

The Economy of Salt Industry in Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region During the Anti-Japanese War*

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Abstract—The Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region has its own unique natural and geographical conditions, which provides a good opportunity for the production and development of salt industry in this region. During the Anti-Japanese War, the continuous promotion of salt production in this region gradually improved the local economic situation, promoted the government's fiscal revenue, broke the economic blockade of the Kuomintang, and made a great historical contribution to the victory of the Anti-Japanese War.

Keywords—Anti-Japanese War; Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region; salt industry

I. INTRODUCTION

The production of salt is closely related to water vapor. Most salt is produced in the sea, ponds and wells. It is recorded in the books of history that "water moistens when it is wet, and the water moistens to make alkali", which leads to the formation of salt. [1] The ancient people believed that, from the perspective of the characteristics of China's topography, there were many mountains in the northwest of China, while the southeast was mainly coastal area and the overall topography showed the characteristics of relatively high northwest and relatively low southeast. The water in the southeast meets in the ocean, and the water in the northwest almost all comes from the mountains.

The Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region has unique topography, mainly including plateau, desert and next door. From the point of view of climatic conditions, this area belongs to continental climate, dry and little rain, which is very conducive to salt production. The products of Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region "mainly include agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry and mining products". [2] Mining "is mainly coal, oil, salt, iron and so on." [3] "Salt is the main export product of the border region. The producing areas are mainly salt ponds in the three border regions and the area of Dingbian. According to the statistics in 1944, the annual output of salt was more than 620,000 packages (150 jin per pack, 24 liang per jin), accounting for 40 percent of the

outbound trade, ranking first." [4]

In the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region, the main salt-producing areas are salt ponds, Dingbian and other areas. In addition, there are Suide, Miestee and other areas. Due to the different natural conditions in each region, the types and characteristics of salt produced are also different. Especially in the sense and the two regions of salt pond, very little precipitation and concentration, the climate is very dry, day and night temperature difference is bigger, the topography fluctuation is small, the advantageous natural geographical conditions, make the two regions of salt production more convenient and efficient, for the local salt production, provides a unique great advantage, sense and salt pond became the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region is the core of production.

A. The Distribution of Salt Industry in Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region

Generally speaking, the salt producing areas in this area, including the old ponds inside and outside the Great Wall, the muddy ponds, the lotus ponds, the flower-horse ponds, the Gouchi, the Abochi, the Peking University ponds and other places, can produce high-quality salt in large quantities. [5] Among them, the yield is relatively large place is Gouchi, Huamachi, mud pond, lotus pond, the rest of the place; the salt yield is relatively small.

Historically, sense area of salt production, was first started in the Qin and Han dynasties, in the practical in the song dynasty reached the peak, in the Ming and Qing dynasties, but also continue to develop steadily, until today, already has more than two thousand years history of salt production, establish state here who lived in ages past, most will be named after salt to place. During the tang dynasty, the largest amount of salt was produced in Dingbian. Every spring, a large number of fishing salt, the process is very simple, high efficiency. During the economic development of the tang dynasty, salt made a great contribution to the economic growth. It can be said that a considerable part of the economic source of the tang dynasty came from salt production. Others, such as Suide, Zizhou and Miestea, produce salt in large quantities, mainly from three emperors and Longzhen.

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B. Types of Salt Industry in Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region

The Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region can produce various kinds of salts with their own characteristics. In terms of color, the main colors of salt are crimson snow, peach, cyan, purple and white. According to the source of salt can be divided into sea salt, well salt, pool salt and cliff salt and other types. [6]

According to the Chinese salt habits and characteristics, most people in the coastal areas use sea salt, most people in the deep inland areas use pool salt in the northwest, and most people in the southwest use well salt. In the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region, there are two kinds of common salt, pool salt and soil salt respectively.

Pool salt is mainly from the pool brine air-dried, in the salt lake after fishing and drying, finally gradually. It is characterized by large particles, large quantity of production, large scale production and good overall quality, so it is also called "big salt". Salt pond and Dingbian salt pond salt produced in these two areas has always been well known in the world. For another type of earth salt, most of it comes from well salt production. This type of salt is mainly concentrated in Suide, Zizhou and Mizhi areas. Both the quality and output of salt are far inferior to those produced in Dingbian and Ningxia salt pond.

C. Form of Ownership of Salt Industry in the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region

From the perspective of historical process, salt industry in Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region has different forms and characteristics of ownership in different historical periods, which can be roughly divided into two periods.

