

博士論文（要約）

Japan's Efforts of Identity Construction in Manchuria, 1905-1942

（日本の満洲におけるアイデンティティ構築の試み 1905-1942 年）

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論文の内容の要旨

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(日本の満洲におけるアイデンティティ構築の試み 1905-1942 年)

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The construction and expansion of empire is a multi-dimensional process involving both military conquest and identity construction. In Manchuria, while it was part of the Japanese sphere of influence, Japan also tended to shape the region socially and culturally throughout the first half of the twentieth century. This dissertation explores Japan's identity construction efforts in Manchuria between 1905 and 1942. Complemented by official documents and publications from both Japan and China, the study mainly centers on a content and discourse analysis of *Shengjing Shibao* and *Manshūnichinichi Shimbun's* editorials. As the most circulated Japanese-owned newspapers in Manchuria in the Chinese and Japanese language respectively, these two periodicals played an essential role in reflecting and shaping Japanese imperial behavior due to their large readership among local Chinese and Japanese communities, as well as their special ties with Japan's imperial agents.

Based on the analysis, the dissertation reveals the opportunistic nature of Japan's identity construction attempts in Manchuria from two perspectives. First, in terms of the timing of changes in Japan's identity formation efforts, though along with Japan's policy adjustment, efforts to dilute the Chinese civic identity in Manchuria could be observed as early as the late 1920s, "Manchukuo nationals/Manchurian people" as a national identity

only began to be promoted as a means of war mobilization after the outbreak of the Second Sino-Japanese War in 1937. The discontinuity and short-sightedness of Japan's identity construction efforts in Manchuria indicated that Japan's shaping of local identities in Manchuria was made mainly to pacify local resistances and assist Japan's political and military decisions, and was thus improvised and reactive in nature. Second, in terms of the content of the constructed identities, the narratives that Japanese settlers employed differed significantly according to the targeted audiences. For the Chinese audiences, the legitimacy of Manchukuo national identity, praised in *Shengjing Shibao's* editorials, derived mainly from Manchukuo's better capability in providing welfare and benefits. In *Manshūnichinichi Shimbun's* editorials, on the other hand, Manchukuo as an ideal nation to exemplify the new order in East Asia was romanticized and Japanese residents contributing to Manchukuo with dual citizenship as both "Manchukuo people" and "Japanese nationals" was dignified for the Japanese readers. The divergence in Japan's identity shaping narratives revealed the absence of a coherent design of identity in Japan's Manchuria policy.

The different Manchurian identities promoted toward Chinese and Japanese communities were hastily invented to quickly mobilize the public, rather than to truly incorporate the two communities in the long run. As a result, no unified identity was successfully constructed in Manchuria. The identity as Manchurian people (*manjin/manshū kokumin*), an expedient identification under Japan's improvised identity-related policies, was vague and weak.

This dissertation aims to bridge the research gap in the field of Japan's identity

construction in Manchuria since 1905 through scrutinizing the hitherto less studied social, cultural, and intellectual aspects of the Manchurian society under Japanese informal control. It further poses challenges to the conventional claim in the Japanese imperial history that the Japanese Empire was purposive and deliberately well designed by the central government back in the metropole. This dissertation argues that at least in the field of identity construction, Japan's imperial activities were opportunistic in nature and reactive to the changing situations in the colonies.

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