli’s Inventories

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This article sets out to investigate the “property retention” tactics of a certain Iranian local notable, Fath ‘Alī Khān Donboli, and his family during the 19th century through a comparative analysis of his inventories with other source materials, in order to verify attempts made during that time to pass property on from generation to generation.

Since there was no powerful central government in Iran before the consolidation of the Pahlavī Dynasty in the 20th century, local elites have been regarded as important keys to understanding Iranian history, which is why a large body of research regarding them exists today, mainly focusing on biographical aspects. Although some historians have emphasized the socioeconomic importance of local elites, they have only examined such aspects as their *waqf* property and purchases of land in order to evaluate the impact of the emergence of the Qājār Dynasty on local elites. What is needed now is research aiming at the socioeconomic features of local elites for their own sake; for example, studies of estate portfolios and systems of inheritance. For this reason, the author of this article focuses on all-out attempts at comprehensive “property retention” by Fath ‘Alī Khān (d. 1875) as well as the legal nature of his ownership rights.