

Abstract (in English):

This master's thesis focus on the repatriation of Koreans from Japan after World War II. The repatriation process was in many aspects more complicated than it could seem to be at the first sight. A hindrance to the repatriation of more than 2 million Koreans, who were left behind in Japan after the end of war, was vague politics of Supreme Command for Allied Powers (SCAP). SCAP did not possess any specific plan considering Koreans and other foreigners in Japan after its arrival to the Japanese archipelago. Therefore, the government of Japan was the one who seized upon the Korean repatriation and began sending ships from Japan's islands loaded with Korean laborers and soldiers, who were living testimony of its war crimes and a threat for Japanese public order. The government of Japan, however, was limited by number of ships, which it could provide for transportation of Koreans, and by number of available ports. As the waiting time for boarding on a repatriation ship was getting longer and longer, majority of Koreans could not wait anymore. In those cases, they usually decided to rent a small vessel, by which they got transported to the Korean peninsula. Those vessels, however, were making their voyages without a permission and were easy target for pirates or typhoons, which were particularly intense and frequent in September and October 1945.

In spite of these conditions, it is estimated that approximately 800 000 of Koreans returned from Japan to the Korean peninsula till half of October 1945. In half of October 1945, SCAP issued an order to the government of Japan to establish so called reception centers. Main purpose of these reception centers was regulation of coming and outgoing repatriates. SCAP also established strict regulations over transfer of repatriates' property and money which made many of them postpone their return to Korea. First orders considering repatriation of Koreans in Japan were included in a memorandum from 1st November 1945. In this memorandum SCAP appointed repatriation ports, numbers of coming and outgoing repatriates and priority for certain repatriates and certain Japanese location, from which Koreans had to be evacuated first. During November and December 1945 SCAP issued other memorandums containing orders regarding repatriation of Koreans from Japan. By then it got obvious that SCAP decided to send Koreans out of Japan. The reason behind its decision was that Koreans were hindering in attaining its main goal – democratization of Japan. In 1946 the number of repatriates was gradually declining. Moreover, the repatriation had to be stopped several times due to happenings in Korea. Finally, the official

repatriation of Koreans ended on 31st November 1945 even though SCAP was not able to send out of Japan all Koreans who desired to be repatriated to Korea according to registration of repatriation in April 1946.