



and expanded, was built across southeastern Manchuria during the early days of the Qing dynasty (1616-1912). It ran from the Great Wall at Shanhai-guan, crossed the Liao River to the north of Mukden, and then returned to the coast near the Korean border down at the Yalu. It marked the boundary of the pale beyond which the Han Chinese should not expand, the statutory limit of Chinese settlement.<sup>1</sup>

The big ditch several hundred miles long and lined with willows is known as the Willow Palisade (*Liu-tiao Bian*). The Qing pale surrounded by the Willow Palisade is a little bit larger than the Ming pale surrounded by the defensive wall (*Bian Qiang*), constructed by the Ming during 1437-42 and 1479-81, that was to defend the Liao-dong area from the intrusion of the Mongol-Xianbei and the Ruzhen.<sup>2</sup> It had delineated the Ming borderline in Manchuria.

The Inner Willow Palisade extending from Shanhai-guan to the mouth of the Yalu River was intended to keep Han Chinese out of north and east Manchuria, and the Outer Willow Palisade connecting the Liao River (at the north of Mukden) and the Song-hua River (at the north of Jilin) was to keep the Mongolic Xianbei out of Manchuria. Manchu and Mongol bannermen were stationed at twenty outposts (*karun*) to patrol its perimeter. The Manchus tried to close their homeland to Chinese immigration and maintain Manchuria as a hunting land outside the Chinese agricultural economy.<sup>3</sup> Most of Manchuria, with its hunting lands, forests, and streams, was thus preserved for the tribal Manchu peoples for a long while.

If we look back over the past three millennia (1000 BC-2000 AD), we see that the Han Chinese were able to occupy the Liao-dong area for less than 840 years: at most 328 years during the Han dynasties (206 BC.-220 AD) after Wu-di's conquest of Old Chosun in 108 BC; 45 years during the Cao Cao's Wei dynasty (220-265); less than 51 years during the Western Jin dynasty (265-316); 89 years during the Tang dynasty (618-907) after 668 until the An Lu-shan Rebellion (755-57); 276 years during the Ming dynasty (1368-1644); and 51 years under the People's Republic of China (1949-2000).<sup>4</sup>

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

finished conquering the entire mainland of China, the Qing rulers reclassified many of the original Chinese Bannermen as honorary Manchus, and made the Altaicized Chinese of Liao-dong as the official language, called Mandarin, for the entire Han Chinese, though they themselves continued to speak the Manchu language (see Crossley, 1999, p. 56 and Janhunen, 1996, pp. 163-7).

<sup>4</sup> During the 364 year period after the beginning of the era of Five Barbarians and Sixteen States (304-439) until the fall of Koguryeo in 668, Liao-dong had been occupied briefly by the Xianbei (Former Yan, 349-370) and then for a long time by Koguryeo. Liao-dong had subsequently been occupied by such "barbarian dynasties" as Parhae (after the An Lu-shan rebellion in 757 until 926) for 169 years; Qidan Laio (916-1125) for 209 years; Ruzhen Jin (1115-1234) for 119 years; Mongol Yuan (1206-1368) for 162 years; and Manchu Qing (1616-1912) for 296 years until at last it was taken over by the modern (People's) Republic of China.

[wthong@wontackhong.pe.kr](mailto:wthong@wontackhong.pe.kr)

© 2005 by Wontack Hong  
All rights reserved.