

Military Occupation of Taiwan by R.O.C. and U.S.A. after Surrender of Japan (1945-1947)

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ABSTRACT

The surrender of Japan was on August 15, 1945 is generally deemed the end of World War II and the beginning of the post-war era. However, according to international law, it signified only a 'truce' between the Allies and the Axis Powers. Not until the Peace Treaty of San Francisco took effect on April 28, 1952 did the war really come to a close. Hence, strictly speaking, Taiwan was still under the sovereign power of Japan from August 1945 to April 1952. Nevertheless, such fact and history had been distorted by the KMT whose military occupation of Taiwan was 'glorified' as the retrocession or 'return to China'.

From the perspectives of international law and historical facts, this article reconstructed what actually happened during that era. Between 1945 and 1947, Taiwan was occupied by both the Republic of China and the United States Armed Forces. With the signing of San Francisco Peace Treaty, Japan renounced sovereignty over Taiwan. The supposed 'temporary' occupation of Taiwan by the ROC Army on behalf of the Allied forces subsequently became the authoritarian rule of KMT until the lifting of Martial Law in 1987. While the ROC did obtain and maintain control of Taiwan after the surrender of Japan, whether it has legal sovereignty of Taiwan remains to be justified.

keywords: Formosa Liaison Group, Office of Governor-General of Taiwan, Taiwan Sōtokufu, 228 Incident, Occupation of Japan