

FEATURE

Editor's Note: This is an interesting article found online from 1972! It was posted by Bevin Chu on April 9, 2007 @ <http://thechinadesk.wordpress.com/2007/04/09/a-japanese-historians-view-of-the-diaoyutai-islands/>

“What follows is a scholarly analysis of the Diaoyutai Islands dispute by Professor Kiyoshi Inoue of the Department of History at Kyoto University, Japan. Japanese historians and cartographers know full well that the Diaoyutai Islands belong to China.

Kiyoshi Inoue agrees with the prevailing international perspective, shared by the United Nations, which considers the PRC government in Beijing the legal government of China.”

—Bevin Chu

A Japanese Historian's View of the Diaoyutai Islands

by Kiyoshi Inoue

February 1972

Predicated on the Japanese people's opposition to militarism, one should reject the name Senkaku Islands, which was adopted by Japanese militarists after seizing them from China. One should use the only correct historical name, Tiaoyu (Diaoyutai) Island.

- Kiyoshi Inoue, Japanese historian

The islands being referred to in Japan as the Senkaku Islands, and to which the Japanese Government claims title, have historically been China's territory. As the victor in the 1894-95 war with Ching Dynasty China, Japan seized these islands, along with Taiwan and the Penghu Islands, and incorporated them into Okinawa Prefecture as Japanese territory. The Cairo Declaration, issued jointly by China, the United States and Britain during World War II, stipulates the return to China of all territories Japan had stolen from China during and after the Japan-Ching war, including Taiwan and Manchuria. The Potsdam Proclamation issued by the allies stipulates that Japan must carry out the conditions

of the Cairo Declaration. These islands automatically reverted to China as its territory, just as Taiwan automatically reverted to China when Japan unconditionally accepted the Cairo Declaration and the Potsdam Proclamation and surrendered to the allies, including China. It follows that these islands are the territory of the People's Republic of China, the sole authority over the whole of China.

But in collusion with U.S. imperialists, reactionary rulers and militarist forces within Japan are clamoring that the Senkaku Islands are Japanese territory, attempting to drag the Japanese people into a militarist, anti-China whirlwind. This whirlwind is certain to become fiercer after US armed forces return the so-called “administrative right over Okinawa” to Japan on May 15 of this year. We who are striving for the independence of the Japanese nation, for friendship between Japan and China, and for peace in Asia, must smash this conspiracy by U.S. and Japanese reactionaries. As a weapon in this struggle, I am providing a brief account of the history of the so-called Senkaku Islands. For a more detailed and specialized account of my research, please refer to my article published in the February 1972 issue of Historical Research magazine.

The so-called Senkaku Islands were recorded in Chinese documents in the middle of the 16th century at the latest, under the names of Tiaoyu

Island (Diaoyu Island, Diaoyu Tai), Huangwei Yu, etc. (Yu means islet). In 1532, when the emperor of the Ming Dynasty of China bestowed the title King Chungshan of Ryukyu on Shang Ching, then ruler of Ryukyu, his envoy Chen Kan traveled between Foochow and Naha. According to the Records of the Imperial Mission to Ryukyu, Chen Kan's ship set sail from the mouth of the Minkiang River on the 8th of the 5th moon, 1532, on a south-southwest course towards Keelung, Taiwan. (According to the preface of Chen Kan's Records of the Imperial Mission to Ryukyu, his trip to Ryukyu was made in the 13th year of China Ching, i.e. 1534. – Ed.) The ship turned eastward veering slightly to the north in the waters off Taiwan and passed by Tiaoyu Island

(Diaoyutai) on the 10th of the 5th moon. He wrote in his diary : On the 10th, the ship sailed swiftly with a strong south wind ... the Pingchia Hill (now called Pengchia), Tiaoyu Yu (now called Diaoyutai), Huangmao Yu (now called Huangwei Yu) and Chih Yu (now called Chihwei Yu) were left behind ... On the evening of the 11th, the Kumi Hill (now called Kume Island) was in sight. It belongs to Ryukyu. The aborigines (Ryukyu people) on board were elated, happy to be home."...

finish this article at: <http://thechinadesk.wordpress.com/2007/04/09/ajapanese-historians-view-of-the-diaoyutaislands/>

Kiyoshi Inoue

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Kiyoshi Inoue, December 19, 1913 - November 23, 2001) was a Japanese academic, historian, author and professor emeritus of the Kyoto University. He was considered a specialist in modern Japanese history. He was also known as a "progressive historian" and a "Marxist historian."

EARLY LIFE

Inoue was born in Kochi Prefecture. He studied at the University of Tokyo; and his doctoral thesis was "The History of Modern Reform." He was awarded his Ph.D. in 1936.

CAREER

In 1954, Inoue joined the faculty of the University of Kyoto as an Associate Professor at the Institute of Humanities. In 1961, he was named a professor. He continued as a member of the Kyoto faculty until his retirement in 1977.

In his later years, he worked to expand the number of academic exchanges between Japan and China, and led a movement seeking solidarity with Asian nations.

INOUE'S VIEWS

Inoue had published a book criticizing the Emperor system; and he continued to be critical of the Japanese emperor throughout his life. In a range of topics, his work was often viewed as controversial due to his active protests and lawsuits against the Japanese government. During the Japanese students' riots in 1969, Professor Inoue openly supported the students who were demanding the scrapping of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty.

Inoue was also very critical of "Japanese militarism" in the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands dispute with China, and had written a number of books on the subject.

SELECTED WORKS

In a statistical overview derived from writings by and about Kiyoshi Inoue, OCLC/WorldCat encompasses roughly 100+ works in 200+ publications in 6 languages and 1,000+ library holdings.

This is an incomplete list, which may never be able to satisfy particular standards for completeness. You can help by expanding it with reliably sourced entries.