

Campaigns, Bureaucracy, and Theatre in State Making from Above: Regime Consolidation in Taiwan, 1949-1954

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Abstract

This paper will revisit some of my older work on continuity and change across the divide of 1949 for the ROC/Taiwan, but concentrate particularly on what I call the “two modalities” of state building on the two sides of the Taiwan Straits in the early 1950s: campaign intensification and bureaucratic rule making, procedure and hierarchy. The case studies I will draw on will include the “White Terror” (白色恐怖) of the early 1950s and land reform from the “375” Rent Reduction to the “Land to the Tiller” programs. Throughout the paper I will juxtapose the experiences and choices of the GMD in Taiwan with the CCP in the People’s Republic, while retaining the primary focus on Taiwan.