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international relations

The dispute over the Lobos Islands in the United States and its impact*

Shi Xiaowen

Abstract: In the 1840s, European and American agricultural chemists confirmed through scientific experiments the great role of guano in promoting the growth of soil and crops. World agriculture entered the "Guano Era". At that time, the guano resources on the islands along the coast of Peru were very abundant. As the demand for natural fertilizers in agricultural production increased sharply, the Peruvian government quickly nationalized the guano resources. Due to Peru's monopoly on guano resources and the British control of the guano trade, the United States had to search for guano around the world. resources to meet domestic agricultural production needs. In June 1852, American businessmen discovered rich guano resources in the Lobos Islands off the coast of Peru. As a result, the U.S. government unilaterally took over the Lobos Islands, which belonged to Peru, and denied The sovereignty of the Peruvian government. Subsequently, both parties safeguarded their respective sovereignty based on the principle of priority of discovery, which finally ended with the U.S. government recognizing Peru's jurisdiction over the Lobos Islands. After this battle for Guano Island, Peru consolidated its control over the global bird The monopoly of guano resources ushered in the glorious "Guano Era", and since then it has embarked on the path of economic development based on resources. At the same time, the dispute over the Lobos Islands has produced a series of chemical reactions. On the one hand, it has paved the way for the expansion of the United States' oceans. It sent a "pioneer", and on the other hand, it also started the global "battle for Pacific Islands". Keywords: Lobos Islands territorial dispute, priority right of discovery, maritime expansion

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In the first half of the 19th century, the decline in soil fertility was one of the major ecological problems faced by European and American countries. As a high-quality fertilizer, guano brought "good news" to agricultural production, triggering a global search for guano resources . The craze for Lobos Islandsÿ is a guano island located near the coast of Peru. In 1852, the United States and Peru had a dispute over their sovereignty. Both parties relied on the "priority of discovery". Negotiations were launched based on the principle of discovery ÿ For the United States, occupying the Lobos Islands can alleviate the pressure of excessive guano prices on the country's agriculture. For Peru, fighting for the jurisdiction of the Lobos Islands is related to the country's economic lifeline.

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Domestic academic research on the guano island issue is mainly included in some general history works, and special studies are even rarer. They mainly involve the expansion of US maritime territory under the protection of the Guano Island Act of 1856ÿ, but few scholars have paid attention to the The previous dispute over the Lobos Islands. There are relatively abundant writings on the guano issue in foreign academic circlesÿ. The research results on the dispute over the Lobos Islands mainly involve loopholes in the U.S. foreign policymaking system, imperialist expansion, etc.ÿ. In the final analysis, the Lobos Islands The impact of the dispute is far greater than the guano resources themselves. This article traces the origin, process and results of the Lobos Islands dispute, reveals the true purpose of the United States' competition for resources, and summarizes the consequences of this dispute for the United States, Peru, and the Pacific region. New changesÿ

The "guano gospel" and Peru's monopoly on guano resources

During the Inca Empire, guano played a key role in the agricultural production activities of the Indians.

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 News the house of Gibbs and the Peruvian Guano Monopolyÿ Londo n: Royal Historical Society 1981

ÿ The English word "guano" (guano) is formed based on the pronunciation of the Spanish "huano" (guano). Guano is a sediment formed by the accumulation of seabird excrement over a long period of time. It is mainly distributed in the Pacific Ocean. On some small islands and along the coasts of South America, Africa and the Caribbean, the Chincha Islands off the coast of Peru have the largest reserves and the strongest

ÿ fertility. The Lobos Islands are composed of Lobos de Tira. ierra) and Luo Lobos de Afuera is composed of two twin islands. It is located on the Pacific
Ocean 20 to 35 miles away from the coast of Peru. It covers an area of more than 200 square kilometers. American whalers are often active here. In 1852, the guano
resources on the island were discovered by European and American countries, and the Lobos Islands were given new commercial value. Although Peru claimed
sovereignty over these islands for a long time, there was no fresh water, no food, no lighting, and no anchorage on the islands. ÿ Human beings generally cannot survive here for a long time.

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Later, it was passed down in the agricultural activities in Peru. At that time, there was a popular proverb in Peru: "Although guano is not a saint, it can create many miracles." ÿ The famous geographer and naturalist Alexander von Humboldt said it on 1 From 804 When he returned to France from the New World, he brought the guano collected from the coast of Peru back to Europe. Soon the function of guano as a fertilizer spread to North America. In terms of its practicality, the discovery of the fertilizer function of guano opened the door for plantations in the eastern United States at that time. Owners, farmers and ordinary farmers brought the "gospel". Between 1830 and 1870, the

loss of natural fertility of the land due to the loss of soil nutrients was the main ecological problem of concern to capitalist societies in Europe and North America. ÿ The further degradation of soil fertility caused In response to the agricultural crisis and social panic in capitalist countries at that time, European farmers during this period were in urgent need of fertilizers. They even went to the battlefields of the Napoleonic Wars (Waterloo, Austerlitz and other places) to look for bones, turn them into ashes and then apply fertilizer. ÿ To supplement the nutrients needed for crops. ÿ Before guano resources entered the European market, European and American countries were accustomed to importing cattle bones from Argentina and Australia, grinding them into powder for fertilizer. However, these fertilizers were small in quantity and the effect was not very obvious after use. They were urgently needed. Looking for new natural fertilizers