Before 1940, most salt fields and salt DAMS were almost owned and operated by landlords and some producers, and then collected by the special tax bureau set up by the border government. During this period, the government did not carry out the management, supervision and control of local salt production, so the salt industry in this period was basically operated by private ownership. [7]

After 1940, due to the severe economic blockade of the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region, in order to vigorously carry out salt production, the special salt bureau for salt production and management was established in Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region. After that, part of the local salt fields and salt DAMS were gradually nationalized, and the local government departments were responsible for the organization and supervision of salt production, which effectively improved the local salt production and production efficiency. After that, the ownership of local salt industry gradually changed from private ownership to public ownership and private ownership, and two different types of ownership existed at the same time.

The formation of the coexistence situation of great historical significance, on the one hand, the former landlords and merchants for the workers got good ease and improve the exploitation, salt industry production workers participation enthusiasm had the very big enhancement, on

the other hand, will only part of the salt and salt dam nationalized, not too much damage to the core interests of landlords and merchants, not produce a lot of social contradictions. Later history proved that this practice not only consolidated the anti-Japanese national united front of the Chinese nation, but also carried out scientific and reasonable planning and management of salt production in border regions, which, to a large extent, increased the production of salt and promoted the local economic development.

II. SALT PRODUCTION IN SHAANXI-GANSU-NINGXIA BORDER REGION

A. Salt Production Policy

From the perspective of policy, salt production is characterized by "mainly military production, supplemented by civilian production". The key point of production is to organize the army to participate in salt production. In the autumn of 1940, the eighth route army arranged and organized four brigades of the 359th brigade, with a total of about 1,000 officers and soldiers, to lead them to salt farms to participate in salt production. And a large number of supplies to support the Anti-Japanese War front, including salt, fur and licorice. During this period of production, the soldiers, together with the working people, built their own caves, arranged their own food and living arrangements, worked with the masses and took part in the construction of the salt fields. [8]

In the second half of 1940, 1000 commanders and soldiers from the border regions were ordered to carry out salt production activities in the border regions. They dug hundreds of caves in the mountains to live in and began to make salt. In 1941, the soldiers showed great enthusiasm for their work. "The department of the 385th brigade has shops, overload shops, salt shops and felt workshops in Xihuachi, all named after 'bayi'". [9] Everyone with production tools focused on salt, very energetic and energetic, for the production of salt made a great contribution.

In 1943, the salt bureau again adopted a policy to increase the salt industry labor force, and again organized and arranged about 4,000 people to participate in salt production temporarily in the old pond. Because of this policy, local salt production peaked in 1941 and 1943, more than any other year. Due to the economic blockade of the Kuomintang party, in order to break such a situation, commander Su Ao led directly, 359 brigade of the 120th division of the eighth route army, garrison troops stationed on the three sides of the border, local security forces, etc., a total of nearly 8,000 soldiers came to Dingbian and salt pond for salt production. Therefore, the local salt production is characterized by large-scale production organized by the army, which, to a large extent, promotes the increase of production and solves the adverse situation of local economic difficulties.

After a period of military production, the salt-fighting troops returned to the army. At this time, the local salt production changed from "army-led" to "salt-led". Due to the return of soldiers, the production labor force was greatly

reduced. Therefore, the government of the border region and the salt bureau "[10] encouraged salt households to hire a large number of salt workers, and the salt bureau provided certain interest-free loans to help salt households survive the economic difficulties." "The implementation of appropriate incentives, if salt people mobilization of relatives and friends to participate in salt, you will get the actual rewards, in such a policy encouragement, masses of working people all think that salt profitable, more and more, so the local salt also had higher labor force participation enthusiasm, originally is the lack of labor problem, has been effectively solve the". [11]

In the past, most of the people who make salt in the salt pond are foreigners, and most of these people are bachelors. They have to do all kinds of things in their lives by themselves, which can easily delay their working time. Under the organization of the government, as a result of varioplex team building, team has a lot of women, they are mainly responsible for to make salt workers boiling water to cook, very good to share the burden of life of the labor force, usually a dozen workers can be equipped with a woman who is responsible for their diet, so workers can concentrate main forces involved in salt. The establishment of the change team effectively increased the working hours of laborers and greatly increased the production of salt, which set a record in the whole Anti-Japanese War period. In this process, the historical role of the transformer team plays an important role in the significant increase of salt production.

