

The Rise and Development of Jilin Tobacco Industry in Modern Times (1885-1931)

Wenfa Li

School of History and Culture, Jilin Normal University, Siping, 136000, China

Abstract: *Influenced by many factors, Jilin's tobacco industry began to rise gradually in the late Qing Dynasty. In the late Qing Dynasty, the tobacco industry in Jilin was mainly built by foreign businessmen, and the number of tobacco industries was not large and the geographical distribution was not extensive. After the establishment of the Republic of China, Jilin's tobacco industry entered a period of rapid and prosperous development. On the one hand, the quantity and scale of tobacco industry were more and larger than that in the late Qing Dynasty. On the other hand, the tobacco industry has emerged in various parts of the province, and the geographical distribution is more extensive. In addition, during this period, the national tobacco industry began to rise gradually and occupy a place in Jilin tobacco market, breaking the monopoly situation of foreign tobacco enterprises in the past. In this process, market, transportation, population and raw materials were the main reasons for the rise and development of Jilin's tobacco industry in modern times.*

Keywords: *Modern times; Jilin; Tobacco industry; Rise and development; Reasons*

1. Introduction

It has been three or four hundred years since tobacco was introduced to the Northeast China in the late Ming and early Qing Dynasties. It is generally believed that tobacco was introduced to Jilin province by Han Chinese farmers from Zhili and Shandong province during the Shunzhi period of the Qing Dynasty, and was planted in Jiaohe, Huadian and other places. Carefully cultivated by local farmers, the tobacco produced in Jilin province is famous far and wide. The tobacco produced in the eastern mountainous area is of high quality and has excellent taste, so it has become a treasure offered as tribute to the royal family. In the late Qing Dynasty, affected by various factors such as transportation, market, and tobacco policy, the tobacco industry in Jilin province began to rise. After the founding of the Republic of China, Jilin's tobacco industry entered a period of rapid and prosperous development. Jilin's tobacco industry is far superior to that of the late Qing Dynasty not only in terms of quantity but also in scale. After the fall of Northeast China in 1931, Japanese imperialism controlled the acquisition and sales of tobacco in Jilin, and the entire tobacco industry in Jilin was under its control. Affected by this, Jilin's tobacco planting has shrunk day by day, and the tobacco industry has gradually declined. It was not until after the liberation of Jilin Province that this situation changed.

At present, there are few academic studies on tobacco in modern Jilin, and they mainly discuss the tobacco in the entire Northeast region, and no one has conducted special research on it. In view of this, the author will not make any assumptions and intends to sort out the development process of Jilin tobacco industry during this period, in order to show the rise and changes of Jilin tobacco industry in modern times and reveal the reasons for its rise.

2. The Rise of Jilin Tobacco Industry in Modern Times

In the late Qing Dynasty, Jilin tobacco industry began to rise gradually under the influence of many factors. Jilin's tobacco industry first appeared in the form of tobacco handicraft workshops. Generally, tobacco shops were opened along the street, with the front shop and the back factory. The shop members were all relatives and rarely hired outsiders. In 1885, a manual workshop specializing in the production of shredded tobacco was opened in Toudao Street of the old city of Changchun, named "Si Shi Chun Tobacco", which was the prototype of Jilin cigarette industry. With the deepening of imperialist aggression, the demarcation of railway attachments and the opening of a large number of commercial ports, imperialist capital gradually invaded Jilin's tobacco market. Britain, the United States, Japan, Russia and other countries competed with each other and launched a crazy "tobacco war" on the land of

Jilin. British American Tobacco Company and East Asia Tobacco Co., Ltd. set up offices and consignment stores successively in Changchun, Jilin provincial capital and Harbin to compete for the tobacco market with fierce competition.