In the United States, the soil crisis was further complicated by geographical factors. By 1800, the northern state of New York had replaced England as the main wheat production area. With the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825, the newly developed farmland in the west made the problem of poor land clear. Great relief. At the same time, the southern slave plantations were facing serious soil fertility degradation problems, especially the soil degradation for growing tobacco. ÿ In 1850, the Scottish agricultural chemist James F W Johnston He traveled to North America and described the problem of natural soil fertility loss in his book "Notes on North America", and especially explained that the loss of soil fertility was more serious in New York State than in fertile farmland in the west. In 1832, the New York State Agricultural Association was established .ÿFarmers tried to cope with the crisis by developing rational agriculture. In 1840, the German chemist Justus von Liebig confirmed through scientific experiments in his book "The Application of Chemistry in Agriculture and Physiology" that guano has Protective Effects of Soil Fertility, New York

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Farmers regard emerging soil science as an important way to prevent land depletion. ÿ During the Industrial Revolution, the demand for food crops and cash crops increased sharply. The United States urgently needed to increase agricultural production to meet social needs. The fertilizer function of guano was replaced by agricultural chemistry. After everyone confirmed it, importing guano from overseas became the main

channel to make up for the decline in soil fertility. After learning about the powerful fertility of guano, American speculators began to search for guano islands around the world. Overseas whaling in New England The researchers provided vital information for determining the location of these guano islands. As soon as there is news about the guano islands, reports will be published in British and American newspapers, and European and American merchant ships will continue to rush to those new landmarks, viln 1843, it was reported that Ichaboe Island on the southwest coast of Africa was covered with a layer of guano 10 meters thick. In December of the following year, as many as 460 ships surrounded it, carrying out uncontrolled bird excrement. In 1845, there were still a large number of merchant ships wandering around Ikabo Island, but not a single bit of guano was mined. In less than two years, the island was completely mined. ÿ The global demand for guano continues to increase . ÿ As a natural guano factory, Peru has monopolized guano resources.

From the beginning, American agriculturists were worried that there would be "over-enthusiasm" for guano in the United States. This prediction became a reality. In 1844, the first batch of about 700 tons of Peruvian guano arrived at the port of the United States. Ten years later, the import of guano into the United States increased. The volume reached a peak of 175,849 tons. ÿ In 1850, the price of guano reached about US\$76 per ton, and then stabilized at around US\$50. ÿ During this period, the price of guano remained high. On the one hand, speculators searched for guano islands in the ocean, and on the other hand, the price of guano reached a peak of 175,849 tons. Adulterated guano has also flowed into the European and American markets. This is largely due to Peru's monopoly on guano resources. For Peru's political elites, the scattered natural resources of guano islands have become "a key to building a modern country". "A stepping stone". In post-colonial Lima, "the general social attitude regards politics as a business and believes that it is reasonable to obtain fair profits."ÿAfter the agricultural value of guano became apparent in the international market, the Peruvian government once again adopted The legislation controls the guano islands adjacent to the coast, ostensibly to ensure "national integration and efficient use of guano", but in fact, Peru serves as a trustee

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The resource side uses its resource advantages to monopolize guano resources and provide funds to realize the modernization of the country.

The Peruvian government has repeatedly negotiated with some contractors in an attempt to maximize revenue from the guano trade.

After negotiations in 1842, 1847 and 1849, the British company Gibbs and Sons (hereinafter referred to as "Gibbs")

Booth & Co.) gained exclusive control of the British and North American guano trade. With its people in London

As well as the potential to obtain loans for Peru in international financial markets, Gibbs Company began in 1842

He engaged in the guano trade and monopolized the global guano trade during the peak period of guano production from 1847 to 1861.

Peru delivers the guano directly to contractors like Gibbs. The guano is sold on behalf of the Peruvian government and contracted

Merchants are authorized to charge commissions and deposits (approximately 4% of total sales) and 5% of all fees.

Interest, including freight prepaid in the UK or elsewhere, Peru except for guano paid by the contractor

In addition to expenses, its main purpose is to borrow large amounts from contractors under these contracts to support Peru's modern

A large part of the money earned from selling guano was used to repay various projects under the Lima oligarchy.

Debt, a typical imperial subordination relationship gradually formed between Britain and Peru. As can be seen from Table 1,

In 1851 and 1852, Peru exported several times more guano to Britain than to the United States. Britain passed

Its strong financial power almost dominates the global guano trade.

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1851				
	Weight/ton	Total sales revenue/USD	Spend/USD	Net income/USD
USA	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>ÿÿÿÿÿÿ</u>
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1852

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Table 1 Exports of Peruvian guano to the United States and Britain (1851 and 1852)

On December 22, 1847, Peru signed a contract with the Gibbs Company, confirming that the Gibbs Company would exclusive rights to ship guano worldwide, and the first contract to ship Peruvian guano to the United States. In this contract After the expiration of the Treaty (December 18, 1849), the Peruvian Congress passed a law on January 25, 1850.

