

LAND EXPROPRIATION, FORCED EVICTION, AND RESISTANCE IN TAIWAN

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Frameworks

- Development-induced Displacement (DID)
- DID in Taiwan and the Case of Dapu
- The Case of the Taoyuan Aerotropolis Megaproject
- TRF, TAHR, and Civil Disobedience Movements
- Conclusions – Redefine “Public Interest”

Development-induced Development (DID)

- What is the meaning of development-induced displacement (DID)?
- It refers to the bleak consequences confronted by people who forcibly removed or evicted from their habitat to make way for development projects (such as construction of dams, roads and other infrastructures) that were imposed on them in the name of either 'national' or 'public' interest, which they may have little prior knowledge.

- The reality is that displacement is often involuntary and the consequences for those who are displaced, to most of DID studies, have most been disastrous.
- When they refuse to move, they are portrayed by government agencies as "greedy", "uncooperative" and "trouble makers" when the general public remain un-educated about the severity of impacts deriving from forced removal on their lives and livelihoods (and hence no sympathy for them).

- Compensation or plans for resettlement are inadequately prepared, with little understanding of the concept of stress, the rate of change imposed and its irreversibility, the notion of ‘cumulated deprivation’ and the possibility of making the displaced entrapped in perpetual transition.
- DID in recent times, has met with increasing public resistance where ‘developmentalism’ has been widely and traditionally accepted as a panacea for all social ills.

DID in Taiwan and the Case of Dapu

- The state itself has serious problem of financial deficit, and it need to have several ways to improve economic growth. To reach this goal the governing regime uses its hegemonic power to create pro-growth myths, policies, agenda and plans.
- Most of these plans need land, and the state employs the power of land expropriation to condemn farmlands. Many farmers are excluded from the decision-making processes and are forced to leave their homes and farmlands in Taiwan.

- In June 9, 2010, many bulldozers protected by policemen moved in at 4am to destroy rice paddy fields. It is because the Miaoli local government plans to expand a science park in the community.
- It employs the power of eminent domain to expropriate 154 hectares and forces farmers to leave their homes and farmlands.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kyr932xs6p0>
- With help from the Taiwan Rural Front (TRF), some of them can keep their farmlands. And, It has become a terrible case in Taiwan society.









