Paper Title:
The portrayal of Asian ‘Others' in Japan’s TV documentaries: A focus on Zainichi Koreans

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Abstract
Abstract text  (no more than 500 words with no figures or tables)

This research examines the portrayals of Zainichi Koreans in Japanese television documentaries and what these depictions reveal about changing Japanese perceptions of Korea. The Zainichi Koreans, who arrived in Japan as a consequence of the Japanese colonization of the Korean peninsula, have long been excluded from the nation's memory.

After World War II, Japan’s traditional political, economic, and social systems were substantially shaken. Critical television documentaries were made one after another during this time. Nevertheless, throughout the 1950s and 1960s, the Japanese visual media largely regarded the Zainichi Koreans as an unmentionable issue. While a few Koreans perhaps appeared as extras in war films, they were essentially ignored in the coverage of social issues. A television documentary program of the NHK, 'Nihon no Sugao' (The Real Japan), dealt with them for the first time. It sought to assign responsibility for Japanese colonialism in Korea; however, the documentary retained a largely colonial ideology.

Zainichi Koreans long remained a semi-taboo subject on television, but some programs began covering certain issues, such as discrimination and the legacy of Japan’s colonization of Korea, gradually in the 1970s and 1980s. They began mentioning the forced relocation of Koreans to Japan during the colonial period and Korean victims of war, such as those who were victims of the atomic
bomb or who were forced to serve as comfort women. Globalization and more intense international contact with Korea caused the increase of Zainichi-related programs. The NHK special 'Mikko' (Secret Passage) in 1980 followed illegal Korean immigrants who came to work in Japan and discussed the colonial legacy to some extent.

Coverage expanded even more in the 1990s, as television increasingly depicted Koreans as Asian neighbours. Programs dealt with the lives of first generation Zainichi and the identity issues faced by their grandchildren, the use of Japanese rather than Korean names, and movements to seek further war reparations. These programs frequently included the key words 'forgotten' and 'left behind'. The impact of these words on the Japanese younger generation, who did not experience the Pacific War, were quite strong.

Thus, by looking at Japan's television documentary chronologically, it is possible to trace the change in the portrayal of the Zainichi, who have been treated as Asian 'Others' by the Japanese.