There were two common forms of salt production cooperatives in this period. The first began in 1942, when the trilateral salt bureau played a leading role in organizing salt people to jointly carry out salt field production. The salt produced was acquired by the salt bureau, and the internal members received salt income. In the spring of 1943, most areas began to build salt production cooperatives, and then salt production change teams, which achieved good production and organizational results.

B. General Situation of Salt Production

At the early stage of the Anti-Japanese War, the border region government itself was already in economic difficulties, and mainly relied on foreign aid to obtain fiscal revenue and relieve financial pressure. Specifically, it means the military pay and salaries distributed to the eighth route army by the national government and the help and support from people and organizations from all walks of life at home and abroad. From 1937 to 1940, foreign aid received by the border region governments accounted for 77 percent, 52 percent, 86 percent and 71 percent of their total fiscal revenue, respectively. This shows that during this period, the main source of revenue for the border region government was not salt tax, but foreign aid. After the Sino-Japanese war entered the stage of stalemate and anxiety, there were also major problems in China. The cooperative relations between the Kuomintang and the communist party gradually broke down and collapsed, and the relations between the two parties became increasingly tense. By 1940, due to the rupture relations between the two parties, the Kuomintang (KMT) directly stop the pay of the eighth route army, even started to several government military strikes, and severe economic

blockade, directly cut off the border region government access to most of the foreign aid, such as multiple blow, lead to the border region government already difficult economic situation worse, basic financial income difficult to sustain. [12]

On March 5, 1941, the border region government in order to gradually solve the financial problems, and dealing with the economic blockade of the KMT, an important meeting of the political bureau of the CPC central organization, MAO Zedong put forward the policy of "development" in the meeting and summarize countermeasures, he thought that it would be a gradual change in the past in tightening policy, it is necessary to implement new policies and measures immediately. The core measure he mentioned was to focus on salt production and invest heavily in it. The reason why the local salt industry can support the revenue of the border region is mainly because of the production characteristics of the local salt industry. The salt produced by the local salt ponds has always been an extremely important and abundant core resource in the whole Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region, and the local salt reserves are quite sufficient. According to local people, Huamachi in Yanchi County has stored a lot of crystallized salt, which needs to be removed without being exposed to the sun. Salt is a kind of daily necessities. At the beginning of the Anti-Japanese War, many occupied areas in China had a great demand for salt, so there was no need to worry about the sale of salt. On the whole, it is feasible to develop salt production and solve the local financial crisis.

Before 1940, there were roughly two types of salt production in Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region. On the one hand, salt producers use their own conditions, combined with the weather conditions, to carry out salt production in a selective and planned way, without any autonomy. On the other hand, the landowners in the border regions would hire many workers to carry out the large-scale production of salt. Although there was a certain organization, the production was not stable. During this period, there was an obvious freedom in the transport and sale of local salt. The majority of working people produced salt freely and sold it in their own way. The government did not intervene too much except collecting part of the salt tax. After the red army arrived in northern Shaanxi, the government began to attach great importance to salt production and sales. In 1940, the government of the border regions formally established the salt bureau, which organized and launched salt production activities to encourage and help more working people to carry out salt production and improve their lives.

C. Salt Production Process

Due to the very special physical and geographical environment of the border region, the salt production of the local salt lake is largely dependent on the weather conditions. [13] At that time, many salt people paid one-sided attention to the production of salt, without considering the quality of production, which also caused adverse effects on the sales of salt. In 1942, the salt bureau began to be under the jurisdiction of the financial department, under the premise of ensuring the basic salt production, the salt bureau instructed

to pay attention to the quality of salt production, and took a series of measures to this end. After the army and the masses finished production, the salt bureau will check the quality of salt. Only qualified products can be sold to the outside world. This kind of effective supervision, to a large extent, improved the quality of salt production at that time.

In order to break the unfavorable situation of relying on the weather to produce salt and feed on the weather, the government of the border regions, together with the people, carried out various trials and tests, tried every means to improve the production method and process, and gradually improved the production technology. The salt bureau argues that the fundamental method is technological innovation, and that after a series of attempts, production efficiency has been greatly improved. At the same time, the local people also started a labor competition in salt production, and further improved the technology of salt production, ensuring the quantity and quality of salt production.

Due to the development of salt industry production this movement, the local salt production process, a model such as li calls and Gao Zhong and etc., the model can take the initiative to bear hardships, to play its leading role, and willing to help others, so was the local people rated as advanced figures, is respected by people. The glorious deeds of these model workers continue to inspire the local people. As a result, the production of salt in border regions became more active and active, and the production of salt continued to increase significantly, thus contributing to the Anti-Japanese War at that time and playing an irreplaceable historical role.

