

Comparative Analysis of Taiwan Population Trends with Japan before World War II

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Taiwan was under the reign of Governor-General of Taiwan from 1895 to 1945. The population of Taiwan during this period increased, especially since 1920. The average annual population growth rate was higher than that of Japan. The main factor of Taiwan population increase was the natural increase which is the difference between births and deaths rather than social increase. Comparing the trend of birth and death rate since the early 1920s, it is shown that the death rate declined both in Taiwan and Japan whereas the birth rate increased or stagnated in Taiwan and declined in Japan, which created the wider gap of birth rate between Taiwan and Japan. The birth rate decomposition analysis revealed that the higher marriage rate, followed by the marital fertility rate of Taiwanese women contributed most to the higher birth rate. With regard to the socio-economic factors, both countries experienced the similar trend such as increasing labour participation of women, better hygiene and urbanization but their effect on birth rate was opposite, which contributed to the gap expansion between Taiwan and Japan.