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OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

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**THE SYSTEM OF TAXATION IN CHINA
IN THE TSING DYNASTY, 1644-1911**

BY

SHAO-KWAN CHEN, Ph.D.



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**THE FACULTY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE OF
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To the
MEMORY OF MY FATHER
MR. BING-CHANG CHEN
WHO DIED IN 1913 WHEN I
WAS STUDYING IN THE
UNITED STATES

PREFACE

THE several Chinese standard works on the institutions of the *Tsing* Dynasty, 1644-1911, give us simply historical descriptions of taxation and there seems to be room for a scientific treatise, not too detailed in historical facts of similar nature or in local variations of insignificance, designed for both Occidental and Oriental readers wishing a general survey of our taxation system as it survives to-day. The present work is an attempt to generalize logically the facts connected with taxation in the *Tsing* Dynasty and to interpret their causes and effects scientifically. It includes those taxes of considerable importance which are universally imposed in all the provinces. It is not worth while to discuss those taxes which have not developed into the typical systems of the *Tsing* Dynasty either due to their insignificant yield or due to the fact that they are merely provincial special taxes which have been created during the last two decades of financial chaos, and subject only to the temporary regulations of the respective provinces. On the other hand, the discussion of the political organization is absolutely necessary to a clear conception of the system. Consequently, we have to treat the government of the *Tsing* Dynasty and its expenditures and revenues. In connection with this treatment, the same plan of generalization and interpretation is followed.

As to the sources of information, the facts have been selected chiefly from the two standard works published by the government, *viz.*, the *Institutes of the Tsing Dynasty*, and the *Amendments of the Institutes of the Tsing Dynasty*.

The facts have been chosen as carefully as possible and arranged systematically according to my plan. In the main, the work of generalization and interpretation is based upon personal knowledge and observation. In this way, it is hoped that the present work will fulfil the object of rendering service to the readers. But it must be frankly admitted that this work is by no means satisfactory from the statistical standpoint, but this is because nobody can solve the mystery of the financial conditions in all the provinces of China owing to the inefficiency of the financial control.¹

My chief obligations in connection with this book are to Professor E. R. A. Seligman, for the sincere inspiration and the valuable supervision of the whole work, and to Mr. R. M. Haig for his valuable review of the manuscript, his numerous suggestions and his reading of the proof.

SHAO-KWAN CHEN.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, MARCH 26, 1914.

¹ Cf. *infra*, pp. 106-107.

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APPENDIX A

THE units of measure and weight of the Chinese system, used in this work, may be expressed in terms of those of the metric system as follows:

One *mou* is equal to $6\frac{144}{10000}$ ares.

One *sinc* is equal to $1\frac{365}{10000}$ litres.

One *catty* is equal to $596\frac{816}{10000}$ grammes.

One *tael* is equal to $37\frac{801}{10000}$ grammes.

APPENDIX B

THE CONSUMING TERRITORY ¹ OF THE CHI-LI SALT

Province	Number of prefectures in the province		Number of direct districts in the province		Names and location of the prefectures and direct districts with or without the Chi-li salt	
	Total ²	With Chi-li salt	Total ²	With Chi-li salt	Names ³	Location
Chi-li ⁴ ..	11	9	10	6	Cheng-ta Fu (without) Chao-yang Fu (without) Tsi-feng Chow (without) Chang-tsa-kau Ting (without) Tu-shi-kau Ting (without) Ta-lun-nor Ting (without)	North of the Great Wall " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "
Ho-nan ⁵	9	5	5	2	Chang-ta Fu (with) Wei-fay Fu (with) Hwai-ching Fu (with) Kai-feng Fu (with) Chen-chow Fu (with) Shü Chow (with) Chen Chow (with)	North of the Yellow River " " " " " " Eastern Ho-nan " " " " " "

¹ For markets of different salt-producing provinces see *Amendments of the Institutes of the Tsing Dynasty*, chaps. ccxxi-ccxxix.

² The total number of prefectures and direct districts in this and the following tables is taken from *Geography of the Chinese Empire* (Shanghai, 1911), by Professor Tu Chi of the Imperial University of Peking.

