

# The Life History of a Returnee from Korea: The Colonial Life, Repatriation, and Postwar Life of Aki Narihara

Yuru Hung & Haruyuki Tahara

In the wake of Japan's defeat in 1945, many Japanese citizens who had lived in the Japanese empire's peripheries moved back to the Japanese mainland. In general, the life experiences of those "repatriated" can be divided into three periods: colonial life, evacuation, and postwar life back on the mainland. Each period's relative importance varies according to the returnee's regional and personal attributes. However, the preceding studies on their life histories have treated each period independently, and have not paid adequate attention to the continuity between those periods.

How can we decode the prewar and postwar records written by the repatriates? This essay attempts to answer this question by utilizing the personal records of Aki Narihara, a returnee from Korea, that encompass the aforementioned three periods. By interpreting the events in the three periods from the standpoint of a consistent life history, our goal is to clarify the embedded historical continuity of the Japanese state, which has been conceptualized as the "folded empire."