

An Annotated Timeline of Japanese Government Citizen Registration Systems

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Overview

- Motivation
- Deep History
- Modern, Industrial, Colonial
- Militarism, Colonialism, War
- Occupation and Modernisation
- Recent History
- Current Developments

Motivation

- Japan's limited DP laws (the APPIs) were heavily influenced by the development of Jukinet
- State surveillance is heavily linked with government ID schemes
- Cards are the tip of the iceberg: the databases are the big issue
- Japan's current scheme is divisive, discriminatory, controlling
- Rapid (for Japan) transformations since 1990; including 2013/14
- Historic Institutions underpin modern systems
- Dates are AD (apologies for the cultural imperialism)

Deep History



- 670: Emperor Tenji imports the 戸籍 (CN: hukou; JP: koseki) household registration system from China
- 700–1600: Various land registry systems link to the koseki and regular censuses, also used to determine tax requirements
- 1614: Early Tokugawa regime bans Christianity, involves Buddhist temples in religious surveillance
- 1638: Christianity punishable by death;
寺受け制度/*teraukeseido*/*temple registration certificate* introduced
- Shinto religion modestly discouraged as it entails Imperial authority
- Buddhism becomes part of central government to disrupt regional power

Modern, Industrial, Colonial



- 1871: Koseki Act moves registration from Temples to local government
- 1872: Prefectures created, including koseki administration
- 1874: Christianity allowed; temple certificate requirement dropped
- 1879: Okinawa becomes prefecture; 1886: koseki introduced
- 1895: Taiwan annexed
- 1898: Adoption of Civil Law
(from Germany including family law)
- 1899: Nationality Act defines Japan (and citizens) as four main islands plus Okinawa, jus sanguinis (paternal)

Militarism, Colonialism, War



- 1910: Annexation of Korea;
- Date TBD: Koseki introduced in Taiwan and Korea. Registered addresses required to be in Taiwan/Korea even for those immigrating to Japan
- 1920s: Urban Neighbourhood Associations replicate village control structures
- 1925: Peace Preservation Laws (Thought Control)
- 1931–7: Annexation of “Manchuria”
Fingerprint personal ID systems deployed in Manchuria (nomadic population; impressed workforce on railway projects)
- 1938: National Mobilisation Act (individual Registration)

Occupation and Modernisation



- 1947: Alien Registration Ordinance: Korean, Taiwanese, Manchurian citizens turned into foreigners based on koseki
- 1948: New Koseki Act
- 1952: Nationality/Alien Registration/Resident Registration Acts
Fingerprinting of aliens (mostly Zainichi)
- 1967: Residents Basic Registration Law
- 1970s: Proposal for Computerised ID System
Lack of Kanji Processing; Academic Opposition
- 1972: Okinawa returns to Japan
- 1985: New Nationality Act: Maternal jus sanguinus added
- 1988: Public Sector Data Protection Law

Recent History



- 1996: Single Tax ID Number (KuRoYon persists)
- 1999: Fingerprinting of Aliens dropped (Zainichi campaign)
- 1999: Juki Net Enabling Legislation Passed
- 2001: Juki Net Pilot Started
- 2002: Juki Net goes National
- 2003: New APPIs passed
- 2005: New APPIs come into force
- 2006: Supreme Court rules Juki Net constitutional
- 2007: Non-zainichi visitors/residents fingerprinted on (re-)entry
- 2008: Supreme court grants nationality to illegitimate children with Japanese fathers/non-Japanese mothers

Current Developments

- 2010: Commission on Social Security and Tax Number System proposes *My Number* system
- 2010: New Gaijin Registration System Law: control to pass from local authorities to Immigration Bureau/MoJ
- 2012: My Number Enabling Legislation proposed but times out
- 2012: New Gaijin Registration System begins operation
- 2013: Gaijin Registration System linked in to Juki Net
- 2013: My Number Enabling Legislation Passed

Thank You
Questions?
Comments?
Corrections?