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total

USA

U.K.

The order authorized the administration to obtain a US\$3.84 million loan contract from the United States in exchange for trade in guano. ÿ Five US agencies immediately issued bids. One of the bids proposed to purchase 50,000 tons in the Chincha Islands. Guano, \$20 per ton, to be shipped over 5 years, with a loan of \$3.84 million paid in advance at an interest rate of 6%, while commissions, exclusive privileges, charter fees, etc. are negotiated in accordance with customary practices. This proposal guarantees the Peruvian government \$20 per ton. The price was US dollars (the net profit of all previous contracts to the Peruvian government did not exceed US\$15). This was the highest bid at the time. However, due to the influence of European competitors, In response, the bid was rejected, and Gibbs Company provided the loan to the Peruvian government at an interest rate of 6%. ÿ Since then, Peru and Britain have reached a relatively stable cooperative relationship. On August 22, 1851, Peru The government signed a five-year contract with Felipe Barreda, which replaced Gibbs's exclusive rights to export and sell guano in the United States. Under its terms, agents were entitled to receive a percentage of total sales. 6 5% commission, as their entire service fee for selling the product, chartering, guaranteeing, etc. ÿ

These contracts have attracted widespread attention in the United States. They reveal the export and sales process of guano. American consumers complained that the huge profits earned by companies that signed contracts with the Peruvian government kept the price of guano high. ÿObviously, in addition to those legal contract-relatedexpenses, there are also A large part of it is realized in the form of interest, insurance premiums, etc. These additional costs ultimately fall on American guano consumers.

Not only was the U.S. government unable to conduct guano trade directly with Peru, it was also faced with breaking the relationship between Britain and Peru. Therefore, when American speculators discovered the Lobos Islands off the coast of Peru, the then US Secretary of State Daniel Webster immediately stated that the US government would protect American citizens engaged in guano trading in the Lobos Islands. The right to mine and transport, he noted, "this obligation becomes even more pronounced when one considers that American consumers of Chincha guano could potentially buy it for half the price they pay now, which is not what the Peruvian government charges. ÿ"ÿ In fact, the U.S. government has been paying attention to and trying to solve the problem of the high price of guano. In 1850, President Millard Fillmore mentioned: "For agricultural stakeholders in the United States, Peruvian guano has become a A coveted asset, it is therefore the government's duty to use all means within its power to make the item available at a reasonable price.

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The American people also believe that the discovery of such a precious treasure (guano resources) is more helpful to the prosperity of the United States than the discovery of gold mines. ÿ The "Guano Gospel" brings new hope to American agriculture, but Faced with the monopoly in Peru and the close financial relations between Britain and Peru, "territorial expansion" to a certain extent was in the direct interests of the American agricultural and business groups. In the 1850s, American businessmen searched for and occupied guano on the global sea level. They received strong support from the federal government. The Lobos Islands dispute was the first territorial dispute faced by the United States when it was looking for overseas guano islands. In the following years, the United States also entered into disputes with Mexico, Venezuela, Ecuador, Haiti, etc. The country has a territorial dispute over the ownership of Guano Island.

2. "Prior Rights to Discovery" Lobos Islands Dispute with the United States and Secretariat

For much of the 19th century, guano was one of the most important fertilizers in the world and one of the most important commodities in international trade. Its powerful effects impressed American farmers, and its potential The huge profits also attracted a large number of commercial speculators. After searching for some guano islands overseas, the speculators tried to obtain government protection by raising the American flag, thereby establishing their possession of the guano islands. The activities have aroused conflicts between the United States and countries such as Peru, Venezuela, Mexico, and Ecuador. However, it seems that nothing can stop this frenzy.

In 1852, British traders discovered abundant guano on the Lobos Islands off the coast of Peru. Its reserves totaled about 2 million tons and were estimated to be worth at least 60 million US dollars. ÿ This not only aroused great interest from the British, but also almost This led to a war between the United States and Peru. In June 1852, the London Times published an article claiming that a British merchant ship had discovered an uninhabited island group in the Pacific, namely Lobo. There is a large amount of guano on the islands. This discovery is enough to cause a sensation in any agricultural country, especially in the United Kingdom. Some political parties in the United Kingdom are trying to prompt the British government to declare that these islands were discovered by Britain, and induce the government to send troops. Protect the right of British citizens to mine guano. Their reason is that in 1808, the British captain Edward Lawson visited

