

## Network Relations of the Taiwan Development Company Limited (1936-1945)

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### ABSTRACT

Established in 1936, the Taiwan Development Company Limited (TDCL) had its headquarters located in Taipei with branches in major South East Asian cities. During the Second World War, the TDCL served as an instrument of the Taiwan Government-General (Taiwan Sōtokufu) in its imperial expansion and economic control of the colonized territories. The TDCL had investments in numerous areas, including forestry and agriculture, fishery, real estate, mining, construction, transportation and commerce. With an initial capital of 30 million yuan, the TDCL succeeded in multiplying its wealth such that when the war ended in August 1945, its financial assets exceeded 135 million yuan. How the TDCL managed to increase its assets several folds in less than a decade merits further investigation. On the basis of the large archive of documents left behind by the TDCL, this article provides a factual analysis of the educational qualifications, working experience and social background of the management level of the TDCL from the perspective of the interpersonal relationship and behavior of enterprises. Moreover, the social activities organized by the TDCL and its methods of networking, as well as how the Japanese government made use of national resources to aid and control the TDCL are also discussed.

**Keywords:** The Taiwan Development Company Limited, Taiwan Government-General (Taiwan Sōtokufu), interpersonal relationship, terms of contract, imperialism.