³ When the names of places without the *Chi-li salt* are given it is

THE CONSUMING TERRITORY OF THE SHAN-TUNG SALT

Province	Number of prefectures in the province		Number of direct districts in the province		Names and location of the prefectures and direct districts with the Shan-tung salt ¹	
	Total	With Shan-tung salt	Total	With Shan-tung salt	Names ²	Location
Shan-tung.	10	10	3	3	Shan-tung Province (with)	
Ho-nan...	9	1	5	..	Kwei-ta Fu.....	Northeastern corner of Ho-nan
Kiang-su ³ .	8	1	3	..	Shü-chow Fu.....	Northwestern corner of Kiang-su

understood that the other places are supplied with this salt, and *vice versa*.

⁴ All places outlying north of the Great Wall are supplied with the Mongolian salt.

⁵ *Siang-ching*, a subordinate district of *Shü Chow* is not the consumer of the *Chi-li* salt. *Wu-yang*, a subordinate district of *Nan-yang Fu* in southwestern *Ho-nan* is supplied with the *Chi-li* salt.

¹ *Su-chow*, a subordinate district of *Feng-yang Fu*, in *An-hwei* Province is near to *Shü-chow Fu* and supplied with the *Shan-tung* salt.

² When the names of places with the *Shan-tung* salt are given, it is understood that the other places are not supplied with this salt.

³ Three of the eight subordinate districts in *Shü-chow Fu* are not supplied with the *Shan-tung* salt.

THE CONSUMING TERRITORY OF THE SHAN-SI SALT

Province	Number of prefectures in the province		Number of direct districts in the province		Names and location of the prefectures and direct districts with or without the Shan-si salt	
	Total	With Shan-si salt	Total	With Shan-si salt	Names ¹	Location
Shan-si ²	9	7	10	10	Ta-tung Fu (without) Shau-ping Fu (without)	Surrounded by the Great Wall " "
Shen-si	7	3	5	3	Si-an Fu (with) Chien Chow (with) Pin Chow (with) Tung-an Fu (with) Shing-an Fu (with) Siang Chow (with)	Middle part of Shen-si " " " " " " Southern frontier of Shen-si Southeastern corner of Shen-si
Ho-nan ³	9	2	5	2	Ho-nan Fu (with) Shen Chow (with) Yü Chow (with) Nan-yang Fu (with)	South of the Yellow River & western part of Ho-nan " " " " " "

¹ When the names of places without the *Shan-si* salt are given, it is understood that the other places are supplied with this salt, and *vice versa*.

² According to the *Institutes of the Tsing Dynasty*, *Ta-tung Fu* and *Shau-ping Fu* are markets of the *Shan-si* salt.

³ *Siang-ching*, a subordinate district of *Shü Chow* in *Ho-nan* Province is supplied with the *Shan-si* salt. Cf. *supra*, p. 110, note 5.

THE CONSUMING TERRITORY OF THE SHEN-SI OR KAN-SU SALT

Province	Number of prefectures in the province		Number of direct districts in the province		Names and location of the prefectures and direct districts, with the Shen-si or Kan-su salt	
	Total	With Shen-si or Kan-su salt	Total	With Shen-si or Kan-su salt	Names ¹	Location
Shen-si ²	7	2 (Shen-si) 1 (Kan-su)	5	1 (Shen-si)	Han-chung Fu. (Shen-si) Yen-an Fu (Shen-si) Lu Chow..... (Shen-si) Fung-tsiang Fu. (Kan-su)	Southwestern corner of Shen-si Middle section of northern corner of Shen-si Northern corner of Shen-si Western corner of Shen-si
Kan-su ³	8	5 (Kan-su)	6	2 (Kan-su)	Ping-liang Fu* (Kan-su) Ching-Yang Fu* (Kan-su) Ning-sha Fu*.. (Kan-su) Lan-chow Fu† (Kan-su) Gung-chang Fu† (Kan-su) Chin Chow † .. (Kan-su) Tsia Chow † ... (Kan-su)	Eastern corner of Kan-su " " Northern corner of Kan-su Northwestern part of the interior of Kan-su Southern part of Kan-su " " Southern corner of Kan-su

¹ Those places in *Shen-si* and *Kan-su*, whose names are not given here are supplied with the Mongolian salt.

