日本占領下のフィリピン・レイテ島における 対日協力と対日抵抗をめぐる政治抗争

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Political Feuds over Collaboration and Resistance during the Japanese Occupation of Leyte, Philippines

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Abstract

Most of the literatures on the Japanese occupation of the Philippines in the local setting tend to focus on the "achievements" of anti-Japanese guerrilla movements. Meanwhile, except for some academic works conducted by the American historian, Alfred McCoy, other aspects of the Japanese occupation in rural areas of the country—such as political strife or factionalism among the local elites—have been avoided in discussions since it has been tabooed since the end of the Asia-Pacific War. Taking the academic gap into consideration, this article examines the memory of the war among local residents in certain area of the Philippines, Leyte. Interviews were conducted in the province of Leyte, focusing on political violence or atrocities in three towns—Ormoc, Abuyog, and La Paz. This article also clarifies that war atrocities in the province were attributed not only to the Japanese occupation policy but also to the political factionalism among the local elites, regardless of their political stance toward the Japanese occupying forces. Their political ambition became quite fierce during the Japanese occupation period, leading to bloody outcomes in each municipality. After the war, the elites' violence or atrocities were "absolved" by local residents so they could establish their political and economic hegemony over the province.

Keywords: Philippine local history, Japanese occupation, collaboration, political feuds, political violence, atrocities, memory of war

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