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Early History of the Intercourse between Japan and Germany (1)

Shin IMAMĪYA

This article is the investigation of the Early History of the Intercourse between Japan and Germany, that is between Japan and Prussian Empire, with special reference to the Prussia's expansion-movement into Far Eastern Asia, after the Opening of Japan in 1854.

The History of Intercourse between these two countries can be divided into following three stages; (i) the period of the Opening of Japan, (1854~58), (ii) the period of the conclusion of Prusso-Japanese Treaty (1859~61), (iii) the period of the first sending of Japanese delegates to Prussia (1861~62).

In this article, the following problems are fully discussed;

(i) the conclusion of the Treaty of Peace and Amity between Japan and U. S. A. and Prussia's Attitudes towards this Treaty;

(ii) F. A. Lühdorf's efforts to establish the Treaty between Japan and Prussia;

(iii) the conclusion of the Commercial Treaty between Japan and U. S. A. and Prussia's reactions to this Treaty.

This study is carried on mainly through the manuscripts kept in *Preussische Geheimes Staatsarchiv*, with subsidiary use of the Japanese documents.

A Research on the Private Traders along the Chekiang Coast during the Chiaching (16th Century) period and on the History of Captain Wang Chih.

—A private trader's life under the embargo age

Li Hsien-chang

In the second part, are traced the activities of Wang Chih (王直) in the Sino-Japanese private market.

1. *Wang Chih before the arrival in Japan.* From the *Jipên ichen* and other sources it can be presumed that Wang was an educated man, and that during his youth he struggled against poverty, and later he went to the sea coast.

2. *How Wang induced the Japanese traders to go to China.* In 1545, when the Japanese delegate Jûkô was going back to Japan, Wang accompanied him and tried to induce Japanese traders to

go to the Chekiang coast. Probably during this trip he reached Gotô and from there sailed back to Lequios. The story of 'Wu Feng' (五峰) found in the *Teppo Ki* might be a development of this trip.

3. *Wang's activities prior to his becoming a ruler.* In 1547 Wang established his headquarters in Gotô, and travelled between Ningpo and Gotô, developing trade. He soon became a big ship-owner. In 1549 he took up arms and defeated the local pirates. Therefore he was permitted to continue his private trade. Later he was stationed at Li Kang, and in 1551 defeated Ch'en Szu-p'an pirate, and became a sea coast ruler.

4. *The frame of Li-Kang and its destruction.* In Li Kang, Wang made himself the King of Ching Hai. The people and traders recognized him and obeyed him. Later, a Wang Shu became the Provincial Commander-in-chief and expelled Wang Chih, who fled to Hirado, Japan in 1553.

5. *Wang's life and business in Japan.* Wang settled his men in Gotô, but he himself stayed in Hirado and made himself the King of Huei (徽王) dominating the private traders.

6. *The Great Japanese pirates and the death of Wang Chih.* Although Wang was an ambitious trader, he constantly opposed the pirates. No record is found which might indicate his conspiracy with the Japanese pirates. Therefore, when Chao Wen-hua and Hu Tsung-hsien the sent Chinese delegates to Japan calling Wang back, Wang conceded without any hesitation. But because of misunderstandings, Wang was accused of being a pirate and was beheaded at the end of 1559.