

Great–War Veterans and Postwar Veterans’ Compensation in 1930s America : An Analysis of the Legislative Process of the Adjusted Compensation Payment Act of 1936

Shoji NAKAMURA

This paper examines the legislative process of the Adjusted Compensation Payment Act of 1936. It first clarifies that Depression–era farmers and currency expansionists regarded veterans’ compensation as a stimulus for economic recovery and a tool to achieve radical reform of the US banking system. It goes on to demonstrate how World War I veterans justified immediate payment of the adjusted compensation certificates from the perspective of opposition to war profiteering. Supported by representatives who worried about the withdrawal of currency from depressed agricultural areas, the adjusted compensation payment was enacted by Congress not only as veterans’ compensation but also as a form of “economic policy.”

Relief for Widows in Postwar Japan : The Role of the Public Assistance Act and the Widows’ Association

Erika IGARASHI

This paper focuses on the Public Assistance Act, the cornerstone of postwar social security, and the role of the Widows’ Association (*Mibojin–kai*) established to support widows. The aim of the paper is to clarify how the distress of widows was addressed. First, the Act encouraged widows to receive assistance from their relatives, whereas men were encouraged to work. Second, the Association provided administrative and widow–to–widow networking for widows who had few personal relationships. This suggests that the Public Assistance Act was able to become a multilayered relief structure for widows, which served as a backup for the financial security offered by the marital family (“*ie*”). Later, the women ineligible for the Act would contribute to the mother–child welfare movement as part of their quest for mid–to–long term support.

Small Family Businesses in the Retail Industry and the Role of Owners’ Wives in Postwar Japan from the Late 1950s to the Early 1980s

Yanying LIN

This paper examines the management practices of small retailers and the role of owners’ wives from the late 1950s to the early 1980s. The increased number of very small retailers during this period was due not only to a favorable market environment, but also to the participation of family members as workers. Owners’ wives were tasked both with family business duties and with housework and childcare at the same time, which could become too burdensome. The use of owners’ wives as an employment model declined following a period of low economic growth and with the expansion of women’s employment opportunities and the greater willingness of a new generation of women to enter the labor market. Combined with succession problems, this may have led to the decline in the number of small retailers from the mid–1980s on.

Soy–Sauce Brewers and the Local Community in Modern Japan : The Case of the Kataguchi Family in Kosugi, Toyama Prefecture

Satoru NAKANISHI

This research examines how influential regional elites changed their relationships with their local communities in the transition from the early modern to the modern period. The Kataguchi family in Kosugi Town (Imizu County, Toyama Prefecture) actively acquired cultivated land in the late 1870s and expanded its soy–sauce brewing operations in the 1890s. However, with the local improvement movement of the post–Russo–Japanese War years, the Kataguchi family came to bear greater and greater community responsibilities, including a large portion of the town’s tax burden. The Kataguchi’s management orientation therefore changed greatly in the early 20th century from that of a family business to that of a regional entity.