D. Salt Production

During the war of resistance against Japanese aggression, the production of salt in Shaanxi, Gansu and Ningxia region fluctuated greatly, and the production was not stable all the time. Before 1940, local salt production was very free and spontaneous, so there were no exact statistics on salt production. According to local people, the previous maximum annual output was about 300, 000 packs, 150 per pack. After 1940, due to the establishment and management of the salt bureau, accurate statistics on local salt production were available. The basic situation of salt production from 1941 to 1945 is shown in the following "Table I":

TABLE I. SALT PRODUCTION IN SHAANXI-GANSU-NINGXIA BORDER REGION (10,000 TUO) FROM 1941 TO 1945

year	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
production	62	27.1	52	26.5	24.3

From the above data, it can be seen that local salt production was not stable in these five years, for the following reasons:

First, it is subject to production constraints. At that time, the production tools were simple, the productivity was very backward, and the change of labor force was large.

Secondly, it is restricted by market factors. At that time, the transportation was not developed and the local transportation conditions were not ideal. Political and

economic blockades were carried out in the national-controlled areas, so the salt sales market in the border regions was greatly restricted, and many salt produced could not be sold. Market problems directly affected the subsequent production of local salt. In 1942, the local government's salt production plan was not completed on time, one of the important reasons was market factors. A total of 620,000 packs of salt were produced in 1941, and there are still 360,000 packs of salt in storage. [14]

Thirdly, it relies on the day to eat salt. The natural environment has a great impact on the salt yield of the pond. If the weather is favorable, the yield can be very stable and normal. Otherwise, the yield will drop sharply. If there is no continuous rain weather, or rain in the process of salt, then normal salt production cannot be carried out. In 1942, the actual amount of salt produced was far lower than the original planned amount. The root cause was the influence of the weather. There was little rain in spring, but too much rain in summer and autumn. In 1944, despite high salt production, salt production was reduced by about half as much as expected, also affected by excessive rainfall. Thus, in the event of natural disasters or bad weather conditions, there will be a big change in salt production. [15]

Fourthly, labor force is scarce. Because the overall production process and production tools were not perfect, salt production was largely dependent on primitive human labor, which meant that the local salt production was largely determined by the quantity of labor. Therefore, it is difficult to ensure a stable yield. The government of the border region soon realized the seriousness of the problem and proposed a policy to solve it. The salt bureau organized large-scale army production activities, greatly increased the labor force and carried out organized and centralized production, gradually improved the production of salt.

Fifthly, it is subject to government management. In 1942, the overall salt production dropped sharply, mainly because there was no supervision and management. The salt production activities carried out by the public were almost without any supervision and control, and most of them were spontaneous production, so the efficiency was relatively low and the output was difficult to guarantee. In 1945, the war of resistance against Japanese aggression came to a successful end, and the original tense situation in China was greatly improved. Therefore, the government's leadership and management of salt production were more relaxed, and the production continued to decline.

III. SALT INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT AND SALES IN SHAANXI-GANSU-NINGXIA BORDER REGION

A. Management Mode of Salt Industry in Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region

In the summer of 1936, the red army liberated Dingbian and Yanchi, where the administration of salt was administered by the Soviet government. At first, the salt tax was collected by the bureau of border trade. Later, the Soviet government set up the border tax bureau to collect the salt tax.

Comprehensive Anti-Japanese War broke out in 1937, Soviet government began preparations for the Anti-Japanese War, set up the anti-Japanese national united front, in order to consolidate and strengthen the united front and organize joint Mongolia region during the Anti-Japanese War, the north pool, Gouchi temporary belongs to Suiyuan province (now in Inner Mongolia autonomous region).

In 1942, the Sanbian salt bureau changed again and began to be under the direct jurisdiction of the department of finance of the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region government. The salt bureau has different departments, including production, accounting and anti-smuggling, and a secretariat.

Throughout the 1940s, salt production was a top priority, and the government also paid great attention to it. The government is eager to improve production, organization and management of the local salt industry, and then ensure that production quality and efficiency are improved. To this end, under the instruction of the central committee of the communist party of China (CPC), the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region government has taken a series of measures to help improve the local salt production, including the following measures:

First, in 1941, the government of the border regions organized and established the salt administration committee, which supervised, controlled and managed the local salt production. [16] In addition, the government of the border region employs special personnel as members of the committee, who are responsible for the good operation of the whole organization. In 1942, salt production committees were formed with the heads of the salt ponds and representatives of the salt industry workers. As the salt production committee is just established, the whole organizational structure has not yet developed and the internal organizational discipline is relatively lax.

