

The Foreign Economic Strategy
of the Kishi Cabinet and Latin America:
The Economic Diplomacy Toward Latin America
Based on Japanese Emigration Policy

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The concerns about Japanese diplomatic history during the 1950's were targeted at the relationship with the United States or Asian countries. For example, the foreign policy of Kishi's administration is widely known for the revision of the Japan-U.S. mutual security treaty or the "pro-Asia diplomacy".

However, the Kishi administration expressed an active approach to diplomacy toward Latin America (hereinafter LA). Actually, the Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi made a round of visits to that area in July 1959.

The main question of this article is why Prime Minister Kishi was concerned about LA. Kishi had wanted to cordon off the "*hinterland*" in the South American continent in the same way as had happened with former mainland China and Manchuria. In fact, he hoped to build relations with Latin America to secure a stable source of mineral resources. And Kishi had thought sending many Japanese immigrants to this area was one of the most useful tactics to strengthen the economic ties between Japan and LA in the future. Therefore, the Kishi cabinet developed an active approach to LA.

For instance, first of all, they determined a shipbuilding loan arrangement for Paraguay, and they acquired emigration quotas from Paraguay; 85,000 people for 30 years. Secondly, they participated in a joint project of constructing iron mills with Brazil (the company name is *USIMINAS*), and sought an emigration agreement with her, which essentially amounted to an unlimited immigration intake. Thirdly, Prime Minister Kishi made a round of visits to that area in 1959 and promised the presidents

of Argentina and Chile to increase the investment from Japan. In return, the president of Argentina promised to expand the limits of Japanese emigrations. Thus Kishi's round of visits promoted the conclusion of immigration agreements with Brazil and Argentina.

As stated above, the Kishi cabinet positioned LA as a stable source of mineral resources for the future Japanese economy. They encouraged developing the economic cooperation through investments for Latin American countries and sending many Japanese immigrants in order to strengthen the economic ties with Japan and LA.