

Abstract

In this thesis I focus on the Japanese labour market in agriculture, traditional, semi-traditional and modern light industry between the 1730s and 1950s. In the first chapter I introduce institutional theory and path dependence theory which serve as my conceptual frame. In the second chapter I present a broad definition of the modern period based on Kito's demographical periodization of Japanese history. In the third and fourth chapter I analyze the institutional structure of agriculture and by-employments that dominated the modern labour market. In conclusion I discuss the connection of this structure to heavy industry and its implications for the current dual labour market.