These islands, Lawson planted the British flag on the islands in 1813. However, the British government claimed to fully respect Peru's ownership of the Lobos Islands and refused to protect those commercial speculators. Some British people with nationalist sentiments were very angry about this. Dissatisfied, they believed that "Although the lion has infinite contempt for the wolf, it does not allow the wolf to steal its food in person." ÿPeru is very worried about British interference. After all, in history, the British have used certain unfounded reasons more than once to defeat themselves. to annex overseas territories. But compared to the United Kingdom, what makes the Peruvian government even more uneasy is the U.S. government's

response to the Lobos Islands. James C. Jewet, the captain of the American merchant ship "Nightingale" (Philomela), t) The dispute over the ownership of the Lobos Islands quickly came to a head with a letter to the U.S. Secretary of State. On June 2, 1852, Jewett asked the U.S. government whether American citizens could freely load guano on the Lobos Islands. Secretary of State Webster immediately responded in the affirmative. The United States claimed ownership of the Lobos Islands on the grounds of priority right of discovery. This was based on the fact that in September 1828, the captain of the New York merchant ship "Wasp" (Wasp), Captain Mo. Benjamin Morrell (Benjamin Morrell) set foot on these islands and described the conditions of these islands in a book published in 1832. Based on the information Webster learned, he believed that the United States government had a responsibility to protect the islands in Lobos. U.S. citizens operating on the islands, and notified the Navy Department to send a Pacific warship to Lovos to protect U.S. citizens from exploiting guano resources and engaging in guano trade. ÿ

Faced with the potential threat from the United States, the Peruvian charge d'affaires quickly communicated with the US government after learning the news. Juan Ygnacio de Osma, the Peruvian charge d'affaires stationed in Washington, immediately lodged a protest. At this time, the Peruvian government was not informed. ÿ He saw in the newspaper that R W Trundy of New York and J H Cheney of Boston had issued advertisements stating that

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They rented out ships to load guano in the Lobos Islands under the most favorable conditions, and stated that "Parties chartering ships from them can receive full and complete protection from the U.S. government."ÿ On June 25, De Osma stated this We communicated the problem with Webster. Webster said: "The Government of the United States of America does not recognize any ownership of Peru in the above-mentioned Lobos Islands. These deserted islands were discovered by the American Captain Morel in 1828. Therefore, The U.S. government will protect all U.S. citizens who may travel to these islands to obtain guano on these islands."ÿ

Subsequently, the Peruvian official confirmed Peru's long-term ownership of the Lobos Islands based on the principles of priority discovery and possession. The Peruvian government's basis was based on the inheritance of three stages: the Inca Empire period, the Spanish rule and the Peruvian Republic period. This is The historical roots of Peru's claim to the Lobos Islands. As early as the Inca Empire, the Indians knew how to use this precious fertilizer. It was said that anyone who disturbed the birds during the breeding season would be punished with death. In 1527 ÿ Francisco Pizarro (Francisco Pizarro) discovered the Lobos Islands near the mainland during a voyage on the coast of Peru, and occupied these islands in the name of the King of Spain. At the beginning of the 19th century, the Spaniard de Alcedo (Ant. onio de Alcedo) proved that they are part of Peru. The Spanish government has always exercised jurisdiction over these islands and all adjacent islands. At the same time, the Spanish government prohibited all foreign ships from fishing on these islands and only allowed Spanish subjects to fish on these islands. Since the signing of the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, various treaties signed by Spain have mentioned the prohibition of fishing by foreign ships in the Spanish colonies. 5 After Peru became independent, in 18 33 years 9

On November 6, a decree was promulgated to prohibit the fishing of cetaceans or amphibians near the coast and islands, and the agents of various countries were notified, including the United States Agent Samuel Larned. In addition, on November 6, 1833, Peru promulgated a law that would prohibit the fishing of cetaceans or amphibians since its independence. The first law specifically focused on commerce confirmed the Peruvian government's jurisdiction over the Lobos Islands. It clearly stipulated the ports that foreign ships sailing to Peru from abroad were allowed and prohibited to enter. These prohibited ports include The islands of Lobos, Huanape, Juanla, Hormiga, etc., which are rich in guano, were seized. If a ship violated this regulation, it would be confiscated together with its cargo. ÿ This decree was passed on December 18, 1833 by After the Peruvian Foreign Minister sent it to Raned, Raned did not question Peru's ownership of the Lobos Islands. This is also where De Osma questioned why the United States remained silent on this decree for the next 19 years. ÿ

In the 1840s, guano began to be exported to Europe and the United States. As the owner of guano resources, the Peruvian government promulgated decrees on March 2 and May 10, 1842, prohibiting any production without a license issued by the Peruvian government. Ships carried guano, and only the Chincha Islands were opened to trade in guano. Permits previously issued to foreign ships for transporting guano in the Lobos Islands and other islands were suspended. ÿ The Peruvian government's decrees remained strict for the next ten years . Implementation, which the Peruvian government considers to constitute legal language for the exercise of its sovereignty in the Lobos Islands.

