

This bachelor thesis deals with a topic of the origin and the development of the modern koseki registration system related to discrimination against social outcastes during Meiji period in Japan. The aim of the first part is to provide with a historical overview of Japanese population and household registers and to introduce a process of transformation of the previous records into the modern household registers. The objective of the paper is to assess the forms of Meiji household registers, contextualize it into a legal framework and analyze its impact on the Japanese society. Although the Japanese people were emancipated, as the nationals of a modern state, in fact the social discrimination has never been eliminated. In conclusion, it was essentially the household register system, determining the legal relation between an individual as a citizen and the state, and the Meiji legislation responsible for the discrimination in this period.