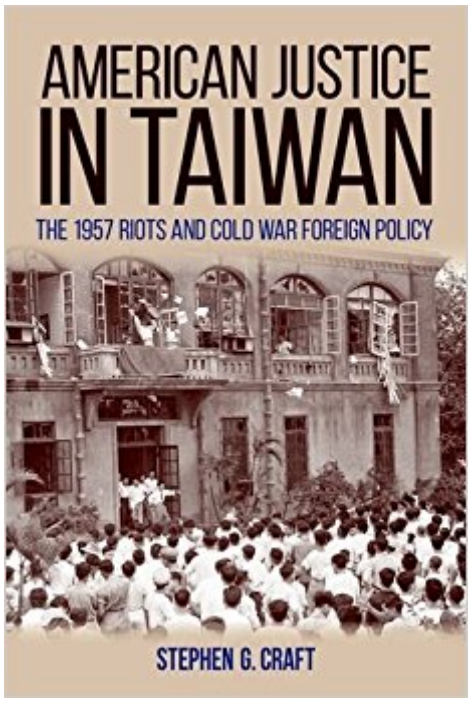
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American Justice In Taiwan: The 1957 Riots And Cold War Foreign Policy (Studies In Conflict Diplomacy Peace)



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Synopsis

On May 23, 1957, US Army Sergeant Robert Reynolds was acquitted of murdering Chinese officer Liu Ziran in Taiwan. Reynolds did not deny shooting Liu but claimed self-defense and, like all members of US military assistance and advisory groups, was protected under diplomatic immunity. Reynolds's acquittal sparked a series of riots across Taiwan that became an international crisis for the Eisenhower administration and raised serious questions about the legal status of US military forces positioned around the world.In American Justice in Taiwan, author Stephen G. Craft provides the first comprehensive study of the causes and consequences of the Reynolds trial and the ensuing protests. After more than a century of what they perceived as unfair treaties imposed by Western nations, the Taiwanese regarded the special legal status of resident American personnel with extreme distrust. While Eisenhower and his advisers considered Taiwan to be a vital ally against Chinese communism, the US believed that the Taiwanese government had instigated the unrest in order to protest the verdict and demand legal jurisdiction over GIs. Regardless, the events that transpired in 1957 exposed the enormous difficulty of applying the US's Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) across cultures.Employing meticulous research from both Western and Chinese archives, Craft demonstrates that the riots were only anti-American in that the Taiwanese rejected the UCMJ, the affording of diplomatic immunity to occupying US forces, and the military courts' interpretation of self-defense. His compelling study provides a new lens through which to examine USÃ¢â ¬â œTaiwan relations in the 1950s, US policy in Asia, and the incredibly charged and complex question of the legal status of US troops on foreign soil.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"An excellent microhistory of an intrinsically interesting series of events: the murder of a Taiwanese civilian by an American serviceman, his subsequent trial, and the riots that followed his acquittal. . . . [It] makes significant contributions to the history of U.S. relations with Taiwan, to the history of the Cold War in Asia, and to the history of US overseas forces."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Robert McMahon, editor of The Cold War in the Third World"Craft does a superb job of placing a specific legal event, crime, and trial into a much broader historical context. The great strengths of the study are its use of a particular seemingly routine trial to shed light on the inherent tensions in the USÃ¢â ¬â œTaiwan relationship . . . and its very complete use of Chinese primary sources to supplement what has traditionally been a Western focus on the Taiwan riots."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Michael Schaller, author of Right Turn: American Life in the Reagan-Bush Era"Stephen Craft has, in American Justice in Taiwan, written an excellent account of what has come to be known as the "Liu Tzujan Incident" against the wider background of US involvement in the Far East at the time."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Taipei Times"[. . .] American Justice in Taiwan is a book worth reading for those with great curiosity and questions about either Taiwanese or US foreign policy in the Cold War period."Ã¢â ¬â ¢H-Diplo"[. . .] [I]f you’re looking for a compact, knowledgeable, and quite interesting account of the post-World War II development of American SOFAs and their criminal jurisdiction provisions, issues that remain contentious today, this volume is a good place to start."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Journal of Military History

Stephen G. Craft, professor of security studies and international affairs at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, is the author of V. K. Wellington Koo and the Emergence of Modern China.

A good read. I was on Quemoy at the time and there was a lot of talk about the shooting, most of it 3rd party and not true. The author spent a lot of time gathering the facts even after almost 60 years. Other than the shooting itself, was the political side of the whole thing. I think the author did a great job of researching and explaining that side of it. That was the side that we GI’s, both off shore and down island never seen.

The Liu Ziran Incident is largely forgotten today but it shook relations between the United States and the Republic of China. This book is a detailed but highly readable account of the incident and also wider issues of extraterritoriality and military justice in Taiwan and elsewhere in Asia. Because these topics are framed around the mysterious killing of an ROC citizen by American serviceman Sergeant Robert G. Reynolds, his subsequent trial and acquittal, and the subsequent riots, the book

at times reads like a gripping detective story. The issues discussed in "American Justice in Taiwan" still remain highly relevant today, with American troops stationed in Okinawa currently under the spotlight.

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