A Study of Japanese Rule over Eastern Inner Mongolia (1932-1945)
—Focusing on the Structure and Process of Manchukuo’s Policy towards the Mongols—

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In 1931, Japan provoked the Manchurian Incident under the occupation plan of Manchuria and Mongolia and tried to get Mongolian districts into the Man-Mou State. As countermeasures against this policy, the Republic of China promulgated ‘the Act of Organizing Mongolian Leagues, Districts and Banners’ and tried to reorganize the political structure of Mongolian districts. Japan, however, soon occupied eastern Inner Mongolia with its military, made it a territory of Manchukuo and started the colonial rule by reorganization of the political institution of the area.

In this dissertation, I used archival materials and periodicals of the Manchukuo era, which had not yet sufficiently utilized, and analyzed Manchukuo’s administration policy towards the Mongols.

In the introduction, I explained the aim of the study, surveyed earlier research and demonstrated points of view and construction of this paper.

In Chapter One, examining the change from the Xing’an Bureau (Kouan-Kyoku) to the Xing’an Office (Kouan-Sousho), I demonstrated that the organization of the Xing’an Bureau was reflection of the introduction of new policy towards the Mongols. First, analyzing the decision making process of the establishment of the Xing’an Bureau by the Kwantung Army, I pointed out the accepted theory that ‘Regulations of the Xing’an Bureau (Kouan-Kyoku Kansel)’ were issued on March 9, 1932 is incorrect. Second, comparing the original draft, the second one and the final one of ‘Regulations of the Xing’an Bureau’, I clarified the Kwantung Army and the government of Manchukuo had made complicated policy decision on how to rule the Mongols. Third, I analyzed the process and purpose of reorganization of the Xing’an Bureau to the Xing’an Office. Criticizing the accepted theory that the reorganization was only the change of the name, I pointed out that fundamental and functional change had occurred by the enactment of ‘Regulations of the Xing’an Office’.

In Chapter Two, asserting the establishment of Xing’an Provinces was the result of accomplishment of
administrative policies toward the Mongols of the pure-Mongolian area, I explained the sphere of Xing'an provinces had been defined and ethnic conflicts occurred. First, I clarified the scope of Xing'an provinces which the Kwantung Army had supposed soon after the Manchurian Incident and examined the process of demarcation of Xing'an provinces after the establishment of Manchukuo. Second, I examined the failure of the plan to incorporate some ethnically mixed districts into the Xing'an South Branch Province and analyzed an ethnic conflict occurred in Tuquan county. Third, I showed responses of the Mongols on the east bank and the Han Chinese on the west bank of the Non River against the demarcation of the Xing'an East Branch Province by the river. Fourth, analyzing revision of the policy concerning the abrogation of county administration proposed due to the establishment of the Xing'an West Branch Province, I examined tendencies of Han Chinese officials.

In Chapter Three, I examined the complicated conflict of opinion concerning rule over the Mongols, referring to resignation of Kikutake Jitsuzou, deputy director of the Xing'an Office (Kouan-Sousho), who had been responsible for policies towards the Mongols in the early Manchukuo era. First, I examined Kikutake's activities after the Manchurian Incident, including his taking office as the deputy director of the Xing'an Bureau (Kouan-Kyoka). Second, I clarified details of interior struggle, which had caused the resignation of Kikutake, and examined Katakura Tadashi's attempts to prevent his dismissal. Third, I studied the aftermath of the resignation of Kikutake and made clear the intention to maintain ethnic policies towards the Mongols. Fourth, I demonstrated the situation after Kikutake's dismissal and pointed out the interior conflict between factions had continued.

In Chapter Four, taking account of the Kwantung Army's policies towards the whole Mongolian area, I examined the process of establishment of the Ministry of Mongolian affairs (Mousesi-Bu). First, I discussed the establishment and change of the Mongolian banner system in Xing'an provinces and analyzed the response of the Xing'an Office. Second, I studied establishment and failure of rule over Mongolian banners in 'four banners outside Xing'an provinces'. Third, I argued the problem of power bestowed to the Xing'an Office in the early administrative system of the State Council of Manchukuo. Fourth, I examined structure of the Ministry of Mongolian affairs and change of the administrative policy towards the Mongols in pure-Mongolian and multi-ethnic areas.

In Chapter Five, I discussed different opinions about policies towards the Mongols and social evaluation of the Ministry of Mongolian affairs, analyzing policies of the Ministry and criticism by the Manshau Hyoron group. First, I compared opinions of the Xing'an Office, Tachibana Shiraki and Sagarajab on the emancipation of slaves. Second, I analyzed the difference of each opinion. Third, I
examined Nishifuji Tatsuo's support for the Ministry of Mongolian affairs and social evaluation by mass media. Fourth, I argued the end of the argument and its impact on authority and policies of the Ministry of Mongolian affairs.

