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Interactions between human activity and natural environment in arid and semi-arid regions in Central Eurasia

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The purpose of this paper is to propose the new perspective for the studies on the historical changes of the interaction between human and natural environment in the Central Eurasia.

The Central Eurasia belongs to the arid and semi-arid regions. The ecological environment of this region is characterized by the uneven distribution of the water resources and potential land productivity. When discussing about the historical changes of the interaction between human activity and natural environment in the Central Eurasia, we should give careful consideration to those uneven distribution.

During the 20th century, Central Eurasian people experienced drastic change in their surroundings. Agricultural and industrial development in the Soviet Union had a particularly great influence on the way of use of the natural resources, such as water and land. In this paper, we try to clarify the actual situations of the agricultural development during the Soviet era, in the Ili river basin in the Almaty oblast, Republic of Kazakhstan.

The methods employed in this study included document analysis and interviews. At first, through document analysis, the outline of the formation process and historical changes of the kolkhoz and sovkhos organization are described. Second, that outline is given body and substances through the landscape analysis based on the interview.

Finally, we examine to understand the interaction between human activity and natural environment in arid and semi-arid regions in Central Eurasia, from the view point of the 'possibilism'.

Keywords: Central Eurasia, arid and semi-arid regions, human activity, landscape, environmental history