# For Security and Citizenship: Fingerprint Registration Systems in Postwar Japan

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From July 2012, new residency management system has been enforced in Japan. Alien registration card, with infamous compulsory fingerprinting, is now abolished. However, the idea of fingerprinting identification has a long life with plural historical origins, most of which stem from labor management and border control of citizenship.

Through brief history of fingerprinting registration systems in Japan, this paper aims at considering how labor management, migration control and social identification closely connected with physical technology and social security.

Previous studies on the history of fingerprint registration in Japan point out that fingerprint registration for residents and workers started and most widely implemented in Manchukuo. The people who took part in the registration and who studied or experienced military work there later played important roles in Japan and Korea to introduce fingerprint registration for aliens and/or nationals. Allied Powers which governed Japan and South Korea also supported the introduction for the purpose of figuring out "communists". Therefore, fingerprint registration is often regarded as collaboration of old and new colonialism in Northeast Asia.

Deeply influenced by the previous scholarship in its history, this paper tries to see less "oppressive" and more "liberal" dimensions of the registration. This paper especially focuses on an ordinance bill which was raised in Osaka City in 1949; facing increasing thievery, missing people and items, arson and "illegal migration", Osaka city government and national rural police launched fingerprinting project to the residents. Although the bill itself was failed to be enacted, the idea of the bill was realized in amendments of imperial ordinance of alien registration and residential fingerprint registration was tried to be enforced in Japan later on.

Of course surveillance by the police always motivated the project of fingerprinting registration. However, in the search of public security, control of labor, management of the border of citizenship, reliable identification has been necessary. Legal identification always needs physical and reliable identity. Perhaps a key to understand identity and the idea of individual in modern society lies in such a intertwine of surveillance and public service, which is also alive in new-born residency management system in Japan.