In Chapter Six, based on a case study of the multi-ethnic Xing'an North Province, I clarified how the government of Manchukuo divided ethnic groups and stabilized the rule over multi-ethnic groups. First, taking account of the central position of the Daur and organization of banners by ethnic groups, I examined the Kwantung Army's policies of supporting a central political power in the area. Second, investigating the rise of the Buriads by organization of the Xing'an north guarding army, I clarified the Xing'an Office's intention of changing banner organization by ethnic groups and resistance of the Xing'an North Branch Province and pointed out appearance of a tendency to exclude the Daur from power. Third, discussing complicated conflicts on ways to rule Han Chinese, caused by the abolition of North Manchurian Special District, I showed how rule over ethnic groups brought about power struggle. Fourth, I made clear how the government of Manchukuo had derived the Daur of power, established a regime of the Bargus and solved the problem of Han Chinese legal problem, taking advantage of the incident of Lingsheng, who had been charged with spying for the Soviet Union and executed by the Kwantung Army.

In Chapter Seven, I examined the development of policy towards the Mongols in multi-ethnic areas, analyzing the banner system in Jinzhou and Rehe Provinces. First, investigating Mongolian banners in the administrative reform of the Rehe Province, I studied reaction of Mongolian nobility and the placation policy of the military intelligence agency. Second, analyzing 'the restructuring plan for Mongolian banners of the Jinzhou and Rehe Provinces', I examined the initial plan to deal with Mongolian banners by the government of the Rehe province and the resistance of Mongolian nobilities. Third, based on the plans of Rehe province, Jinzhou province and the Ministry of Public welfare (Minsei-Bu), I explained how 'the main principle to deal with Mongolian banners of the Jinzhou and Rehe Provinces' had been made. Fourth, I examined characteristics of the Mongolian banner system of Jinzhou and Rehe Provinces and the introduction of a combined system composed of banners and counties.

In Chapter Eight, asserting the abolition of the Ministry of Mongolian affairs should be considered as a switch of policy towards the Mongols from specific policy to generalization one, I discussed a primary factor of change of policies through the abolishment of the Ministry of Mongolian affairs and analyzed structure of the newly established second Xing'an Bureau (Kouan-Kyoku). First, analyzing main work of each ministry of the Manchukuo government and function of the Ministry of Mongolian affairs, I pointed out the realities of confrontation on the Ministry of Mongolian affairs and explained about the
proposition to abolish the ministry. Second, examining the disputes caused by the Lingsheng incident and the transition period theory on specialized administration by the Ministry of Mongolian affairs, I pointed out introduction of generalizing policy towards the Mongols by the Kwantung Army and the Manchukuo government. Third, analyzing the drawing up of ‘the main principle of second-period economic development plan’ and preparation of ‘the plan for reform of the administrative system’, I clarified the point of the decision to abolish the Ministry of Mongolian affairs and re-structuring of rule over the Mongols. Fourth, examining Mongolian government officials’ reaction to the abolishment of the ministry, I analyzed the structural peculiarities of the Xing’an Bureau.

In Chapter Nine, based on the reform of the nobility system, modernization of Buddhism and the abolition of special administration for Xing’an areas, I examined how the policy towards the Mongols had been rapidly generalized. First, examining the bureaucratization of nobilities, division of public and private economies, I pointed out that nobilities had become special strata by nationalization of Mongolian land. Second, surveying restriction and reform of Buddhism, I clarified the process of modernization of the Mongolian religion. Third, studying the process of drawing up ‘the basic plan for developing the Xing’an area’, I analyzed the abolition of special administration for Xing’an districts and the introduction of unified banner system. Fourth, discussing integration of banners with counties in Jinzhou and Rehe Provinces and establishment of unified banner system, I explained a plan to establish North Rehe Province and failure of the attempt.

In Chapter Ten, based on reform of administration and establishment of the Xing’an General Province (Kouan Soushou), I studied the re-installment of specialization policy for the Mongols. First, examining introduction of the ‘priority to regions’ theory, outbreak of the Pacific War and drawing up of ‘basic outline of the state policy (Kihon kokusaku taille)’, I examined plans for rule by three persons in charge of executing policies towards Mongolian people. Second, introducing the contents of ‘outline of reform plan for Mongolian administration (Mousei kikou seibi youkou)’, I analyzed Mongolian government officials’ desire for autonomy. Third, I discussed architecture of administration of the Xing’an General Province and its enforcement and collapse.

In conclusion, I summed up main points of each chapter such as the Manchukuo’s policy towards the Mongols and its enforcement, implementation of policies in pure-Mongolian area, execution of the banner system in multi-ethnic area, the divergence of ethnic groups in multi-ethnic districts and confrontation occurred in carrying out nationality policies. Finally, I presented future research topics, which had not been argued in this dissertation.