

Regional influence of the success or failure of China's diplomacy: Qingdao before and after the Paris Peace Conference

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Abstract

Since the beginning of the Opium War, China was passively involved in the process of modernization, and began to integrate with the international standards at the institutional level, among which the diplomatic field was the most important. Under the oppression of foreign powers, China's modern diplomacy presents the basic characteristics of inequality, inindependence, humiliation and no autonomy, but it also gradually matures in the struggle and learning. In the diplomatic game, Qingdao is a focus. The success or failure of Qingdao's diplomacy has had a huge and far-reaching impact on the society in this region. Under the collision between the most critical time node and the most critical space node in modern diplomacy, Qingdao, China's diplomacy has made new breakthroughs and developments.

Keywords

China's diplomacy in modern times, Qingdao regional influence

1. prospects: Germany occupied Qingdao from beginning to end

After forcing the Qing government to yield gradually through force, the foreign powers began to try to continuously erode China by peaceful means, and through deterrence diplomacy. This process is the process of promoting the establishment of China's modern diplomatic system. In most cases, China's diplomacy can only struggle, but it also plays a certain role in the development of China's diplomacy. A large number of foreign students are committed to diplomatic work after returning home, laying a foundation for China's diplomatic development. In the early 1870s, after Prussia realized German reunification through dynastic wars, it followed other colonial states, actively expanded abroad, and also joined in the colonial plunder of China. From 1860 to 1872, 180 years, German geographer Richthofen visited China eight times, including many times in Shandong, carrying out detailed investigations on coal resources, including products, climate, transportation and other aspects,¹ and thus constructed an idea of invading China to serve Germany, which largely inspired the idea of Germany colonizing Jiaozhou Bay.

The German missionaries also arrived in Shandong very early. The German missionary Anzhitai arrived in Shandong province, and was engaged in the missionary activities for more than 20 years, during which time he oppressed the villagers, disturbed his regular programs, and even engaged in espionage with the help of religion.² Local people are more dissatisfied with it, and the contradiction between the two has intensified. On November 1, 1897, two German missionaries were killed by the members of the broadsword association who came to assassinate Anzhitai in the Zhangzhuang Church of Juye, Shandong province, known as the "Juye lesson plan". The outbreak of wild lesson plans to the Germans, Germany with this rapid demonstration, forced landing in Jiaozhou Bay, by creating military friction but not war, by means of force, to the Germans was killed as an excuse, many times with the Qing government negotiations, eventually forced the Qing government signed the glue in the form of diplomatic loan agreement. The main contents of the treaty include: granting Jiaozhou Bay to the concession and Germany, and the sovereignty of the concession belongs to Germany; allowing Germany to build a railway in Shandong and enjoy mining rights within 30 li of each side of the railway; Shandong is in the German sphere of influence, and German businessmen enjoy the first power in Shandong. As a result, Qingdao fell into the hands of the German colonists, and the Germans also tried to grow this "model colony" in order to realize their own ambitions. Germany has made detailed preparations and planning for Jiaozhou Bay. On the basis of the original commercial port towns of Jiaozhou Bay,³ The intention is to build a new city with strong German characteristics. Germany from top-down to expand overseas colonies, make Qingdao got a lot of investment from the German government, Qingdao port, railway, streets and other infrastructure, beaches, parks, government church and other living facilities even fortress barracks and other military facilities are designed by Germany overall framework and construction. In addition, Germany also focuses on developing and supporting the educational and cultural undertakings in Qingdao, setting up an academic council to distinguish the education between the German people and the Chinese people, improve the educational system of education, and set up universities and social education undertakings. This is the city of Qingdao, and it has developed into an international city.

Therefore, after Germany occupied Qingdao by military occupation and supplemented by diplomatic means, Qingdao was deeply influenced by Germany, and the development of the urban framework of Qingdao later laid a foundation.

2. Before the meeting: Qingdao changed owners

After the Republic of China, China's diplomatic system was a little mature, but its situation was still thrilling. As early as the end of the Qing Dynasty, under the promotion of the American portal policy, China was divided into the sphere of influence by various powers, forming a short balance of power in China. But the situation was broken with the wanton expansion ambitions of the powers and the eagerness of the internal thieves for glory. The First World War broke out under the irreconcilable reconciliation of imperialism. The main European powers were Mired in war, had no time to care, and relaxed China's colonial aggression. Japan took the opportunity to strike the idea of China, which seized the Northern

warlords led by Yuan Shikai as eager to seize power. After the outbreak of World War I, they quickly issued an ultimatum to Germany for Qingdao, and formally declared war on Germany on August 23, 1914. After the declaration of war, Japan launched an attack on Shandong, which had been originally divided into the German colonial sphere of influence, and first forcibly landed in Longkou, while the Beiyang government landed in Japan, and immediately divided the Japanese occupation area into special areas for Japanese use, ignoring the neutrality provisions announced less than a month ago. However, Japan was obviously not satisfied with this, and soon exceeded the so-called special area, occupied Weixian County, and then occupied the Jiao-Ji Railway, and occupied Qingdao on November 7. When the German army surrendered and the Japanese army should retreat, Japan still held many important towns in Shandong. When the northern warlords retreated, Japan formally proposed 211 in 1915. The No.1 of Article 21 mainly covers the rights and interests of Shandong, which is as follows:

No.1: The Japanese government and the Chinese government are willing to maintain the overall peace in East Asia, and will further consolidate the existing friendly and good neighbors between the two countries

In paragraph 1, the Chinese government agrees that the Japanese government intends to grant to the German government that all sanctions of the Chinese government in accordance with the treaty or other relations.

Paragraph 2 The Chinese government promises that all land and islands in Shandong Province and its coastal areas will not be leased or leased to other countries.

The third paragraph of the Chinese government agrees that Japan will build a Yantai or Shandong route to Longkou.

Paragraph 4: The Chinese government promises to quickly open all the major cities in Shandong Province as commercial ports; it shall make separate local agreements.⁴

Japan did its best during diplomatic meetings, from military holes to diplomatic insults, to buying journalists to spread rumors, and even because the Japanese representative could not get out of bed because of leg problems, the Chinese representative had had to go to his bed to negotiate,⁵This "pre-bed diplomacy" diplomatic insult is a clear reflection of Japan's diplomatic ambition to occupy Qingdao, swallow Shandong and even destroy China. It also makes China difficult to maintain its diplomacy. In the end, because Yuan Shikai wanted to satisfy his ambition to become emperor through the power of Japan, he intervened frequently in diplomacy, so that China basically recognized some contents of the 21st.

On March 14, 1917, the Beiyang government severed diplomatic ties with Germany, over the announcement, and officially declared war on Germany on August 4. But Japan in Britain, France, Russia, Italy and other countries secretly representations, after they agreed to inherit the rights and interests of Shandong, just admitted China's war, and further asked the beiyang government to allow the joint rubber railway, at the same time admitted for jishun, high xu two railway loans, and asked the Chinese government in the review attach the words "readily agreed". As a result, China has fallen into a great passivity in diplomacy, and Qingdao and other important cities in Shandong province, as well as the Jiao-Ji Railway, have also become areas effectively controlled by Japan.

Japan's occupation of Qingdao during the First World War showed that in such an unfair diplomatic environment forced by foreign powers and domestic thieves selling sovereignty, it

is not advisable to only seek rights and interests through already manipulated diplomacy.

Japan is also trying to further develop Qingdao after acquiring it through many means. Japan has implemented military control in Qingdao, confiscating German assets and factories, squeezing local ethnic enterprises, sending Japanese immigrants, strengthening financial control, and promoting Japanese education. However, to some extent, during the Japanese occupation of Qingdao, the urban scale of Qingdao has also developed greatly, and the urban population has increased significantly. In 1914, Qingdao had a population of more than 160,000, but by 1922, it had developed to about 290,000, which made Qingdao already a medium-sized city. population size. At the same time, Qingdao's industry and commerce have also developed. In 1915, the total import and export volume of Qingdao was 47.6 million customs cities, and in 1922, Qingdao reached 108.36 million customs cities. Qingdao became a large industrial and commercial city with a considerable scale.

3. Harmony competition: Qingdao Road ahead

When World War I ended in the final victory of the Allies, China should also be listed as a victor for the Paris Peace Conference. During the First World War, China sent a large number of laborers to aid Europe and a large number of materials, which made outstanding contributions to the war. Early before the meeting, about Qingdao problem, the Beijing government has a certain preparation, this is the Chinese government in diplomacy for 21 on an attempt to remedy, China in the meeting and preparing active study, aims to through international law for the rights and interests of Shandong, these preparations for China has played a role in both, and for China's diplomatic in Paris and said post laid an important foundation. From The Hague to participating in the preparation and related affairs of the League of Nations, it is the initial stage of China's modern diplomacy in participating in international conferences and organizations, and also an important diplomatic step for the future. After the official opening of the Paris Peace Conference in 1919, China and Japan immediately clashed over the Shandong issue. As for China's sudden and tough diplomatic stance, some scholars believe that the United States has played a supporting role in the society. The United States has always declared that it does not recognize the treaty of China and Japan, actively supports China's claim to Shandong, and even encourages the country's hope for the abolition of the unequal treaty.⁶ The measures of the United States have greatly encouraged the courage and expectation of China from the official to the people. The representatives hope to use the support and meeting of the United States to recover Qingdao, or even abolish 21, and get rid of Japan's control over China. At the second meeting of the Chinese delegation on January 22, the discussion decision included the following two items:⁵ Four years of the Republic of China, Japan requested our 21 styles. It has threatened our country to admit that this peace meeting should be proposed and strive to abolish it.