In 1847, the Peruvian government hired American E.C. Carter to conduct a survey of the guano islands off the coast of Peru. He measured and estimated the guano reserves in the Lobos Islands in detail. The Peruvian government again conducted a survey on May 7, 1852. A decree was issued to annex the island named after Guano to one of the neighboring provinces or regions of the Republic. According to this decree, Lobos de Tira was annexed to the Lambayeque region (Lambayeque), and Lobos de Havre was Ella was annexed to the Eten region of Chiclayo Province. On June 21, 1852, the President of Peru appointed a governor to manage and live in the province and equipped it with a certain number of defense troops. In this way, Peru did not need to control it . The residents settled in the Lobos Islands, but achieved the purpose of officially occupying the islands. Peru's official ownership of the Lobos Islands is based on "discovery, occupation and sovereign acts", rather than the simple principle of proximity to the coast.

U.S. Charge d'Affaires in Lima (John Randolph Clay) reported to Secretary of State Webster

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Peru's evidence regarding the ownership of the Lobos Islands holds that "the sovereignty and possession of the Republic of Peru over Lobos de Tierra and Lobos de Afuera is absolute and unquestionable."ÿ But Webster Questioning the Peruvian official chain of evidence. First of all, although a fishing ban was issued during the Spanish rule, since the independence of the United States, no one has made any challenge, complaint or interference to the long-term fishing activities of American merchant ships off the coast of Peru. 1833 In September 2001, the Peruvian government promulgated a decree banning fishing, but this decree was promulgated only after Captain Morel's book was published. Secondly, the geographical dictionary compiled by de Alcedo only stated geographical basis. He does not discuss any question of rights based on "discovery, use, or political considerations." In this case, de Alcedo's geographical dictionary cannot be considered authoritative. Again, although Indians have been active since the Inca Empire On the Lobos Islands, however, American merchant ships have been active on the Peruvian coast for half a century, hunting seals and engaging in whaling in adjacent waters. In the past half century, the Peruvian Indians have undoubtedly used these islands more than the citizens of the United States. Much less. In this sense, the United States should have more ownership of the Lobos Islands than Peru. Finally, Peru emphasized its ownership of these islands according to the adjacent law. This seems to be unobjectionable, but in the 19th century The established rule of medium-term public international law (Public law) is that any coastal

A country's jurisdiction over territorial waters can extend to a distance of 1 shell or 3 nautical miles from the coast. Obviously, the

distance between the Lobos Islands and the Peruvian coastline far exceeds this distance.ÿ

Webster mainly attacked the Peruvian government's rhetoric from the above four aspects and protested the interruption of the United States' fishing rights on the Lobos Islands. International law in the 19th century generally recognized that if an island is discovered by a merchant ship, The country to which it belongs has the right to obtain all resources on the island based on the principle of priority of discovery. At the same time, if the island is adjacent to the coast of a country and citizens of a country are accustomed to using the island, it should be sufficient to prove that the country has ownership of the island, and The property belongs to the state. If it turns out that the Lobos Islands are uninhabited, then the U.S. government has reason to legally occupy the Lobos Islands.

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Peruvian officials have been communicating with the U.S. Charge d'Affaires and the U.S. Secretary of State, adopting a moderate attitude and arguing hard, and repeatedly emphasizing the friendly relations between the two sides as sister republics. When Lima learned that the United States was going to send a naval fleet to the Lobos Islands, Peruvian officials Nationalist sentiment was on the rise. The Lima newspaper Interprete del Pueblo published an article on August 4, 1852, stating that "the ordinary means of defense are insufficient to protect the Republic from the problems now exacerbating them." ÿ About Lovo The Supreme Government requests the Council of State to grant it the necessary authorization to take measures to properly discharge its primary responsibility to protect the rights and interests of its people." ÿ This article also claimed that the Council of State has put the matter on the agenda, and that the Peruvian government has made military deployments to defend against the invasion of the U.S. Navy. ÿ Peru's domestic reaction has attracted close attention from the U.S. government. The United States verified with the Peruvian Foreign Affairs Department that this Whether the article truly represented the official actions of Peru. Soon the Peruvian Foreign Minister Joaquín José de Osma clarified the contents of the newspaper to U.S. Charge d'Affaires Clay, saying that the newspaper was not an official newspaper and the Peruvian government would not Bear the responsibility for the opinions it expresses. ŷ It is clear that neither the United States nor Peru is willing to escalate this matter into an international conflict.

In the Lobos Islands dispute, U.S. agricultural interests and commercial interests were intertwined, and Webster also foresaw that sending the navy to the Lobos Islands would be beneficial to the national interest. In fact, Webster was willing to recognize Peruvian claims over the islands. ownership, but only if the Peruvian government can open the island's guano trade equally to all countries on the basis of appropriate taxation. Webster's purpose is to break the guano trade monopoly and implement what is called "fairness and impartiality" "ÿBecause at that time, equal and reasonable access to agricultural resources was crucial to the interests of American agricultural groups.

Resolution and Impact of the Trilovos Islands Dispute

Under the strong opposition of the Peruvian government and people, the U.S. government made concessions. In a letter to Captain Jewett on August 21, 1852, Webster stated that Peru had enacted a law in 1842.

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The order prohibits foreign ships from loading guano on the islands off the coast of Peru. Therefore, the U.S. government will not provide any military support to Jewett. If a conflict occurs, the government will not be responsible. ÿ Although Webster withdrew the naval fleet, it did not provide any military support to the Peruvian government. Expressing recognition of Peru's ownership of the Lobos Islands, on the same day he wrote a letter to Peru's Charge d'Affaires de Osma, still raising the above-mentioned four questions about Peru's ownership.

