

Purpose of the Establishment of the Kure Naval Arsenal and the Measures to Realize That Project : Mystery and Elucidation on the Construction of the Third Shipway of the Kure Naval Arsenal

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My own book, entitled *The Establishment of the Kure Naval Arsenal*, was published in 2018. I tried to substantiate the overall history in detail, without making a convenient hypothesis, and to describe matters logically and legitimately. With this intention, my book applied the “theory of the arms transfer” as the analytical method in order to study the process of arms production from the perspective of arms transfer. It is very fortunate that there were not only favourable comments but also critical reviews of my book. The former comments regarded the detailed elucidation of the overall history of the Kure Naval Arsenal, while the latter reviews were mainly on the development of the esoteric logic of arms transfer. The purpose of this paper is to give a clear explanation of the logical development in my book and to present the framework of my research by responding to the above-mentioned reviews. This paper focuses on the construction of the third shipway, which has been regarded as the greatest mystery in the history of the Kure Naval Arsenal, and tries to clarify the background of the mystery by means of an approach that integrates the historical documents with the perspective of arms transfer. Global technology transfer includes the following processes: (1) a navy expansion plan in the recipient country of the arms transfer; (2) ordering arms for the overseas armament companies; (3) dispatching engineers to the vender and the expansion of the naval arsenal; (4) diffusion of technology from the dispatched engineers to the native craftsmen through modification and repair of the imported arms; (5) manufacture of arms of the same type as the imported arms in the leading arsenal; and (6) technology transfer to other domestic arsenals and companies.