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Gaihōzu and my research works on traditional markets in India and China works

During 1980s I conducted research works on historical and economic geography of traditional markets in Indian Subcontinent. At that time three types of topographical maps were available as base maps for the research work. First ones are 1:50,000 contemporary topographical maps published by Indian Government. They are sold in India but forbidden to take out abroad. Moreover many maps are not sold because of military reasons. Second ones are 1:50,000 gaihōzu maps. Their photocopies are available inexpensively at some universities and libraries in Japan. But 1:50,000 gaihōzu maps were produced only for East part of the sub-continent. Third ones are so called One Inch Maps (1:63,600 maps) produced by British Colonial Government. They are available through photocopy service at British Library; excellent but expensive service. I prepared photocopies of gaihōzu maps in Japan and contemporary maps in India, and ordered the ones unavailable in both countries from British Library.

One Inch Maps were produced in 1910s, 1920s or 1930s, the gaihōzu maps were reproduced from them in 1942, and the contemporary maps were reproduced from One Inch Maps with some revision in 1950s, 1960s or 1970s. All of these maps contain the information of market site and market day. They were very useful for historical analysis of the markets. Moreover all of the maps were useful even for contemporary field works, for the change of landscape has been relatively small in the subcontinent in these years.

Since 1970s, on the other hand, I have been engaged in research works on historical and economic geography of traditional markets in China. When I wanted to analyze historical development of traditional markets in North China, three kinds of 1:100,000 maps were available. First ones are "Tentative North China 1:100,000" gaihōzu maps. They were surveyed from 1904 till 1920s by simple method as secret surveying. So direction, settlement pattern, place name etc. on these maps are sometimes not correct, although their style looks to be sophisticated. Second ones are 1:100,000 maps surveyed by Min-kuo Government Army. They were surveyed by ordinary method. So distance, direction, etc. are correct and many place names are contained, although their style looks to be unsophisticated. Third ones are "North China 1:100,000" gaihōzu maps. They were produced in 1930s being revised mainly by Min-kuo Government Army maps which were caught through military actions and partially by aerial photographs which Japanese military forces began to take since 1928. These maps are therefore usually correct of direction, distance, settlement pattern and place name.

I adopted second type and third type ones as base maps for analysis of markets using local gazetteers from Ming, Ching and Min-kuo eras. They were useful for such historical analysis, but not useful for fieldworks on contemporary markets, for every thing (landscape, place name, administration boundary etc.) have changed very much there because of the revolution and recent economic growth. Contemporary 1:50,000 topographical maps however are not accessible for us foreigners.

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