

Sun Yat-Sen's Journey of Revolution: An Application of GIS and Google Earth in Historical Studies

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Sun Yat-sen was the founding father of the Republic of China. He and his followers overthrow the Qing dynasty in 1911, and then served as president for one year. Although Sun is considered one of the greatest leaders of modern China, his political life was one of constant struggle. After the failure of an uprising in 1895, Sun Yat-sen started his life in exile. Sun was not only in Japan, but also in Europe, the United States, and Canada. Actually, he travelled all around the world, and tried to go to any place where ethnic Chinese has lived, in order to find supports from them.

In this project, we tried to trace each journey of Sun while in exile from 1895 to 1911. Firstly, we collected and digitalized all the information, including the purpose of each journey, the time, the destination, the path and the people he met, and the organizations or events he joined or participated in during each journey. All data recorded in the form of excel worksheets. Then we developed a program "Excel2Earth", which can link Excel worksheet to Google Earth directly, by creating kml files automatically. Thus, we can easily use Google Earth as a platform to integrate all the information we collected, and explore the legendary life of Sun Yat-sen in a 3D, dynamic geo-visualization way.

Key words: GIS, Google Earth, spatial analysis, Sun Yat-sen