In 1896, the East Asia Tobacco Co., Ltd. took the lead in setting up an office in Changchun to seize the tobacco market. In 1904, after British American Tobacco Company expanded its business to northeast China, it set up 18 cigarette shops in Changchun successively, selling 25 kinds of cigarettes. In 1908, Japanese businessman Minami Shingo established a cigarette branch factory of East Asia Tobacco Co., Ltd. in Changchun North Street, employing women and children to engage in cigarette manufacturing. In 1909, Japan's East Asia Tobacco Co., Ltd. set up three offices and 10 special sales stores in Changchun, forming a confrontation with the British American Tobacco Company. In addition, in order to compete for the tobacco market, East Asia Tobacco Co., Ltd. greatly reduced the price of cigarettes, and even sold them in the Changchun market at a price several times lower than the domestic market, thereby crowding out and replacing British American Tobacco's position in the Changchun market.^[1]

Jilin, as the distribution market for Jilin tobacco, is naturally also the focus of competition among the great powers. After the Russo-Japanese War, Japan obtained all Russia's rights and interests in the southern part of Northeast China through the "Portsmouth Peace Treaty" signed with Russia. Relying on its political power, Japan's economic power aggressively invaded the Jilin market after the war and almost occupied the entire Jilin tobacco market. Not to be outdone, British American Tobacco set up five sales offices in Jilin to compete with Japan for the tobacco market. Not only that, British American Tobacco has also set up a large number of special stores and wholesale stores in Jilin, Changchun, Harbin and other places to promote its cigarette products. By 1909, there were 33 tobacco retail stores in Jilin, with more than 140 employees.^[1]

The late Qing Dynasty was not only the period of the rise of Jilin's tobacco industry, but also the period of the rise of the city of Harbin. With the construction of the Middle East Railway and the opening of commercial ports, a large amount of foreign goods poured into Harbin. During this period, the Harbin tobacco market was almost completely occupied by imperialist powers. At that time, the main tobacco companies in Harbin included Lopato Tobacco Company, Qiulin foreign firm Tobacco Factory, British American Tobacco Company and East Asia Tobacco Co., Ltd. Among them, the Lopato Tobacco Company was the largest and most powerful.

In addition to Jilin, Changchun, Harbin and other places, tobacco handicraft industry also appeared in Nong'an County during this period. In 1909, there were 20 tobacco shops in the form of tobacco handicraft workshops in Nong'an County.^[2] Generally speaking, because Jilin's tobacco industry was just emerging in the late Qing Dynasty, the geographical distribution of Jilin's tobacco industry during this period was not very widespread and only appeared in the above-mentioned cities. However, judging from the development situation, Jilin's tobacco industry developed very quickly during this period. Especially after entering the 20th century, it showed a trend of expanding to many places. This feature became more significant during the Republic of China.

3. The development and distribution changes of Jilin tobacco industry in modern times

After the founding of the Republic of China, Jilin's tobacco industry entered a period of rapid and prosperous development. In the late Qing Dynasty, the tobacco industry in Jilin, Changchun, Nong'an, Harbin and other places continued to develop during this period. The tobacco industry appeared in various parts of the province one after another, with a wider geographical distribution. The number and scale of the tobacco industry were larger than in the late Qing Dynasty. During this period, the national tobacco industry began to gradually emerge and occupied a place in Jilin's tobacco market, breaking the previous monopoly of foreign tobacco companies.

3.1 New developments of the tobacco industry in various places in the late Qing Dynasty

In November 1913, Jilin Provincial Craft Factory was established. The factory was located outside the gate of "Baerhu" in the provincial capital. The factory has a cigarette making department with 28 employees, which imitates Filipino-style rolling cigars. During this period, the number of tobacco shops engaged in tobacco handicraft industry in provincial capitals also increased rapidly. Around 1921, there were 18 tobacco shops in the capital of Jilin Province.^[3] In addition, there are three tobacco industries started by Japanese in provincial capitals.^[4]

In 1917, Japanese businessmen established a Donghua Tobacco Company in Dongxie Street,

Changchun. In 1920, Donghua Tobacco Company was annexed by China Tobacco Company, and the number of cigarette making machines increased to 25, capable of producing 600,000 cigarettes per day. The products are sold in Harbin and various parts of Siberia, and some are sold to Japan. During this period, there were 3 tobacco shops engaged in tobacco handicraft industry in Changchun^[3], 13 tobacco sales departments run by Chinese people, and 7 tobacco businesses run by foreigners^[4].