Alfred Benson was the owner of the merchant ship "Nightingale". To a certain extent, the Lobos Islands dispute in 1852 was a plan jointly planned by him and Secretary of State Webster to compete for Guano Islands internationally. When Jewett wrote that letter to the Secretary of State on June 5, he was fully aware of Peru's jurisdiction over the Lobos Islands; otherwise, they would not have thought it necessary to request armed protection from the United States government to test their claims. It is speculated that Webster was once an experienced farmer and an avid guano consumer. As American scholar Kenneth E Shewmaker said: "Webster cannot be regarded as a scam. victim because he knew the location of the islands and took the initiative to provide naval protection to Jewett." 3 If this coincidental plan succeeds, the United States can sell the guano from the Lobos Islands at a low price. Break Peru's monopoly on guano resources.

The Peruvian government was very worried about the expansion of the dispute between the United States and Peru, and tried to try its best to calm the dispute. When Peru's domestic attitude towards the United States was unfriendly, Peruvian officials adopted a milder attitude. Peru's foreign minister stated that the government did not control the public The legal basis for the media, but he will do his best to urge his people to calm down. ÿThe issue of the ownership of the Lobos Islands is extremely important to the Peruvian government. As Clay said: "If we deny that this government has ownership of the Lobos Islands, Sovereignty, when its foreign credit is destroyed, Lobos guano flowing into the market at a lower price, will effectively prevent Chincha guano sales. Bankruptcy of a country is bound to follow, and even may be the country

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A series of revolutions."ÿ For Peru, the peaceful settlement of the dispute over the Lobos Islands has further eliminated external threats and is also a key step for Peru to move towards the "Guano Era".

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The huge wealth quickly brought by "guano fever" has aroused the greed of more than one imperialist country. If a war breaks out, the enemy will quickly occupy Peru's guano islands, thereby controlling its main source of finance. The wealth accumulated through the guano trade Wealth, the Peruvian government established and maintained a powerful naval force. In 1864, the Western Secret War (also known as the Chincha Islands War) broke out. Spain first occupied the Chincha Islands and tried to cut off its economic lifeline. It was eventually defeated by the powerful Peruvian army. Defeated, Peru's ruling elite tried to use its resource advantages to build a modern country. During the 40 years when the guano trade prospered, Peru exported approximately 11 million tons of guano and sold approximately US\$7.5 billion on the world market. This was an incredible number in the 19th century. At the same time, the Peruvian government mainly exchanged guano resources for British Ioans. The model of development through Ioans ended in tragedy. Peru has never escaped the vicious circle of the "resource curse". In 1879, the Pacific Ocean The war almost completely destroyed the "false prosperity" created by Peru's guano era.

The Lobos Islands dispute is essentially a competition for the natural resources of peripheral countries. Just like the competition for oil resources by modern European and American countries, it is a manifestation of the struggle for resources by capitalist countries. It is worth noting that after the attempt to occupy the Lobos Islands failed, The United States continues to compete for a number of guano islands in the Caribbean and Pacific Rim. The U.S. competition for guano islands began as an unofficial effort and later became an important part of a carefully planned government plan. Some American businessmen have targeted the Caribbean. Mexico, Venezuela, Haiti and other countries protested against the unauthorized mining of guano by the United States on islands they claimed sovereignty over. Subsequently, the United States coveted Ecuador's guano islands. Two years after the Lobos Islands dispute, U.S. Secretary of State Martin William L. Marcy also took action to secure the United States' exclusive rights to the Ecuadorian guano trade. Philo White in 1853 July He was appointed Charge d'Affaires in Ecuador in June and was promoted to Charge d'Affaires in Ecuador in June of the following year. Minister, primarily due to the importance of Galapagos Island guano to U.S. agricultural interests, the U.S. government requested that White obtain exclusive rights to the guano if possible, at least through a most-favored-nation treaty with Ecuador.

After negotiations, White and Ecuador reached the Galapagos Guano Treaty, which allowed

U.S. ships are allowed to dig and load guano on their own. The treaty also allows the U.S. government to protect U.S. citizens engaged in the guano trade. One of the basic rights stipulated in the treaty is to protect these islands from invasion, plunder, etc.