In 1943, the government organized a good reorganization of the commission, which led to its perfection. In 1943, in order to unify the management of salt transport business, Shaanxi, Gansu and Ningxia border region long dong finance and economics branch made a decision, the 385th brigade set in qing, fixed section of the 11 mules shop by long dong trade bureau, and commissioner personally to negotiate with the 385th brigade transfer matters. Statistics of long dong finance and economics branch of Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region record: "in 1943, there were 3,950 long-legged animals transported with salt in long dong district, 12,278 short-footed animals and farmers' animals, and 775 new-style cooperative animals, totaling 11,003." Huachi county, "in 1943, organized a cooperative transport team of 191,918 people, 2,197 donkeys and 2,254 Pengbian cattle, and transported 14,000 packs of salt that year." [17]

According to the work summary report of Xinzheng County in 1943, in order to relieve the burden of salt carrying by the masses, the government of Xinzheng County set up a salt carrying team by purchasing 23 mules from a portion of the public salt carrying system. From January to September, the county dispatched more than 1,000 animals

to bring back 4,500 loads of salt, exceeding the annual load of 2,900 loads of salt.

Second, the salt bureau began to issue salt loans in a planned way. In 1942, the salt bureau issued salt loans for the first time, with the purpose of better promoting the substantial increase of salt production, relieving the poor local residents, encouraging and promoting salt production, and providing financial support for salt workers to salvage salt. This was originally a good policy, but due to the lack of previous experience, various problems and drawbacks occurred in the issuance of salt loans, which led to improper use of a large number of salt loans. Many salt loans were not used to improve and help salt production, and many people used these salt loans to do some unrelated things. In 1943, the salt bureau decided to draw lessons from previous failures and made strict provisions on the loan of salt, clarifying the key principles of the loan, and strictly stating that the loan of salt must and can only be used in the production of salt, and that the need for other ways should be punished. In this way, the management of salt loan is more effectively controlled, which provides a huge help to local salt production. [18]

Fourth, technology and improve work efficiency were improved. The salt bureau organized and coordinated salt production staff, encouraged and helped them to improve salt production technology and current production methods, so as to gradually improve work efficiency. Since then, the production tools have been greatly improved, and the production techniques and methods have also been improved. Therefore, the production efficiency of local salt has been greatly improved, and the production of salt has also been increasing.

Finally, the establishment and management of salt cooperatives were conducted. According to the characteristics of salt production of employees and the actual situation, large-scale organization of salt production workers was established to establish a unified salt industry cooperation organization, so as to help workers carry out salt production more conveniently. To be specific, there are about 20 members in each salt cooperative. They are experienced in salt production for a long time and are good at efficient salt production. Therefore, they play a central role in the whole process of salt production. In 1943, salt cooperatives were set up in salt ponds to organize salt production more conveniently.

B. Salt Trade in Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region

The so-called salt trade "means that the government of the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region, taking advantage of the favorable conditions of large quantities of salt produced in the salt pond and Dingbian counties in the liberated areas, organizes forces from top to bottom to produce, transport and sell salt. Internally, it can meet the food needs of the army and the people, and externally, it can exchange it for daily provisions and munitions." [19]

"Yan 'an, the seat of the government of the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region, had three major commercial and trade organizations, namely the salt industry corporation,

the local products corporation and the Nanchang corporation (actually the department store corporation). Nanchang head office alone this, did not establish grass-roots organization. Salt industry, native products two parent companies, both in long dong Qingyang and Huanglong in northern Shaanxi with branches; the branch has branches. Qingyang salt branch under the jurisdiction of the branch companies, respectively in Chicheng, Yi ma, Tune, Meng ba and Xihuachi". [19]

During the war of resistance against Japanese aggression, long dong district of Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region "in order to break the economic blockade of the border region by diehard groups, long dong paid great attention to the development of various industries, people and businesses outside the border region. The main means adopted by the Soviet union were to ship out the tobacco, salt, soap, livestock and furs that were abundant in the Soviet union through various channels, and then to exchange the gold, silver, medicine, cotton cloth and guns outside the Soviet union to increase the economic income of the base areas. In order to achieve the above purposes, terming order opened up foreign trade ports in Xihuachi, Chicheng, Yimaguan, Mengba, Sancha, Kuishuizhang, Changtongue and Xiangle. [20]

