

Recommended for Further Reading

Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus Articles Recommended for Further Reading

“The Forging of Alien Status of Koreans in American Occupied Japan”

Mark E. Caprio

January 2, 2008

<http://japanfocus.org/-Mark-Caprio/2624>

Together with the other article authored by Caprio in this course reader, this article explains the circumstances during the occupation era that created the status of Zainichi Koreans in postwar Japan. It argues that American occupation policies were responsible for the later plight of Zainichi Koreans. The article contends that there were several reasons Americans distrusted Koreans in Japan at the time. One was that, lacking a direct channel between themselves and the Koreans, the Americans largely mirrored and accepted the Japanese attitude of looking down on Koreans. Moreover, the Korean activities in the black market as well as communist sympathies among many Koreans made Americans keen to repatriate them immediately to the Korean peninsula. The emerging Cold War mind-set made them view Koreans as affecting Japan only in bad ways.

“The Future of Japan’s Immigration Policy: A Battle Diary”

Sakanaka Hidenori

Introduction by Andrew Taylor and David McNeill

<http://japanfocus.org/-Sakanaka-Hidenori/2396>

Sakanaka Hidenori (1945–) is a former director of the Tokyo Immigration Bureau, and this article is a translation of an excerpt from his 2005 publication *Immigration Battle Diary* (Nyukan senki). Sakanaka argues that Japan has two major options for its future: one, the “Small Option,” is to keep its borders tightly closed to foreign immigrants and allow the population to rapidly decline. The other, the “Big Option,” is to allow a gradual influx of foreign migrants into Japan and offer them equal rights and privileges. Sakanaka thinks the “Big Option” is the only realistic alternative for Japan, despite knowing that some hostility toward migrants will arise in the process. He argues that the question of how to deal with Zainichi Koreans is one of the important issues for the future of immigration in Japan; they are “a litmus test for the relationships Japan would need to build with new arrivals if it were to accept a large number of immigrants” from elsewhere in the world. (p. 2).

“Guarding the Borders of Japan: Occupation, Korean War and Frontier Controls”

Tessa Morris-Suzuki

February 21, 2011

http://japanfocus.org/-Tessa-Morris_Suzuki/3490

In this article, a companion piece to another article authored by Tessa Morris-Suzuki, she discusses the significant inflow of Koreans into Japan during the immediate postwar years.

Here, drawing on her readings of the records left by the vessel *Hatsushima*, which traveled between Jeju Island and Japan in 1948 and in the following years, Morris-Suzuki describes the circumstances that surrounded the Korean passengers who entered Japan illegally. The article argues that the ill-prepared repatriation program implemented by the Japanese and occupation authorities made it virtually impossible for repatriated Koreans to remain in Jeju or elsewhere in Korea. Without recognizing the confusion that reigned in Korea, however, both the Japanese and the Americans continued separating the former colonials from the Japanese. Jeju Island, meanwhile, became a battleground in the struggle between the right-wing mainland Koreans and the Jeju Islanders who rebelled against them, resulting in the April 3rd Incident in which between 20,000 and 30,000 were murdered (p. 13). The Japanese authorities neglected to protect the Koreans after the massacre, however, and continued to categorize them as potentially subversive aliens who should be extradited at the earliest opportunity.

“Legal Categories, Demographic Change and Japan’s Korean Residents in the Long Twentieth Century”

Yoshiko Nozaki, Hiromitsu Inokuchi, and Kim Tae-young

September 10, 2006

http://japanfocus.org/-Kim-Tae_young/2220

This short and succinct article outlines the history of Koreans in Japan during the twentieth century and in the early 2000s. The article depicts how Japanese legal approaches changed during that time period as well as demographic changes occurring at that time. The Japanese annexation of Korea in 1910 instigated the inflow of Koreans into Japan, and the abrupt transformation of Japanese policies after 1945 made these Koreans into “stateless” people. Also significant is the fact that the number of Zainichi Koreans has been steadily declining since the early 1990s. At that time, it became easier for them to naturalize as Japanese citizens as interethnic marriages became common. The article argues that despite this gradual decrease, it is important to recognize the Zainichi Korean heritage in order for Japanese to understand that their nation is no longer mono-ethnic – indeed, that it never was.

“Names, Bones and Unpaid Wages: Repatriations for Korean Forced Labor in Japan”

William Underwood

September 10, 2006

<http://japanfocus.org/-William-Underwood/2219>

Pak Kyong-shik wrote a seminal study on Korean forced labor in wartime Japan in 1965 and there has been a steady flow of studies on this topic since then, by scholars such as Tonomura Masaru. In *Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus*, William Underwood has written a series of pertinent articles. This one describes the coercion of Koreans to work in wartime Japan, as well as painstaking efforts made by today’s activists in Japan and Korea to compensate the victims of that coercion. The activists are targeting both the Japanese

government and some major Japanese corporations such as Mitsubishi and Aso Corporation who used the forced labor, but both groups have done very little to redress the situation. The former Prime Minister Aso Taro is a former chairperson of Aso Corporation and he serves as a foreign minister in the Abe cabinet formed in 2012.

Other Recommended Readings

Chapman, David, *Zainichi Korean Identity and Ethnicity* (London and New York: Routledge, 2008).

Chung, Erin Aeran, *Immigration and Citizenship in Japan* (Cambridge and New York, Cambridge University Press, 2010).

Ko, Mika, *Japanese Cinema and Otherness: Nationalism, Multiculturalism and the Problem of Japaneseness* (London and New York: Routledge, 2010).

Wender, Melissa, *Lamentation as History: Narratives by Koreans in Japan, 1965-2000* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2005).

Yoneyama, Lisa, *Hiroshima Traces: Time, Space, and the Dialectics of Memory* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999).