Abstract

This is a comprehensive study of the Chinese Consul-general Diao Zuo Qian (Tiao Tso-chien, 刁作谦)’s activities in Singapore and Malaya, 1933-1936. Much information for this study has been collected from Sin Chew Jit Poh and Nanyang Siang Pau to examine the activities of Diao Zuo Qian, the influence of Diao on the local Chinese society, the local Chinese’s response to his contributions and maybe to deduce any change of their attitude towards China’s Kuomintang (KMT) Government.

The first part of the thesis is a study of historical background, mainly introduces Diao’s background and its possible influence on his work in Singapore and Malaya, and then discusses the response of local community towards Diao’s appointment as Chinese Consul-general in Singapore. The second part of the thesis is the main body of this study which discusses Diao’s activities in Singapore and Malaya, then finds out Diao’s way of doing his job in the complicated relationship among the British colonial government, the KMT government and the local Chinese community. Finally, there is a discussion about Diao’s interaction with local Chinese. Issues to be discussed include how Diao influenced the local Chinese community, how the local Chinese reacted to his activities in Singapore and Malaya and how it affected the change of local Chinese attitude towards the KMT Government.