On April 1, 1938, the Guanghua store was officially opened and Yu Jian was the new manager. This is the first public store set up in the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region. Guanghua store in the main stores in Yan'an underwent the development of business, after the establishment of branches and branches in each country. By the end of October 1940, Guanghua store and its affiliated institutions are: Yanan Guanghua Store, Dingbian branch, Yanchi branch, song branch, Qingyang branch, Suide branch, Ganquan branch and Zhangjiaban branch. In addition, Guanghua store and Yan'an Shinan district cooperative set up four agricultural products trading offices to purchase salt, sesame oil, grain and wool respectively. [21]

Since the second half of 1940, the Kuomintang's economic blockade, long dong partitioning at all levels of government, the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region began to attach importance to the salt monitoring work, in addition to a folk and the length of the feet outside the door active edible salt, but also on the basis of various counties (SMC organization specialized fleet, the purpose of long dong base on the one hand, in order to develop the national economy, increase the export of salt in return for party and government military and civilian necessities, breaking the die-hards economic blockade and solve financial difficulties; On the other hand, in order to supply salt to the people in the friendly areas, to enhance the prestige of the base areas, to unite and increase the strength of the Anti-Japanese War.

Salt production in long dong region of Shaanxi, Gansu and Ningxia border region is also large. "Within half a year from June to December 1941, 1,500 stones of grain were imported from a single port in Sancha, worth 1,256,000 Yuan, piece of cloth worth 1,947,500 Yuan, cotton worth 424,000 Yuan, and groceries worth 273,000 yuan; Output salt 1203,000 pack, the value of 2.134 million Yuan,

livestock 15,005 head, the value of 1.1556 million Yuan, special goods 1,200 liang, the value of 288,000 Yuan, the value of 100,000 Yuan fur. [22] In addition, the long dong branch of the border bank wrote a report of "trade struggle in long dong" to the border government in 1944, and said, "the import and export trade of border salt in all regions of long dong is quite prosperous, especially Xihuachi City is the largest import and export distribution market of goods such as salt, special goods, other fur, livestock, and medicinal materials and so on. In 1944: "there were 1,084 livestock in the transportation cooperative in long dong district of Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region, accounting for 15.4% of the total livestock; there were 4,452 long-footed animals, 12,278 short-footed animals and farmers' livestock, a total of 17,814 animals." [23]

IV. THE HISTORICAL CONTRIBUTION OF SALT PRODUCTION IN SHAANXI, GANSU AND NINGXIA

A. *Increased the Revenue of Border Region Government*

During the Anti-Japanese War, the overall economy of the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region was very backward. In terms of agricultural production, the traditional small-scale peasant economy was adopted. There was little obvious business and handicraft industry in the local area, and the economic form was single. In addition, the continuous wars have seriously damaged the local infrastructure construction, made the already poor people's life more difficult, and made the border region's financial deficit more and more obvious.

At that time, to promote the local economic development, the only way to improve and solve the financial crisis is to give full play to the local unique resource advantage. A cable from the time mentioned that salt was running out and taxes were being hurt. This fully explains the importance of salt, especially the high-quality salt produced in the border regions, which plays an extremely important role in the financial revenue of the border regions. Salt is the core commodity of the border region's foreign sales, and the salt tax obtained from it has gradually become an indispensable part of the government revenue in the border region.

The salt tax was first collected in 1937, which was also the earliest tax collection activity in the border region. In 1937, the salt tax revenue accounted for 100% of the total fiscal revenue. From 1938 to 1940, salt tax revenue accounted for more than 60% of the total fiscal revenue. In 1941, the salt bureau was set up to collect the salt tax. The total salt tax collected in that year was 46.3% of the government revenue of the border regions. After the department of finance issued instructions, the salt bureau began to establish an anti-smuggling team, salt work gradually improved. From 1943 to 1945, the border region conducted comprehensive supervision and management of the salt industry, and the proportion of salt tax increased from 15.6 percent in 1942 to 34.5 percent. During the eight years of the Anti-Japanese War, the salt tax has always played an important role in the industrial and commercial tax, playing an irreplaceable role and effectively solving the government's financial crisis. [24]