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The signing of the "Galapagos Islands Guano Treaty" immediately aroused strong opposition from Peru, France and the United Kingdom. They were worried that the United States would establish a de facto protectorate on this archipelago. The Galapagos Islands were considered a western The strategic springboard to the Isthmian Canal. At a hearing held in Lima in 1854, the French charge d'affaires expressed great shock and anger: "The Ecuadorian government will seek to protect a country notorious for its ambition and wanton expansion of its territory. The United States is The annexation of Texas and California and the plots against the Sandwich Islands and Cuba all illustrate this point."ÿ At the same time, U.S. Charge d'Affaires Clay reported that Britain and France were suspicious of U.S. imperialism. Both countries believed that the United States was a desire. Enemies that expanded its territory posed a threat to its monarchy. 2 After the United States annexed California, its footsteps appeared on small islands in the

Pacific, which greatly intensified the suspicion and fear of the United States by Britain and France. Lobos Islands The controversy directly led to the U.S. Congress passing the Guano Islands Act in 1856. Under the protection of this law, the United States occupied a total of 94 islands from 1856 to 1903. rocks and fortresses, 66 of which are composed of The State Department officially recognized it as a dependent territory of the United States. There are still 9 such guano islands occupied by the United States. In 1857, the United States formally annexed Navassa Island (Navassa Island) in accordance with the Guano Island Act, making it an independent island of the United States. In 1858, US President James Buchanan dispatched the USS Saratoga to the southwestern corner of Haiti. Nafsha

Island to block two ships trying to stop a Baltimore fertilizer company from mining guano The Haitian warship. Samuel Flagg Bemis, the "founder" of American diplomatic history, believed that 1898 marked a complete break with traditional American diplomacy. This in itself was abnormal and un-American. He called it " The basic thesis "The Great Aberration" (4) had a decisive influence on the study of American diplomatic history in the following decades. This metaphor even developed into a virtual dogma. Although the United States in the mid-19th century The expansion of the Pacific Ocean was considered

ÿ "John Randolph Clay o Peruÿ to William L Marcy of the United Nations Statesÿ Limaÿ December 25ÿ 1852"ÿ i n William R Manning (ed) Diplomatic Correspond ince of the United States: Inter-American Affa irsÿ 1831 -1860ÿ Vol 10 ÿ Washington: Carnegie Endowment for Internat ional Peaceÿ 1939ÿ p 750 The Sandwich Islands are also called the Sandwich Islands. They were named by the British navigator James Cook when he discovered Hawaii on January 18, 1778, to commemorate the then First Navy. Lord Chancellor, his boss and patron, the 4th Earl of Sandwich. Beginning in the late 19th century, the name fell out of widespread use.

"Transactions" reveals to a certain extent the "great anomaly" of the United States in the Pacific region, that is, the beginning of the United States' maritime expansion. The performance of the U.S. government in the dispute over the Lobos Islands at least symbolizes the United States' conscious acquisition of rich and valuable raw materials in the Pacific region. The Pacific Fleet was deployed for this purpose. The Lobos Islands, which are rich in guano resources, provided a tentative case for US foreign policy to expand into the ocean.

In the traditional sense, the mid-19th century was the period of continental expansion of the United States based on the theory of Manifest Destiny. ÿ The Spanish-American War marked the official beginning of the United States' overseas expansion. As Ernest R May believed, "the United States suddenly became a country at the end of the 19th century. Colonial Empire"ÿ, at this time "the territories annexed by the United States are foreign territories that are not contiguous with the United States"ÿ. Obviously, the United States' annexation of Alaska, Midway and other Pacific islands in the mid-19th century does not conform to May's conclusion. In Lovo In the Lobos Islands incident, the British government had recognized the sovereignty of Peru and refused to provide protection to British subjects who illegally trafficked guano in the Lobos Islands. The response of the U.S. government was actually to encourage this clandestine trafficking. In Peru, the United Kingdom and the United States Both were considered imperialist countries, but it seemed that the latter aroused greater worries and fears. In 1852, a commentary in the American newspaper National Intelligencer wrote: "Our government does not Suitable for colonization We have no superfluous population, and the inhabitants of these islands are not yet civilized enough to form a part of our republic, nor civilized enough to maintain a free government. They can be ruled by standing armies in time of peace, and be the enemy's first enemy in time of war. "A prey."ÿ This was the domestic comment made by the United States when it coveted the Sandwich Islands in the same year. Obviously, the United States had

begun to discuss the issue of foreign colonization. Roy F. Nichols (Roy F. Nichols) described the United States' pursuit of Guano Islands since the 1840s. It was explained as the first step on the "road of imperialism", that is, the United States sought to acquire non-contiguous territory for the first time. 5 On August 30, 1856, the United States acquired Baker Island (Baker Island) and Jia Island in accordance with the Guano Island Act. Jarvis Island (Jarvis Island), and since then the United States has acquired hundreds of guano islands as strongholds. The battle for the Lobos Islands in 1852 was the earliest example of the United States' overseas expansion. This international of

ÿ Domestic academic circles have conducted relatively in-depth research on the expansion of the American continent. Some representative research results can be found in Wang Xiaode's book: "The Founding Era of American Diplomacy (1776-1860)", Beijing: China Social Sciences Press, 2013, pp. 409 - Page 425, Kaiwei Teng: « "Manifest Destiny" on the Concept of National Identity in the United States in

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ÿ the Mid-19th Century», published in World History, Issue 3, 2017, Pages 69-81, Ernest R Ma yÿ American Imperialism: A

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It seems completely unreasonable today. At that time, a large amount of evidence showed that the Peruvian Indians had been active in the Lobos Islands for a long time in order to obtain bird eggs, seals and guano, but the United States embarked on a barbaric imperialist adventure and attacked the United States. For the time being, the issue of Peruvian sovereignty seemed irrelevant. This dispute actually became a prelude to the United States' maritime expansion. This was the first time that the United States government tried to take an area that was not adjacent to the United States as its own.

