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Tentative Title of the Research:

**The Plight of Taozhou Muslims:
An Exposition of Facts of 1929 Incursion**

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Taozhou, Incursion, CASIS

Abstract

Taozhou Incursion 1929 is a disastrous calamity befallen Muslims in Gansu Province. In the Incursion, nearly 7,000 Muslim families were destroyed, and more than 60,000 innocent Muslims were slaughtered. From 1928 to 1932, Taozhou Muslim community endured affliction, dispersion, diffusion as well as effacing, homicide, and capital punishment which Hui Muslims were and are still exposed to by the Han-Tibetan terrorist and its allies. Even after the Incursion, Muslims in 34 villages of Taozhou were never allowed to return their homes.

The Incursion was carefully planned and carried out by Taozhou Tibetan militia leader Yang Jiqin and Lintan magistrate Wei Xizhou with the connivance of the Gansu Provincial authority, in the Incursion, it is the Guomin Army, the national regular army commanded by the General Feng Yuxiang that participated in the decisive actions with modernized weapons and played the decisive role as accomplice.

After the incursion, most Chinese media and publications did not refer to the case at all. Some research papers that refer to the incursion present incomplete or even factually incorrect information. All groups related with the case tried to disclose, neglect and forget the incursion. The Tibetan militia deluded the provincial authority and the national Muslim community. The provincial government only put the finger to the previous military administration, and closed the case without charge all the war criminals. The province successors avoided this incursion, claiming the priority of national unity.

In light of the factual record, it found that efforts to rehabilitate the perpetrators of these crimes are particularly abhorrent and worrisome. Official communist historiography often tried to dilute or completely deny the responsibility of the Guomin Army and Yang Jiqin in the incursion of the Taozhou Muslims, placing all the blame on Muslim side, namely on Ma Zhongying and Ma Gaxishun. In communist China, political and cultural elites often chose to ignore and sometimes chose to encourage the Guomin Army propaganda, which opened the door to explicit Incursion denial and the rehabilitation of convicted massacre criminals. There have been few public voices raised in opposition to this dominant trend. In mid-1985, statements by Xidaotang and other Tibetan writers reignited this issue by claiming that there had been no massive killings in Taozhou region, by suggesting that political opponents of the Nationalist Chinese had treated similarly to Tibetans, and by suggesting that Tibetan militia leader Yang Jiqin could not be viewed only in negative terms.

Statement of the problem

Even 85 years passed, this calamity has rarely been studied. Many questions have been raised:

- Why there were so many Han and Tibetan citizens betrayed humanity, in choosing to persecute, torment and murder defenseless and innocent men, women and children?
- Why all victims are Muslims?

- There were good and brave Hans and Tibetans who risked their own lives and saved the honor of their people by opposing the oppression and death of their home fellows, and they deserve our deepest gratitude—but why were they so few?
- And also, why has Hans and Tibetans did not come to terms with its past?

All these questions and many related others, all pertinent and related to the painful subject, have not been studied and explored in depth.

Scope of the study

- Classifying the triangular racial relation among Muslims, Tibetans and Chinese in Taozhou Region in 1920's.
- Explicating the incursion academically.
- Analyzing the phenomena of disunity and frangibility of Muslim community before the pressure.

Literature review

- **The key sources**

Taozhou Incursion 1929 is mentioned in books, articles, archive documents and field work of oral history, however, the only most completed document is *The Investigation of Taozhou Incursion in 1929*

The Investigation of Taozhou Incursion in 1929 was initiated by Gansu Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). Following the provincial CPPCC, a commission on the Incursion in Taozhou was established in the beginning of 1960s. The Commission aim was to research the facts and determine the truth about the Incursion in Taozhou during 1928—1930. The results of the research by the Commission are presented in this Investigation, based exclusively on scientific standards. Under the direction of Gansu CCCP, the Commission had seriously investigated the survivors and witnesses. Their efforts have held several meetings and colloquium, which became the basis for the Commission 50-page investigation.