During the Republic of China, Nong'an County not only had many tobacco handicraft workshops, but also tobacco companies and factories established by foreigners. By 1919, there was one British-American-French Tobacco Company and one cigarette branch factory of Japan's East Asia Tobacco Co., Ltd. In addition, there are two tobacco agencies including Zengji British American Tobacco Agency and Yongdeyi Tobacco Agency.^[5]

The tobacco industry in Harbin experienced great changes during this period. After the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, some industries in Russia turned to the production of military supplies, and the import of tobacco to Harbin gradually decreased. At this time, the Lopato Tobacco Company faced a serious shortage of funds and raw materials. The British American Tobacco Company took the opportunity to quickly erode the original market of the Lopato Tobacco Company and to seize investment in Lopato. In 1914, the British American Tobacco Company negotiated with Lopato Tobacco Company on several occasions on the grounds of joint venture, and the two parties reached an agreement at the end of the year. Lopato converted fixed assets and products such as machinery, workshops into shares of 400,000 yuan, and British American Tobacco Company invested 600,000 yuan. Soon, the British American Tobacco Company increased its investment by 1 million yuan and took over 80% of the equity of Lopato and controlled it. After merging with Lopato, British American Tobacco occupied 70% tobacco market of the entire Northeast China.^[6]

In the early years of the Republic of China, the "boycott Japanese goods" movement swept across the country. Affected by this, the sales of East Asia Tobacco Company's cigarettes dropped sharply and once fell into a trough. Despite this, the East Asia Tobacco Company still occupied 25% market share of the Northeast tobacco market during this period and was a force that cannot be underestimated in Northeast China.^[1]

In addition to the foreign tobacco industry, there were many Chinese tobacco enterprises in Harbin. In 1918, the representative of the national tobacco industry, Nanyang Brother Tobacco Company, set up a branch in Harbin. Wang Jingyi was the head of the company in the region, responsible for establishing a sales network and promoting the company's cigarettes. In addition to the Nanyang Brother Tobacco Company, more than 20 Chinese-owned tobacco companies and factories have also set up semicolons in Harbin or entrusted other shops to sell their products.^[7]

3.2 The new emergence of tobacco industry in other regions during the Republic of China

Compared with the late Qing Dynasty, the geographical distribution of Jilin tobacco industry was more extensive in the Republic of China. According to incomplete statistics, in addition to Jilin, Changchun, Nong 'an, Harbin, Yitong, Shuangyang, Panshi, Mengjiang, Huadian, Emu, Shulan, Dunhua, Dehui, Hunchun, Fuyu, Shuangcheng, Wuchang, Muleng, Ning 'an and Ashi have also emerged tobacco industry. In 1920, there were 4 tobacco shops in Ning 'an and 3 tobacco shops in Ashi^[3], in 1921, there were 2 tobacco factories in Muling.^[8] In 1926, there were 9 tobacco shops in Shuangcheng. In 1931, there were 3 Chinese owned tobacco companies in Hunchun County. Fuyu, Wuchang, Dehui and other places have also appeared tobacco handicraft workshops.

In addition to tobacco shops, tobacco companies, widely distributed grocery stores sometimes also carry out the sale of tobacco. Unlike tobacco shops and tobacco factories, these shops only sell products and do not process tobacco, so they cannot be counted as tobacco industry. However, the significance of the existence of such grocery stores (shops), or their role in Jilin's tobacco industry during this period, is that they are widely distributed in urban and rural areas of Jilin like capillaries, and continuously transported paper cigarettes to various regions of Jilin, thus changing the past way of smoking and promoting the development of Jilin's tobacco industry.

4. Reasons for the rise of Jilin tobacco industry in modern times

4.1 The modernization of transportation

In the Qing Dynasty before modern times, the tobacco produced in Jilin was mainly paid tribute to

the royal family and smoked by farmers themselves, and the rest was exchanged on the market, so the tobacco flowing into the market was very small, and it was mainly circulated in Jilin Province, and rarely transported and sold outside the province. During this period, tobacco was mainly transported by horse-drawn carriages and rickshaws, and the mode of transportation was relatively backward. The construction of railway in modern times changed the trade status and transportation mode of Jilin's tobacco to a great extent, and Jilin's tobacco began to be included in the world market system, and was well known to the world.

