

Research Summary

This project began in March 2006, after approval by the Foundation. Taking text analysis and literature study as main method, the researcher spent much time in collecting and analyzing the need materials from Library of Nanjing University and Nanjing Library. In addition, the researcher has also made research visits to public and university libraries in other cities for further materials : (1)Beijing: National Library of China, Library of Peking University, from April 30 to May 11, 2006; (2) Shanghai: Shanghai Library, Library of Fudan University, from July 21 to July 31, 2006; (3) Beijing: National Library of China, Library of Peking University, from October 2 to October 13, 2006. To economize the expenditure, the researcher has taken train or bus instead of airplane during all these trips.

One task of the researcher is to deep re-read the book of *chou hai tu bian* (籌海圖編), the most important source for this research project. Under what context had it been compiled? What is the background of the author? What sources had he drawn on? What is the main point of this book? How has it been valued and accepted by contemporary and later people? Based on close examination into these questions, it is found that this book is much than a typical writing on coastal defense. Actually it is the earliest incarnation of anti-“Wako” discourse in traditional China. It recorded in details how the “Wako” had greatly threatened China and been defeated finally, and provided for later generations of much experience in words as well as maps about how to keep the “Wako” from assaulting coastal China. As the result of “Wako” issue in mid-16th century, this book had often been a standard point of reference for Chinese intellectual’s memory and discourse of “Wako” in traditional China.

Another task in this project is to compare the book of *chou hai tu bian* with subsequent books on coastal defense compiled from late 16th to mid-19th century. The researcher has examined another twelve books of this kind. It is found that all these books had followed the same framework, perspectives and much details as *chou hai tu bian*, regarded Japan as imaginary enemy of China, and taken much consideration on how to keep “Wako” out of Chinese coastal areas. That is to say, generations of Chinese scholar-bureaucrat had in three centuries continuously “inherited” the discourse of anti-“Wako” initiated by *chou hai tu bian*, and paid too much attention to “Wako” while ignoring commercialism colonists from Europe which had increasingly become real rival of China in this period. It is a pity to find that this kind of anti-“Wako” discourse had misled Chinese understanding of seapower competition in East Asia from late 16th century until to the eve of Opium War.

Based on this research work, two articles have been completed as final results of this project. One is titled “Historical Memory of ‘Wako’ and the Evolution of Chinese Understanding of Seapower”, which has been published in *Jianghai Academic Journal*, a renowned journal with public influence in China. Another is titled “History and Memory: Re-reading of *chou hai tu bian*”, which is now in the process of peer review for publication.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)
Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.) Li Gongzhong and Li Xia, “Historical Memory of ‘Wako’ and the Evolution of Chinese Understanding of Seapower” From <i>chou hai tu bian</i> to <i>yang fang ji yao</i> ”, in <i>Jianghai Academic Journal</i> , No.3,2007.pp150-155 Li Gongzhong , “History and Memory: Re-reading of <i>chou hai tu bian</i> ”,forthcoming
Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)