

The Migration and Sinicization of the Chinese and Zhuang (壯) minority in Guangxi (廣西) Province during the Ming and Qing Dynasty

by Hideaki KIKUCHI

This study is based on new materials obtained during field research at Guiping, situated at the homeland of the Taiping, on several visits between the years 1987 and 1994. Up until now, a lack of information has made difficult to study the history of Guangxi society and the early days of the Taiping. The aim of this article is to ascertain the historical and socio-anthropological features of the correlation on of Chinese and Zhuang minority that Wei chang hui, the northern king (北王) of the Taiping, is included.

The migration of Zhuang minority to the north side of Guiping started in 15th century, before the beginning of Chinese migration. Many of them were soldiers to suppress the resistance movement of the Yao (瑤) minority, and made a great contribution to dynasty rule. But they could not make the political and economical foundation because of the lack of their leader, who was dismissed by the Gaituguilu (改土歸流) policy.

Under the superiority of Chinese bureaucratic migrant, the Zhuang minority engaged in tenant farming and started to accept the Chinese culture. Some of them succeeded at the Civil service examination and participated in the Chinese elite group, but most of them failed. On the other hand, some of the low class Chinese migrants, Wei chang hui's family was included in, assimilated into Zhuang culture by the marriage with Zhuang minority.

At the period of Taiping movement, the Zhuang minority and Chinese low

class migrants opposed to “keji” (客籍) elite group who ruled Jintian society. They could not obtain political power because of the disturbance by “keji” elite group, Wei chang hui was also persecuted at the purchase of Jiansheng (監生) status. The Taiping’s propagation, that promised the great glory after the revolution, was the only relief to them.