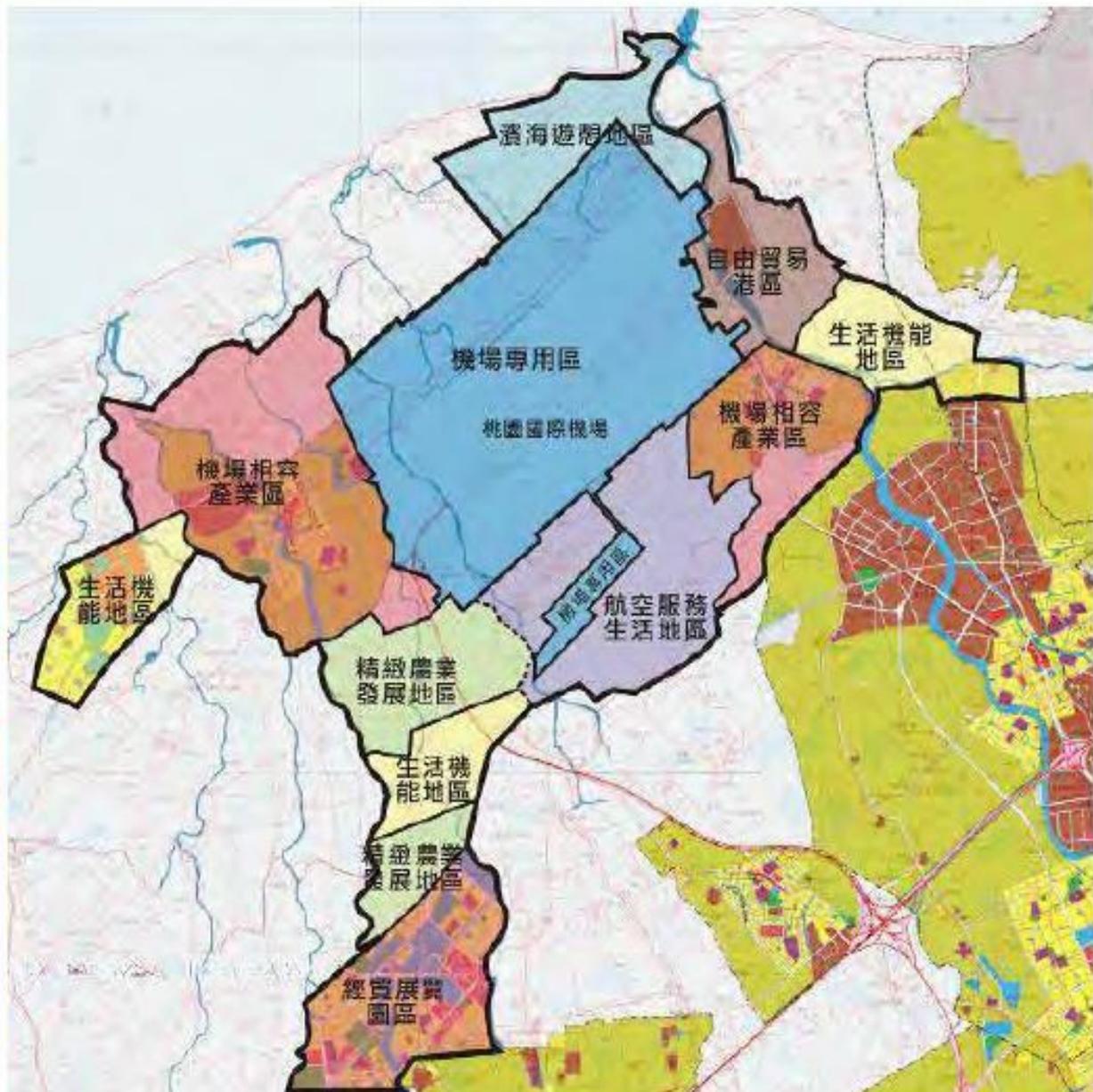
The Taoyuan Aerotropolis Megaproject

- The Taoyuan Aerotropolis Megaproject is the biggest project that the state plans to perform in recent years. Former President Ma Ying-jeou strongly promoted it when he ran for his second term of presidency in 2012, and he titled it as one of his “Twelve Love Taiwan Projects.” The state and the Taoyuan city plan to construct an Aerotropolis around the Taoyuan Airport.
- The total area of the Aerotropolis project is around 4,771 hectares (originally 6150).

桃園航空城區域計畫—八大功能分區



功能分區		面積 (公頃)
機場 園區	機場專用區	1,750
	自由貿易港區	320
	小計	2,070
航空服務生活地區		680
經貿展覽園區		490
機場相容產業園區		1,400
濱海遊憩地區		350
精緻農業發展地區		470
生活機能地區		690
總計		6,150



- There are approximately 15,000 houses in this area and 46,000 residents probably will be displaced from their homes and land. The area also includes a great amount of farmland which is more than 1,000 hectares. Many farmers will lose their farmlands if the project is realized.
- Local people has organized an anti-displacement grassroots organization and went to Taoyuan city hall and Taipei several times to petition authorities.
- One aging farmer has committed suicide.

- They also proclaim that their opinions have not been included in the decision-making processes.
- With helps from the TRF and the Taiwan Association for Human Rights (TAHR) they have protested in front of the Taoyuan city hall and the Ministry of Interior in Taipei, who will define whether this megaproject is qualified as “public interest.”
- Unfortunately, the meaning of “public interest” is totally dominated by the powerful state. The state summons public hearings last year because of new *Act*, which was revised because of the Dapu.



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航空城反迫遷聯盟

迫遷作何

國青桃園地景藝術節的國



國青桃園地景藝術節
國青桃園地景藝術節



TRF, TAHR, Deprivation of Human Right, and Civil Disobedience Movements

- The Taiwan Rural Front (TRF), an advocacy NGO, was established around ten years ago. Together with the TAHR, they try to help local people.
- They proclaim that land expropriations are serious state measure; they deprive farmers' human right. They ask the government to stop land grabbing.
- With the assistances from TRF and TAHR, farmers gathered and protested many times in front of the governmental offices at Taoyuan and Taipei.
- They also create important discourses in Taiwan society through newspaper editorials and lectures.

- Farmers dare to voice out grievances over the government's planned brutal expropriation of their land, complaining that they would have nothing with which to make a living.
- They also indicated the disregard of public participation in the administrative process once again raise serious questions about both the legitimacy and rationality of the government's public policymaking.
- They asked the government to stop land expropriation and to rectify *the Land Expropriation Act* immediately.
- The protest activities led by the TRF are called *the Land Justice Movement*, which asks farmers' rights and their identity to land, as home, should be respected.

Conclusion - Redefine “Public Interest”

- The idea of single-minded economic growth is the major driving force governing the Taiwan society.
- In order to boom economy, both of the central and local governments have proposed many Megaprojects.
- The state uses the power of land expropriation to condemn private farmland. Farmers are excluded from decision-making processes.
- TRF and TAHR ask strongly for equity, justice, and human right in Taiwan society. They try to bring back important values of land and redefine the substance of “public interest” and the procedure to decide it.

Thank you for your attention!