According to a Japanese survey during the Republic of China, most of the tobacco produced in Jilin every year was sold to cities in other regions via railways, except for a small part that was consumed locally. From 1924 to 1928, the amount of tobacco transported by railway each year accounted for more than 60% of Jilin's total tobacco production that year. According to statistics from the Cargo Department of Jilin Station, tobacco transported from Jilin is mostly shipped to Liaoning, Tianjin, and Beijing. Among them, tobacco shipped to Changchun and Liaoning accounted for the most, accounting for 63%; followed by tobacco shipped to Yingkou, accounting for 12%; tobacco shipped to Dalian and Tianjin accounted for 5% respectively; tobacco shipped to Antung and Beijing accounted for 4% respectively; Shipping to other cities accounts for 7%. It can be seen that the amount of tobacco exported by Jilin every year is not only huge, but also imported into a wide range of regions.

The establishment of modern Northeast railway transportation network changed the backward mode of transportation in the past, and enabled Jilin's tobacco to be exported to other areas in large quantities through railway transportation, which greatly stimulated the development of tobacco planting and tobacco industry in Jilin. Therefore, the rise of modern Jilin tobacco industry was closely related to the construction of modern Northeast railway transportation.

4.2 Vast tobacco consumption market

The market is an important factor affecting the development of the tobacco industry. Generally speaking, it is easier for the tobacco industry to emerge and develop in areas with large demand for tobacco and broad consumer markets. Since tobacco was introduced to Jilin in the late Ming and early Qing dynasties, the custom of growing and smoking tobacco has long been formed.

Not only is smoking a common custom in Jilin, but the number of smokers is also very surprising. According to the survey of Japanese people in the Republic of China period, the proportion of smokers in Jilin and Dunhua is as high as 89.2% per thousand men and women, of which 14.4% are children over the age of 10 and under the age of 16, which shows that there are a large number of smokers in Jilin and the smoking atmosphere is prosperous. Such widespread smoking customs and huge smoking groups mean that Jilin has a large amount of tobacco demand and a broad tobacco market, which to a certain extent promoted the rise and development of the tobacco industry in Jilin in modern times.

4.3 Sufficient tobacco raw materials

The rise of Jilin tobacco industry in modern times is inseparable from the production of Jilin tobacco. Before 1926, the annual tobacco output of Jilin was more than 30 million jin, and since then the annual tobacco output has been more than 40 million jin, ranking first in the three northeastern provinces. So much tobacco production has provided sufficient tobacco raw materials for the rise and development of Jilin tobacco industry. In the late Qing Dynasty and early Republic of China, tobacco companies such as British American Tobacco Company, East Asia Tobacco Co., LTD., and Nanyang Brother Tobacco Company in Liaoning used a large number of Jilin tobacco leaves. However, because Jilin tobacco was not suitable as a raw material for machine-made cigarettes, the tobacco companies mixed Jilin tobacco leaves with American tobacco leaves in production. At that time, the middle and lower class cigarettes produced in Northeast China were mostly manufactured in this way, even the Russian-owned tobacco company that specialized in Russian tobacco manufacturing was no exception.

The Russian Tobacco Company in the Harbin area initially used tobacco shipped from Russia. In 1917, the Bolshevik Revolution broke out in Russia, and the import of tobacco produced in Russia was cut off, so after that, the Russian tobacco companies in Harbin area mostly used the local tobacco produced in Northeast China for cigarette manufacturing. From this point of view, Jilin tobacco not only provides sufficient raw materials for Jilin tobacco industry, but also supports the entire Northeast tobacco industry, and makes outstanding contributions to the development of modern Northeast tobacco industry.

4.4 Demographic factors in the tobacco industry

Since modern times, the population of Jilin Province has been in the process of continuous growth, especially in the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republic period, the large immigration and the increase of foreign immigrants in Northeast China, to a considerable extent, promoted the rise of modern Jilin tobacco industry.

The large increase in Jilin's population in modern times began with the official release of wasteland and the recruitment of people to cultivate land in Northeastern China in the late Qing Dynasty. In 1875, the total population of Jilin Province was 338,000. After the Qing government implemented the "immigration real border" policy, the number of people who moved into Jilin Province from Shanhai Pass increased rapidly.^[9] By 1907, the Qing government conducted a household registration survey. At that time, the total population of Jilin Province was 4,238,002.^[10] From 1875 to 1907, the total population of Jilin Province increased by 3.9 million.

