The Journal of Studies of China's Resistance War Against Japan

No. 1, 2018

Persistence: The Formation, Mission and Predicament of the Fortress Families in Central Hebei
Province during China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression

Li Jinzheng, Song Hong (5)

The appearance of a large number of fortress families in central Hebei province was the result of interactions of many factors such as the Chinese Communist Party mobilized peasants to respond to the predicament of Japanese army's sweeps and natural environments. Centered on fortress families, there appeared holes, tunnels and a secret linkage system of armed men, fortress families, neighbors and village authorities. With this system, the fortress families took tasks such as protecting the sick and wounded, and cadres, safeguarding communications and links, nursing children of armed men, and covering materials, etc., and thereby providing footholds and activity spaces. In the process, the fortress families faced the harms of Japanese and puppet armies and predicaments of lacking economic conditions. The Anti-Japanese authorities and fortress families did their best to alleviate the predicament to certain extent. In a cruel environment of struggling against the enemy, though some peasants had hesitations and entanglements, the vast majority of peasants represented by the fortress families and their close connections with the CCP represented the mainstream of the national War of Resistance against Japan and created a historical miracle.

In the early period of China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, there were a lot of left-wing teachers and students in Law and Commerce College of Northwest Associated University and took frequent activities. The Kuomintang teachers and students, besides directly struggling with them by reorganizing headquarters, also appealed the Ministry of Education to resolve the problem for several times. Though the Minister Chen Lifu mastered the Party affaires for a long time, in the early period he was unwilling to take direct interference, but rather expecting Xu Songming, a standing committee of Northwest Associated University, to contain by himself the left-wing tendency of Law and Commerce College. Chen Lifu was not satisfied with Xu's endeavor of balancing the left and right, so he sent Zhang Beihai to take over the College and reorganized it completely. Xu Songming and left-wing teachers and students did their best to oppose the organization. As a result of struggling, many left-wing teachers had to separate from service, and Zhang Beihai was also forced to leave. Though Xu Songming unpinned Chen Lifu's peg, he was also left the University that he had served for more than ten years. Against the background of the disputes between the left and right, the left-wing teachers and students wanted to make changes, and the right-wing teachers and students wanted to protect the old order, therefore the University administration was difficult to continue.



in rear areas led by the CCP. It suggested that the US army should directly contact the CCP and cooperate with the CCP in some fields such as fighting against Japan and information collections. After promoting the US leadership to send the US Army Observer Group to Yan'an, the Office negotiated with the CCP around problems such as the plan of the Allied Army landing on China, building communication network in North China, etc. on behalf of their own strategic needs, the two parties expressed willingness to engage in military cooperation. Though the Office highly evaluated the CCP's guerilla war in rear areas and thought that the US army needed to and likely could conduct joint operations with the CCP, it all along could not bypass the Kuomintang authorities to provide substantial assistance to the CCP. In particular after the Yalta Conference, the US government clearly took a Far East policy of supporting the Chiang Kai-shek regime to promote the Soviet Union to declare a war toward Japan, and the plan of military cooperation of the Office of Strategic Services and the CCP had to suspend.

In 1943, in order to prepare for the growing strain of war resources, in addition to plundering a large volume of mineral resources in the occupied areas, Japanese authorities began to plunder resources among the Chinese people. They initiated campaigns of "contributing copper" and "contributing wood," expecting to get resources from Chinese people to support the war. The campaign carried out extensively in North China, and Qingdao Special City shared 200000 kilo copper, accounting for 10 percent of the total in North China, and was equal to Shanxi and Henan provinces. In order to accomplish the task, Qingdao founded the Committee of Contributing Copper and successively initiated three campaigns for over a year, and it kept plundering copper until the task was accomplished.

After the victory of China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, the movement of weeding out traitors successively started in all over China, but Qingdao kept silence and a large number of traitors were still at large. In August 1948, the Nationalist government issued a general order to dismiss puppet officials and clerks. Unexpectedly, the ordinary people in Qingdao responded warmly and actively, some organizations launched two large-scale demonstrations appealing to weed out traitors and exerted extensive social impacts. There were clear marks of mobilizing to weed out traitors in the movement in Qingdao, and the local power struggles in Qingdao played very important roles in the back. The Kuomintang Qingdao headquarters led by Ge Tan positively advocated petition demonstrations and Qingdao Garrison Commander Ding Zhipan also gave full support, putting great pressure on Mayor Li Xianliang. The Qingdao municipal government was forced to dismiss puppet officials and clerks in a short period. However, this act failed to alleviate social contradictions or improve people's livelihood, but rather greatly affected normal running of the local government.

A Summary of The First Symposium on the Military History of China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the Resistance in Hunan Province Li Bin (149)