The Commission on the Incursion tried to trace the evolution of the destruction of Taozhou Muslim throughout the 1920's, the anti-Muslim propaganda, instigation, and violence of the Tibetan militia and Han militia poisoned the racial atmosphere and stirred up Tibetan-Chinese animosity toward the region's Muslim population. During this period, the Tibetan militia played a role in the government, since 1928, the Tibetan Militia spearheaded the enactment of anti-Muslim decrees that severely harassed and attacked Muslims and prepared the way for their destruction by vilifying them and depriving them of rights, property, and dignity and, for the most part, the organizational and material means of self-defense.

The Commission confirmed that systematic killing and deportation were perpetrated against the Muslims of Taozhou region. The Commission concluded that Tibetan militia,

Gansu military authorities were the main perpetrators of this Incursion, in both its planning and implementation; nearly 60,000 Muslims perished during the Incursion in Taozhou and the territories under the control of Zhuoni militia.

The intention of organizing this Commission and compiling the Investigation by CPPCC is just a plan to draw Muslim community into its ally. Muslim history had been outsided by mainstream of the historical profession, ignored by others (as in some ways it still is). When mainstream historians did touch upon the history of Hui and other Muslim minorities, it was as part of criticizing history. The Communists especially wrote about Muslim rebellion and intolerance toward Muslim minorities in order to claim that feudal regimes had benighted the Old China and made its people brutal before the birth of the People's Republic of China. It is unsurprising that no sooner had the authority found the Investigation involves some of its allies as the perpetrators of the Incursion than had the Commission dispelled. The reigniting of the Incursion after 1960's became a forbidden field for the propaganda of 'the Nationality Unity' in Mao's time and 'Stability' in post-Mao's time. The Investigation was only made a few copies and was titled as confidential document and was not allowed to be distributed and published.

What are the key concepts?

- Hui, China Muslim or Muslim Chinese
- Anti-Huism
- Sinolization

The major issues and debates about the topic

- Taozhou Incursion 1929 is a miniature of Muslim existence in its long history in China. The similar cases happened many times in different times and places though differs in scale, causes and impact.
- Official: cancel the case so as to neglect the Incursion;
- Zhuoni Tibetan: minimize the Incursion;
- Xidaotang: denial the connection with the Incursion.

Methodology

This research paper will employ an analyzing methodology to study the manuscript of investigation on the Taozhou Incursion 1929. Memories from the direct sources of the living victims of the Incursion are quoted and that is reflected to the racial rivalries. The setting and causes of the Incursion will be carefully examined.

Recently released articles published since 1980's will provide primary views on the 1929 Incursion. Another accumulated investigation will provide primary source materials on the Incursion. The translated investigation is dedicated exclusively to the Incursion. The articles and document on the Xidaotang studies reveal a wealth of information on the disputes between majority Muslim and the Xidaotang, an indigenous Muslim sect. Synthesizing this material will provide insight into the interaction of the racial rivalries.

Potential outcomes of the study and the importance of each one of them

This research paper examines the Taozhou Incursion 1929 which is an epitome of Muslim community in its long history of surviving in China since eighth century AD. The Taozhou Incursion epitomizes many hardships and sufferings China Muslim community endured. It reveals the unjust administration and discrimination of Chinese upon Muslim community. The paper will disclose the military administration of Feng Yuxiang' Guomin Army in Gansu Province and analyses the triangular racial relation among the Chinese, Hui Muslims and Tibetans in Taozhou Region. For the foreseeable future, some Muslim Region in China will become the instable zone. Therefore, there is an urgent need to improve an understanding of the unjust administration and its consequences of a rivalry going up surface.

The research tries to focus on the Taozhou Incursion 1929 which incurred soon after Feng Yuxiang's forces advancement into the Gansu Province and gained the domination of the Northwest China except Xinjiang. This period of turmoil has not been recognized by Hui studies and has not been a focus of major scholarly work.

The writer's foremost wish is that the authority should issue an official declaration acknowledging the investigation and adopting the entirety of its contents and conclusions. Once accepted by the serious academic circle, the investigation is to be published in Chinese and English and made available in both print and internet editions. The investigation was also distributed throughout the country to all libraries, schools, universities, and other educational and research institutions.