² The *Shen-si* salt is derived from the Large Piebald-Horse Lake in *Ting-bien Hsien*, a subordinate district of *Yen-an Fu*. *Ching-tsiên Hsien*, a district northeast of *Yen-an Fu* also takes the *Shen-si* salt.

³ There are two kinds of salt in *Kan-su*, one being lake salt from the Small Piebald-Horse Lake in *Ling-chow*, a subordinate district of *Ning-sha Fu*, another being well salt from salt wells in *Chang Hsien* (now a part of *Lung-si Hsien*) and *Si-ho Hsien*, which are subordinate districts of *Gung-chang Fu*. Those places marked with (*) are supplied with lake salt, while the others indicated by (†), with well salt.

THE CONSUMING TERRITORY OF THE KIANG-SU SALT

Province	Number of prefectures in the province		Number of direct districts in the province		Names and location of the prefectures with or without the Kiang-su salt	
	Total	With Kiang-su salt	Total	With Kiang-su salt	Names ¹	Location
Kiang-su ²	8	4	3	2	Kiang-ning Fu (with) Hwai-an Fu (with) Yang-chow Fu (with) Tung Chow (with) Hai Chow (with) Shü-chow Fu (with)	Southwestern Kiang-su North of the Yang-tze River " " " " " " " "
An-hwei ..	8	7	5	4	Hwei-chow Fu (without) Kwang-ta Chow (without)	Southeastern frontier of An-hwei Eastern frontier of An-hwei
Hu-peh ³ ..	10	9	1	1	Sze-nan Fu (without)	Southwestern corner of Hu-peh
Hu-nan ...	9	9	4	2	Pin Chow (without) Kwei-yang Chow (without)	Southeastern frontier of Hu-nan " "
Kiang-si ..	13	10	1		Kwang-sin Fu (without) Nan-an Fu (without) Gung-chow Fu (without) Ning-tu Chow (without)	Northeastern corner of Kiang-si Southern Kiang-si " " " "
Ho-nan ...	9	9	5	1	Yü-ning Fu (with) Kwang Chow (with)	Southern frontier of Ho-nan Southeastern corner of Ho-nan
Kwei-chow.	12	4	1		Tung-yin Fu (with) Sze-chow Fu (with) Chin-yuen Fu (with) Li-ping Fu (with)	Eastern frontier of Kwei-chow " " " " " "

¹ When the names of places with the *Kiang-su* salt are given, it is

THE CONSUMING TERRITORY OF THE CHE-KIANG SALT

Province	Number of prefectures in the province		Number of direct districts in the province		Names and locations of the prefectures and direct districts with the Che-kiang salt	
	Total	With Che-kiang salt	Total	With Che-kiang salt	Names	Location
Che-kiang. Kiang-su ..	11 8	11 4	.... 3	.... 1	Che-kiang Province Soo-chow Fu. Sung-kiang Fu. . . . Shiang-chow Fu. . . . Chin-kiang Fu. . . . Tai-chwang Chow.	South of the Yang-tze River " " " " " " " "
An-hwei ..	8	1	5	1	Hwei-chow Fu. . . Kwang-ta Chow ..	South corner of An-hwei East corner of An-hwei
Kiang-si ..	13	1	1		Kwang-sin Fu. . . .	Northeastern corner of Kiang-si

understood that the other places are not the markets of this salt, and *vice versa*.

² *Shü-chow Fu* represents only three of its subordinate districts, namely, *Pi-chow*, *Su-chien* and *Tsui-ning*. Cf. *supra*, p. 110, note 3.

³ *Hoc-feng chow* and *Chang-lau-hsien*, two districts near to *Sze-nan Fu* are not the *Kiang-su* salt markets.