After the big salt-producing areas of halide salt and Huai salt gradually fell, the government of the border region made a decision to organize and mobilize the people to transport 600,000 packs of salt, on the one hand to help the surrounding areas with local salt, and on the other hand to increase the income of the working people. There is no tax or freight, "90% of the profits are obtained by the people who transport salt, and 10% by the government". In 1941, the government received 27.7% of the total fiscal revenue from the public salt fund. From 1942 to 1945, although the proportion of the public salt fund decreased to a certain extent, its overall income basically maintained a stable growth. The issuance of public salt fund can effectively prevent the rise of salt price and help stabilize the government's fiscal revenue. [25]

B. Broken the Economic Blockade Imposed by the Kuomintang Reactionaries

In July 1936, after the central leading organ moved to the security guard, the northwest office reiterated clearly that "Soviet currency is Soviet legal currency, and any trade in the Soviet area should be based on this legal currency and circulated without conditions." White tickets are strictly forbidden in the market". [26] The northwest ministry of finance, the ministry of food, the security bureau also requires that all security personnel must strictly ensure that "the purchase of daily goods and all things must persuade the public to use Su ticket"; And tell the masses to use Su ticket to Zhidan County cooperative can buy salt, cloth and daily necessities, more convenient than foreign; All organs are forbidden to use white tickets or foreign currency in the base areas, and those who violate the orders will be severely punished by the security bureau. [27] For the goods and materials traded with salt and other products of the Soviet area, it is also required to sell the Su ticket. For those who sell the goods for free under the pretext of selling salt, they will be punished by the government or the security bureau, and their right to buy salt from salt ponds will be suspended.

Guanghua store "was founded in April 1938. It is a financial and trade agency integrating commerce and finance under the leadership of Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region bank." "Salt industry company and native products company, full name Guanghua salt industry company and Liangbei native products Co., Ltd., were initiated and established by the border region government in early 1941. Soon after that, a trading corporation was set up to take charge of the business of the salt company, the local products company and the Guanghua store, which were the comprehensive leading organs of these three organizations. The salt industry company is a key organization specializing in the operation of salt, which is to organize human and animal power to transport salt from the "three sides", go through the transfer procedures, and then ship it out to the "you district", so as to make profits and increase the economic income in the border regions. [28]

In 1941, the fascist countries of Germany, Japan and Italy launched a larger scale of aggression and aggression against various countries and regions in the world. The Anti-Japanese War in China also became more difficult and

difficult. The Japanese imperialists wanted to carry out measures to control China with China, with the purpose of ending the Sino-Japanese war as soon as possible and attempting to annex China as soon as possible. For the Kuomintang, its general policy was to combine political temptation with military strike effectively, to launch a severe military strike against the communist party, to implement the strategy of military struggle, and to set up a large number of troops in the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region to wipe out the anti-Japanese base areas. And implement the "three lights" policy. Due to the progressive development and expansion of the fascist war in Japan at that time, as well as the temptation of the Kuomintang's interests, the Kuomintang gradually embarked on the road of anti-communist and anti-people, and the relations between the Kuomintang and the communist party deteriorated day by day.

Before the "southern Anhui incident", in order to eliminate the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border regions, the Kuomintang carried out strict inspection and quantity restriction on the daily necessities in and out of the border regions, especially the local salt export. Four specific regulations have been drawn up according to different needs for salt. In order to prevent the sale of salt in the border regions, the Kuomintang opened only a few ports during the same period, "putting up many obstacles to the sale of salt in the border regions"; Traders were required to hold salt coupons, and salt sales units were set up by the Kuomintang, but workers used to use unit privileges to disturb the price of salt and the order of the market. When the supply of salt was in short supply, the Kuomintang ruthlessly exploited salt traders to sell salt in the border Kuomintang areas. These measures have greatly reduced salt production in the border regions, leading to shortages and economic recession in the border regions.

After the "southern Anhui incident", the Kuomintang stopped the payment of the eighth route army and cut off the foreign aid to the border regions. The necessity of getting cotton, cloth and other necessities into the border region became very difficult. In a report to a meeting of senior cadres in 1942, MAO Zedong pointed out: "we have almost no clothes, no oil, no paper, no food, no soldiers, no shoes and socks, and no quilts for the staff in winter." [29] The communist party of China began to actively guide border regions to develop salt production by themselves.