China still has far to go in terms of understanding and accepting its history of suppress the minority groups. Some groups will seek to challenge the findings of the Investigation. A number of Incursion deniers still have a voice in Chinese political and scholarly circles. Some monuments and streets honoring the Guomin Army generals still exist. Changing long-held, deeply engrained prejudices is a long and complicated process. The Commission investigation has laid out the historical facts in an authoritative way for the Chinese public for the very first time.

One of the basic reasons for the disclosure of the Incursion was the need for correcting and supplementing what is currently known about the Taozhou Incursion 1929. The long-term research of the project will, in no small measure, be judged by its impact on the teaching of the Incursion to present and future Chinese students. The writer recommends that the Muslim Community create a working group, in cooperation with experts of the topic and appropriate institutions, with the purpose of reviewing, correcting, revising, and drafting appropriate curricula and textbook material based on the findings of the Incursion report.

Tentative Chapterisation

Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 Taozhou Incursion 1929

1.2 Significance of the study

1.3 Research Methodology

1.4 Literature review

1.4.1 *The Investigation of Taozhou Incursion 1929*

1.4.2 Ma Tong. (1983). *Zhongguo Yisilan jiao pai yu menhuan zhidu shilue* [A history of Muslim factions and the *menhuan* system in China]. Yinchuan: Ningxia People's Publishing Society

1.4.3 Hai Hong Tao. (19--). *Lintan Xian Zhi* 临潭县志 [Chorography of Lintan County]

Chapter 2 Islam in China and Taozhou Region

2.1 Advent of Islam in China

Hui, Chinese speaking Muslim

Sinolization and Survival of Muslim

2.2 Settlement of Muslim in Taozhou Region

Taozhou, geographical setting

The early Muslim settlers in Taozhou

The Muslim defenders of Sino-Tibetan front fortress

Trading crux position of Taozhou and Muslim activity in Taozhou

Exile corner of Muslim after Tongzhi Muslim uprising

Chapter 3 Taozhou Incursion

3.1 Precursors to the Incursion

3.1.1 Yang Jiqin, Tibetan military domination in Taozhou Region

3.1.2 The Guomin Army and Zhuoni Tibetan Militia Anti-Muslim Attitude

3.1.3 Ma Zhongying anti-GMA uprising in Hezhou in 1928 and its
Consequences

3.1.4 The Role of Wei Xi-zhou (Liu Yufen), Taozhou magistrate in the
planning and implementation of Anti-Muslim policies of Lintan, Anti-
Muslim Propaganda and Official oppression, Sinolization, and
Expropriation

3.2 The Life of Muslim Community under the Guomin Army Administration

3.3 The Deportation of the Muslim Refugees and their Treatment in Zhuoni

3.4 Uprising

3.5 Massacre

3.6 Solidarity and Rescue

3.7 Charge of the War Criminals

3.8 Distortion, Negationism, and Minimalization of the Incursion

3.9 Studies on the Incursion

Chapter 4 Annotated translation of *the Investigation of Taozhou Incursion 1929*

Foreword

4.1 The Racial Relation of Taozhou Region

4.2 The Causes of the Incursion

4.3 The Process of the Incursion

4.3 Feng Yuxiang's Guomin Army was invited to the Holocaust and Played the
Decisive Role as Accomplice

4.4 Wei Xi Zhou, the County Magistrate's Policy of Pressure and Persecution
Incited the Insurrection

4.5 Trap of Slaughtering the Muslim Refugees

4.6 The Accusation of the Survivors

The Full Text of the Appeal to the Higher Court

4.7 The Work of Appeasement.

4.8 The Provincial Commissioner Lin Jing's Appeasement in the Western
Taozhou Region.

4.9 The Public Notice of the Provincial Government.

4.10 Return to the Ravaged Home in Suffering and Grieved Tears.

4.11 The Formation of Memorial Cemetery of the Martyrs in the Eastern
District

Chapter 5 Study of *the Investigation of Taozhou Incursion 1929*

5.1 Initiation of *the Investigation of Taozhou Incursion 1929*

5.2 Working team of *the Investigation of Taozhou Incursion 1929*

5.3 Storage of *the Investigation of Taozhou Incursion 1929* and its reprint

Chapter 6 Concluding remarks

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