THE CONSUMING TERRITORY OF THE SZE-CHUEN SALT

Province	Number of prefectures in the province		Number of direct districts in the province		Names and location of the prefectures and direct districts with or without the Sze-chuen salt	
	Total	With Sze-chuen salt	Total	With Sze-chuen salt	Names ¹	Location
Sze-chuen	12	12	8	8	Sze-chuen Province (with)	
Hu-peh ²	10	1	1		Sze-nan Fu (with)	Southwestern corner of Hu-peh
Yun-nan ³	14	2	3		Tung-chuen Fu (with)	Northeastern corner of Yun-nan
					Chao-tung Fu (with)	" "
Kwei-chow	12	8	1	1	Tung-yin Fu (without)	Eastern frontier of Kwei-chow
					Sze-chow Fu (without)	" "
					Chin-yuen Fu (without)	" "
					Li-ping Fu (without)	" "

¹ When the names of places with the *Sze-chuen* salt are given, it is understood that the other places have not this salt, and *vice versa*.

² *Hoc-feng-chow* and *Chang-lau-hsien*, two districts near to *Sze-nan Fu* are also supplied with the *Sze-chuen* salt.

³ *Tsien-yih-chow*, *Nan-ning-hsien* and *Ping-yi-hsien*, three districts south of *Tung-chuen Fu* are also supplied with the *Sze-chuen* salt.

THE CONSUMING TERRITORY OF THE KWANG-TUNG SALT

Province	Number of prefectures in the province		Number of direct districts in the province		Names and location of prefectures and direct districts with the Kwang-tung salt	
	Total	With Kwang-tung salt	Total	With Kwang-tung salt	Names ¹	Location
Kwang-tung.	9	9	7	7	Kwang-tung Province	
Kwang-si ...	11	11	2	2	Kwang-si Province	
Kiang-si	13	2	1	1	Nan-an Fu	Southern Kiang-si
					Gung-chow Fu ...	" "
					Ning-tu Chow ...	" "
Fu-kien	9	1	2	....	Ting-chow Fu....	Western frontier of Fu-kien
Hu-nan	9	....	4	2	Pin Chow	Southeastern frontier of Hu-nan
					Kwei-yang Chow	" "
Yun-nan	14	2	3	....	Kwang-nan Fu ..	Southeastern corner of Yun-nan
					Kai-hwa Fu	" "

¹ *Ku-chow-ting*, a subordinate district of *Li-ping Fu*, eastern frontier of *Kwei-chow* Province is also supplied with *Kwang-tung* salt.

THE CONSUMING TERRITORY OF THE FU-KIEN OR YUN-NAN SALT

Province	Number of prefectures in the province		Number of direct districts in the province		Names and location of prefectures and direct districts without the Fu-kien or Yun-nan salt	
	Total	With Fu-kien or Yun-nan salt	Total	With Fu-kien or Yun-nan salt	Names	Location
Fu-kien.	9	8 (Fu-kien)	2	2 (Fu-kien)	Ting-chow Fu † (Fu-kien)	Western frontier of Fu-kien
Yun-nan	14	10 (Yun-nan)	3	3 (Yun-nan)	Kwang-nan Fu † (Yun-nan) Kai-hwa Fu † (Yun-nan) Tung-chuen Fu* (Yun-nan) Chao-tung Fu* (Yun-nan)	Southeastern corner of Yun-nan " " " " Northeastern corner of Yun-nan " " " "

¹ Those prefectures marked with (†) are the *Kwang-tung* salt markets. Those indicated by (*), together with three neighbor districts, are supplied with the *Sze-chuen* salt. Cf. *supra*, p. 115, note 3.

A LIST OF SELECTED REFERENCES IN CHINESE

- Institutes of the Tsing Dynasty* (Shanghai; 5th ed., 1909)—Called, in Chinese, *Ta Tsing Hui Tien* and edited by a board of editors appointed by the government.
- Amendments of the Institutes of the Tsing Dynasty* (Shanghai; 5th ed., 1909)—Called, in Chinese, *Ta Tsing Hui Tien Shih Li* and edited by a board of editors appointed by the government.
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- Essays on the Institutions of the Tsing Dynasty* (Shanghai, 1901)—Comprises a number of essays written by Mr. Wang Ching-Yun, sometime president of the Department of Public Works. This work is called, in Chinese, *Shi Chao Tsi Tseng*.
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