C. Transport and Sale of Salt to Improve People's Livelihood

During the Anti-Japanese War, salt produced in the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region was not only a necessity for People's Daily life, but also a major resource in the border region. Take salt transportation and sale in long's area of Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region as an example. At this time, there are four kinds of power to transport salt: "one is the foot-long households, which rely on the transport of salt as the main economic income; One is the short foot households, this foot households mainly engaged in agriculture but also to operate salt as an important sideline; One is the peasant household population, the use of the green

period to transport one or two times of salt for their own family food. The fourth category is the long-legged households outside the border region, who mainly trade in salt for export profit." [30]

On May 18, 1941, the central bureau of the northwest of the central government issued a "decision on the transport and marketing of salt", pointing out that "salt is a large quantity produced in the border regions and also the largest product exported from the border regions... Therefore, organizing the movement of carrying salt for the people in the border regions has become an urgent and central task for the party and people in the border regions..." [31]⁷⁷ It also put forward nine requirements, calling for "every party member to transport salt". "Border regions, districts, counties, districts and townships should organize salt transport and marketing committees (3-5 members). And take the county as a unit, organize the salt transport corps, with the county party secretary or county head as the chief of the corps; Organize salt transport brigade in the district, with the secretary of the district party committee or the head of the district as the team leader; A township organization team, branch secretary or township head as a small captain; The administrative village organizes the group, the party group leader or the administrative village director is the group leader. Make every effort to organize salt caravans (or salt caravans) for all the people who can carry salt."

The northwest central bureau of salt transport decision issued, the communist party of China Longdong local committee immediate action, so in June 4 solstice 7, four days to convene the county secretary, county magistrate meeting, special discussion and arrangement of salt transport work, and made the end of the year to complete the salt transport 200,000 pack decision. After the end of the local committee meeting, all counties were vigorous and resolute, and all the cadres went to the countryside to carry out propaganda and mobilization of salt. Taking Heishhui as an example, the original decision was to transport public salt 2,133 loads and private salt as much as possible. After a short week of publicity, a total of 1,834 animals, 79 carts, 472 rickshaws and 758 people were sent out.

County transport team has more than 30 mules 69 donkeys, also duty-bound to join the salt transport. "Li Zichuan, secretary of the county party committee, and Gao Langting, head of the county, led the team to carry salt to Dingbian with great force. More than 38,000 tons of private salt transport, has achieved brilliant results, by the liberation daily newspaper published in recognition. It is set up as Longdong district salt transport model.

Huachi began to transport salt in July 1941. By the end of the year, it had transported 233 loads of salt. In the summary report of Zhenyuan County's work in the first half of 1942, it said: "the first 300 packs were deployed, and 379 packs were completed; Arrange 50 packs for the second time, complete 500 packs; The third deployment of 500 pack, take transport, and collect money. [31]⁷⁷ "Starting from June 25, Xihuachi will receive more than 300 packs of salt per month," the border trade bureau said in the document. According to the summary report of Xinzheng County's work in the first half

of 1942, "Xinzheng County raised more than 4,840,000 Yuan as a substitute for public salt, and more than 1,320 Yuan as a substitute for public salt, equivalent to 19.8 square jins". [17]

To sum up, it can be seen that transport teams and people from all regions of the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region have come here to transport salt. In addition, such salt is also transported to other large areas. A large amount of income from salt production has gradually alleviated the economic crisis here.

V. CONCLUSION

Salt is one of the three special products of Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region. As an important source of fiscal revenue for the government of Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region, salt tax and public salt substitute have alleviated the financial pressure of the border region and increased the fiscal revenue of the government, playing an extremely important role in the local economy.

During the war of resistance against Japanese aggression, the government of Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region broke the economic blockade imposed on us by the Kuomintang. It should not only give full play to its advantages in resources, make great efforts to develop large quantities of salt and encourage the masses to sell it abroad, but also combine it with private enterprises or private production cooperatives.

"The salt trade started at that time played an important role in the development of production, the prosperity of the economy and the guarantee of military and civilian living supplies in the border regions". [19]⁴³⁴ Under the guidance of the central bureau of the central government, the local government actively launched the military and civilian cooperation to carry out a large-scale salt campaign.

The government of the border region attaches great importance to the production and sale of local salt industry. In November 1940, the central bureau of the CPC central committee issued instructions, mainly concerning local financial and economic policies. In the instructions, it emphasized self-reliance and self-improvement, overcoming difficulties, and actively carrying out production, so as to change the unfavorable situation of relying only on foreign aid. The policy of self-reliance and self-sufficiency should be gradually implemented in the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region. The production and sale of salt industry changed people's living conditions and laid a solid material foundation for the victory of the Anti-Japanese War.

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