Meiji Reformers' Comparative Views of Administrative Machineries for Public Health

### Nagayo Sensai's international comparison and the historiography of public health

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International Seminar 'Transaction in Medicine & Heteronomous Modernization: Germany, Japan, Korea and Taiwan'

September 20, 2008, University of Tokyo (Komaba)





# **Sensai NAGAYO** (長与専斎, 1838-1902)

Visited the USA, England, Holland, Germany, 1871-73 The Head of the Sanitary Bureau, 1875-92

('Public health and self-government', 1888)

England: 'the home of local self-government'

France: 'a well-centralized system' but 'absence of local self-government'

Germany: regional differences, the tradition of autocratic 'medical police'





# Shimpei GOTO (後藤新平, 1857-1929)

The Head of the Sanitary Bureau, 1892-98

Attended the 7<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Hygiene and Demography, 1891

admired the 'English system'

- > compromise between local self-government and central state intervention
- ➤ the role of the LGB
- ➤ interaction between individual and state efforts through the medium of local government and voluntary agencies

- 1879~: elective 'Local Sanitary Committees'
  (「地方衛生会」「町村衛生委員」)
- mid-1880s~early 1890s: local government reform

The local sanitary committee system, abolished (1885) Local public health  $\Rightarrow$  local police authorities (1893)



Nagayo's disappointment

 local public health movements were 'frustrated' by the predominance of 'medical police'



Goto's concerns, in 1898

- Unsatisfactory local public health work
- Lack of cooperation between police officials and local citizens
- Absence of preventive medical experts, at the local level





# 'Local self-government' vs. 'Medical police'?

 English public health administration based on 'local self-government' advocated by Nagayo, Goto

(but, frustrated by the Japanese State which preferred...)

• German 'medical police'

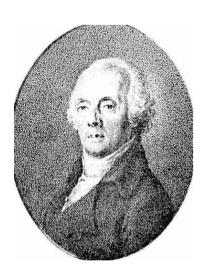
adopted by the authoritarian Japanese state medical police  $\rightarrow$  coercive, oppressive persecution/discrimination of the poor

Question: Are they really counter-concepts?

## What is 'medical police'?



- Policing for public health (protection of health & safety), done by anyone
- Policing for public health, done by the Police officers ⇒Nagayo, and some historians: 'oppressive character' of the police forces



Johann Peter Frank (1745-1821) System of Complete Medical Police (System einer vollständigen medicinischen Polizey)

a full range of the state's policy in relation to the health & safety of the population

# The 'classic model'

Environmentalist model

• G. Rosen:

'medical police'= 'cameralism'

England

paternalistic philosophy of mercantilist states (=authoritarian, absolute states)

 $\Rightarrow$  the classic typification of public health administration (Rosen, Ackerknecht), by political, economic regimes

Miasma theory

Environmental reform

sanitary infrastructure

#### liberal

laissez-faire private>public voluntary decentralized

European continental countries Contagion theory  $(\rightarrow \text{germ theory})$ Medical police quarantine measures autocratic. authoritarian interventionist private < public compulsory, coercive centralized

## **Revisions of the 'classic model'**

- Geo-epidemiological factors (> politico-economic regimes)
  ⇒ public health policy?
- German 'medical police'  $\Rightarrow$  English 'state medicine'
- Decentralized German public health (= local self-government) ?
- A rigorous execution of policing for the health & safety of the community, in England
  (by Medical Officers of Health, Inspectors of Nuisances, with the consent of the local councils)

'Medical police' and 'local self-government' can co-exist



### **Prevention of infectious disease**



#### Japan

- The Provisional Regulations for Prevention of Cholera, 1877「虎列刺病予防法心得」
- The Regulations for Prevention of Infectious Diseases, 1880「伝染病予防規則」 notification, isolation (cholera, typhoid, dysentery, diphtheria, typhus, small-pox)
- The Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1897 (「伝染病予防法」) added scarlet fever, plague; effective until 1997

England

- The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889 [permissive]
- The Infectious Disease (Notification) Extension Act, 1899 [mandatory]