

Four Phases of Mediatization and the Significance of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department of Information: 1905 - 1922

Lieven Sommen

In 1921, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs officially created the 'Department of Information' (Gaimushō Jōhōbu). After various failed attempts by the Ministry to create comprehensive and coherent propaganda strategies since the First Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895), this department structurally allowed MOFA's propaganda-making capabilities to reach a higher plateau going forward, and for the first time gave it a tool to perform propaganda in a centralized and professionalized way. Examining MOFA's propaganda policies from 1904 until 1922 via the research concept of 'mediatization', this article argues that the department was a significant addition to the structure of MOFA.