The direct cause of the dispute in the Lobos Islands is the competition for guano resources, but its subsequent impact goes beyond that. Although the plan to occupy the Lobos Islands failed, the U.S. government continues to work hard to find cheaper guano for domestic consumers. Supply. Over the next few years, U.S. activity in the Caribbean and throughout the Pacific in search of guano resources continued unabated. It was clear that once the guano resources were exhausted, the islands would lose their commercial and agricultural value. However, As the strategic importance of some of these islands became increasingly apparent, the United States quickly took steps to prevent its ownership from being shaken. When the United States discovered abundant guano on a remote, uninhabited Pacific island in 1855, the U.S. Congress immediately passed the Guano Islands Act. Act* to incorporate the found Guano Islands into the Union. As global interest in the Pacific surged again in the 1930s, the United States reaffirmed its interest in Baker and Jarvis Islands, as well as Holland Island, Johns Island, Atolls and sovereignty over Palmyra Island and Kingman Reef. These Pacific islands were occupied under the protection of the Guano Island Act. Therefore, it can be said that at the end of the continental expansion of "Manifest Destiny", The United States is also accumulating efforts to prepare for maritime expansion, and the Lobos Islands dispute is, to a certain extent, an important exploration of the United States' maritime expansion.

With the birth of synthetic fertilizers in 1913 and the depletion of Peruvian guano resources, the "guano fever" of the mid-19th century has long ceased to exist. The guano islands found overseas did not bring a large amount of high-quality natural fertilizers to European and American countries. Some The content of phosphorus and potassium in island guano is not high, and its fertilizer function is not strong. For example, the United States soon abrogated the "Galapagos Islands Guano Treaty" because no large amounts of guano were found in the Galapagos Islands. ÿ The territorial claim made by the United States under the Guano Island Act of 1856 is not only an important milestone in the history of U.S. imperialism, but also an important milestone in the rise of remote islands in global geopolitics. ÿ From the late 19th century At first, these islands became coal stations, submarine telegraph cable relay stations, and later became air force bases. Many islands played an important role in Pacific transportation stations. In addition to the United States, Britain was not far behind and annexed the Curiamuria Islands. Although this

ÿ Zheng Guangan: « (Guano Island Act[,] and the expansion of US maritime territory», published in «World History», Issue 4, 2019, pp. 39-40.

The guano resources on these islands were nearly exhausted. In the second half of the 19th century, the United Kingdom also claimed to occupy Kiritimati Island and the Malden Islands in the Central Pacific. lands), annexed some guano islands near Namibia. At that time, occupying guano islands became a common way for a country to declare itself a colonial power. France, Japan, Mexico, Germany, and Australia all joined the fight for Pacific islands. By World War I, almost every island was theoretically a are all subject to some distant imperial government.

Four Conclusions

Judging from the motivations of the Lobos Islands dispute, the United States is trying to take possession of the Guano Islands that belong to Peru. This is a test of the United States' maritime expansion and has a strong imperialist nature. Judging from the process of the dispute, Peru The government provided a complete chain of evidence, confirming that the Lobos Islands belonged to Peru during the three historical periods of the Inca Empire, Spanish colonization, and the Republic of Peru. This is the historical root of the Republic of Peru's exercise of ownership. Since independence, the Peruvian government has targeted the Guano Islands. The various decrees promulgated are the legal basis for Peru to exercise ownership of the Lobos Islands. Judging from the outcome of the dispute, the peaceful settlement of the dispute has provided a stable international environment for Peru to monopolize guano resources, but this has also led Peru to the direction of The economic development model relied on borrowing for development and fell into the trap of the "resource curse". Judging from the subsequent impact of the controversy, the entire "guano era" initiated the global territorial and economic expansion in the Pacific region. By the beginning of the 20th century, the Pacific All the small islands on the island have been carved up. Peru's rich guano resources have supplied the world's agricultural production for about 40 years. After guano became a bulk commodity in international trade, imperialist countries placed great emphasis on the huge economic value brought by guano. The United States promulgated the "Guano Island Act" and took the lead in using legislation to legalize the right to discover Guano Islands. Imperialist countries soon joined the battle for Pacific islands. Today's maritime territorial disputes in the international community are more dominated by major powers. The game of geopolitics, but the international actions and even armed conflicts using territorial disputes as an excuse to compete for economic resources are still not over. To a certain extent, the competition for unknown ocean resources is the key to the game of geopolitics.

(Editor Huang Nian)

ÿChristmas Island (Kiritimati Island) is also called Kiritimati Islands and Kiribati Christmas Island. It was discovered by the British navigator James Cook on December 24, 1777. It was on Christmas Eve at this time, so it was named Christmas Island. ŷ 1888 It became a British colony in 1999 and is now part of the Republic of Kiribati.