

## 外 国 語 要 旨

學位論文題目：The Agency of Chinese Women in Manchukuo

—From the Standpoint of the Changes in the Gender Order—

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As the May Fourth New Culture Movement spread to Northeast China, young educated women there also joined in, and launched a women's liberation movement that advocated gender equality. However, following the 1932 establishment of Manchukuo, the colonial government there banned the ideas of liberty, equality, and the Three Principles of the People that were popular during the Republican Period. Under such circumstances, what kind of changes took place in the Northeast women's liberation movement? Describing Manchukuo's history as a part of Japan's, studies of Manchukuo's history in post-war Japan all over-emphasize the subjectivity and dominance of the Japanese. Yet, the various ethnic and social groups in Manchukuo are all factors that influence the activities of the Japanese people. It is therefore imperative that we distinguish Manchukuo from Japan, so that we can better examine how the diverse relationships of these different ethnic and social groups made up Manchukuo's history. In China, historical research of Manchukuo focuses mainly on the history of Anti-Japanese Movement and that of Japan's invasion. However, most people living in Manchukuo did not directly resist nor cooperate with colonial rule. How did they live, and what were their subjectivities? To understand the entire structure of the Manchukuo colony, it is necessary that we adopt the perspective of the colonized. Therefore, this dissertation regards women as active agents in history rather than just passively existing. From the perspectives of women's and gender histories, it analyzes Manchukuo's colonial rule and the activities of colonized Chinese women. On this foundation, it investigates how these activities produced changes in the gender order.

This dissertation has three parts. The first part examines the environment in which Manchukuo's Chinese women lived, as well as the colonial state's gender policies. *Shengjing Times* · *Women's Weekly* aided Japan's control of Manchukuo by constructing three idealized images of women, namely, housewives, workers, and students. To maintain the man-dominated gender order, it called on Chinese women to support Manchukuo, even as it criticized women's pursuit of individual rights. Furthermore, home economics weighed heavily in the education of Chinese women in early Manchukuo to reflect the ideology that located women's proper place in the home.

The second part investigates how Chinese women, from the perspectives of women's and gender histories, responded to colonial rule and social changes after the establishment of Manchukuo. Firstly, for the female students who experienced the women's liberation movement during the Republican Period, they still expressed strong concerns for women's issues in the new colonial education environment. They combined specific issues with Manchukuo's state policies to explore ways to solve women's problems. Secondly, traditional social norms co-existed with modern but gender-biased moral norms in Manchukuo. Through new practices of sharing household chores with men, remaining single, and living by themselves in dormitories, working Chinese women challenged both traditional and modern gender norms. From these challenges, we can see their pursuit of freedom and gender equality. Thirdly, Chinese women workers took advantage of labor shortages in Manchuria, and frequently switched jobs and went on strikes to pursue higher salaries.

The third part looks at how colonial rule, colonial modernization and Chinese women's activities co-produced changes in Manchukuo's gender order. Faced with demands for economic freedom and freedom of thought from individual family members, the extended family in the rural areas of Manchukuo began to disintegrate. This separation reflected the changes in rural family order. In July 1945, the Manchukuo state promulgated the law of succession of relatives, which reformed the system of the male-dominated family and partially recognized the inheritance rights of women. The civil legislative opinion that affirmed the inheritance rights of women provided an important social background for the establishment of this law.

In short, social norms and colonial modernization (e.g., the development of modern industries) framed the ways Chinese women lived in Manchukuo. These women took the initiative to cope with their own issues pertaining to national awareness issues, women, and gender inequality. Together with colonial policies and colonial modernization Chinese women's responses shook the gender order in Manchukuo's society. We can see changes not only in the gender order through the female students' awareness of women's issues, but also through the separation of tenants in the rural families and property inheritance by women in Manchukuo.