6. On the issue of Shandong, Germany has not decided whether the territorial rights and road and mining rights should be submitted in one case or in two cases.⁷

This fully reflects the confidence of the delegates.

To January 27, five countries meeting to discuss Shandong issues, Japan first threw its own interpretation: Japan said in the declaration to the German government unconditionally with jiaozhou bay lease land, railway and the Germans in Shandong all his rights, emphasize Japan in 1917, Britain, France, Italy, four countries signed a secret understanding, aims to explain Japan occupy jiaozhou bay has sufficient legal and factual basis,⁸Gu Weijun, the Chinese representative, asked for a day to prepare to make a Chinese statement. On January 28, Chinese representative Gu Weijun delivered a statement on the Qingdao and Shandong issues at a new round of Chinese meetings. Gu Weijun first starting from Shandong, introduces the history of Shandong, race, religion, language, customs and defense relations, with Japan yesterday for example of the Pacific island, Shandong is inherent in China, should be through and will make Germany will lease Qingdao and rubber railway and its affiliated rights completely directly returned to China. Then Gu Weijun put forward all China and Japan during the first world war treaties, contracts and text is from the perspective of China as a neutral country, in fact, because China also declared war on Germany, joined the allies in the world war, has changed between China and Japan, the above these treaties should be judged as a temporary treaty, should be to and to review and approval. US President Wilson asked whether Japan could submit all the previous treaty documents between China and Japan, but the Japanese refused, citing that declaring the treaty would be bad to Japan and needed to ask the government.⁹This comparison makes the meeting host, America, Britain and France, all dissatisfied with Japan, and Chinese representative Gu Weijun shine in the meeting. The legendary diplomatic speech marks that China has become quite mature in the diplomatic field, and can try to declare its sovereignty and seek legitimate rights and interests through diplomatic means.

However, due to Japan's pressure on the Beiyang government, the loss of the United States in the Paris Peace Conference, and the internal discord of the Chinese delegation, China's diplomatic efforts at the Paris Peace Conference were basically wasted in the end. At a moment, the domestic crowd broke out in the "May Fourth Movement". Today, the May 4th Square in central Qingdao city is named to commemorate the May 4th Movement. The May 4th Movement gave great help to Qingdao, but also greatly affected the material transportation and sales of Qingdao Japanese factories, and also caused a major impact on the Jiao-Ji Railway. " It caused the train occupied by the Japanese to run empty for several months."¹⁰In this situation, the Chinese representatives chose to reject the contract. Wang Zhengting, then the representative, said: " Although the proposal did not succeed, but because we refused to sign it, diplomacy must not be called China's first progress."¹¹

Because China did not sign up at the meeting, Japan lacks a reasonable basis for continuing to occupy Shandong. Therefore, Japan offered to return Qingdao to promote the Sino-Japanese negotiations. However, the Beiyang government was in a dilemma in considering the negotiations, so it chose to entrust the Federation of Nations in order to solve the matter with the help of the United States.¹²After several years of twists and turns and the mediation of

various forces, representatives of China and Japan at the Washington Conference on February 4, 1922 signed the Treaty on the Settlement of Shandong Province and the Annex of 1922, whose main contents are as follows:

- (1) The Jiaozhou Concession was returned to China and opened as a commercial port;
- (2) The public property occupied by Germany shall be returned to China, and the public property occupied by Japan shall be recovered;
- (3) The Japanese army retreated within six months;
- (4) Qingdao Customs, Qingyan and Qinghu submarine cables are returned to China;
- (5) In Qingdao, Jinan and the radio stations are redeemed by China;
- (6) Jiao-Ji Railway in China redemption.¹³

After more than 20 years, China finally successfully used diplomatic means to regain its sovereignty through a peaceful and relatively rational way, and the Qingdao and Jiao-Ji railways returned to the control of the Chinese government.

4. Conclusion

Qingdao has today's characteristic urban style, which has a great relationship with China's diplomatic history and colonial history. Qingdao's colonial history in Qingdao is also the history of China's diplomacy and the struggle of the Chinese people. The solid step that China has not taken in its diplomacy is the result of its increased national strength, public confidence, and taking the direction and assessing the situation in the international situation. At the same time, diplomatic success also affects the future of a country and determines the destiny of a region.

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