In the early years of the Republic of China, the population growth rate of Jilin Province was relatively slow, but it continued to increase. By 1931, the population of Jilin Province had increased to 8944,280. From the beginning of the Republic of China to 1931, the population of Jilin Province increased by more than 3 million people, compared with 1875, increased by more than 8.6 million people, it can be seen that the population of Jilin Province increased rapidly in the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republic of China.

The large increase of population in Jilin Province in the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republic of China provided a large number of labor force for the rise and development of tobacco industry in modern Jilin Province. These immigrants from Zhili and Shandong Province, under the support of the official reclamation policy, reclaimed a large number of waste lands in Jilin Province, greatly expanded the tobacco planting area of Jilin Province, and gradually expanded from a few counties to all regions of Jilin Province in 1931. It is worth noting that in addition to a large number of farmers, there were businessmen from all over the country among the immigrants who migrated to Jilin during this period. These businessmen who went to Jilin to seek opportunities to get rich brought a lot of money when they entered Jilin, which provided financial support for the rise of Jilin tobacco industry in modern times.

5. Conclusions

In the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republic of China, influenced by various factors, Jilin's tobacco industry began to gradually rise and develop. In the late Qing Dynasty, Jilin's tobacco handicraft industry and machine-made cigarette industry were mainly concentrated in a few cities such as the Jilin, Changchun, and Harbin. Jilin's tobacco industry was not large in number and its geographical distribution was not very wide. After the founding of the Republic of China, Jilin's tobacco industry entered a period of rapid and prosperous development. On the one hand, the tobacco industry in Jilin, Changchun, Harbin and other places during the late Qing Dynasty continued to develop during this period; on the other hand, the tobacco industry appeared one after another in the province, the geographical distribution was more extensive, and the quantity and scale of the tobacco industry were more and larger than that in the late Qing Dynasty. During this period, the national tobacco industry began to gradually emerge and occupied a place in Jilin's tobacco market, breaking the previous monopoly dominated by foreign tobacco companies. By analyzing the reasons for the rise of modern Jilin tobacco industry, it can be concluded that factors such as market, transportation, population, and raw materials are the main reasons for the rise of modern Jilin tobacco industry.

References

- [1] *Jilin Provincial Local Chronicles Compilation Committee. Jilin Province Chronicle·Tobacco Chronicle [M]. Changchun: Jilin People's Publishing House, 1996:250-251.*
- [2] *Nong'an County Local Chronicles Compilation Committee. Nong'an County Chronicle[M]. Changchun: Jilin Literature and History Press, 1993:290.*
- [3] *Chunghwa Tobacco Co., Ltd. Tobacco in Manchuria[M]. Shenyang: Chunghwa Tobacco Co., Ltd., 1920: 25-26.*
- [4] *Jilin Provincial Local Chronicles Compilation Committee. Jilin Province Chronicle·Tobacco Chronicle [M]. Changchun: Jilin People's Publishing House, 1996:254.*
- [5] *Nong'an County Local Chronicles Compilation Committee. Nong'an County Chronicle [M].*

Changchun: Jilin Literature and History Press, 1993: 291.

[6] *Heilongjiang Provincial Local Chronicles Compilation Committee. Heilongjiang Province Chronicle·Tobacco Chronicle [M]. Harbin: Heilongjiang People's Publishing House, 1994:87-88.*

[7] *Heilongjiang Provincial Local Chronicles Compilation Committee. Heilongjiang Province Chronicle·Tobacco Chronicle [M]. Harbin: Heilongjiang People's Publishing House, 1994:90.*

[8] *Muling County Chronicle Compilation Committee. Muling County Chronicle [M]. Beijing: China Literature and History Press, 1990:254.*

[9] *Jilin Provincial Local Chronicles Compilation Committee. Jilin Provincial Chronicle·Population Chronicle [M]. Changchun: Jilin People's Publishing House, 1992:9.*

[10] *Jilin Provincial Local Chronicles Compilation Committee. Jilin Provincial Chronicle·Population Chronicle [M]. Changchun: Jilin People's Publishing House, 1992:16.*