

## **Divide and Rule: Social Networks and Collective Relocations of Bunun and Pan-Atayal Tribes, 1931-1945**

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### **ABSTRACT**

After the Busha Incident of 1930, the Office of the Governor-General launched large-scale collective relocations, forcing mountain indigenous people to migrate to foothill regions. Bunun and pan-Atayal (including Seediq and Truku), who were considered by the Japanese the most difficult to govern, were among those affected. Such policy broke up social relationships among the tribes. This study reconstructed and examined the social networks of Bunun and pan-Atayal tribes in 1931 to shed light on the impact of the collective relocation policy. It was found that tribes inhabiting the same river basin shared strong connections while those of the same ancestry but geographically separated could not maintain close ties. Hence, relocating the same tribe to different regions would disintegrate intra-tribal relationship, and separating different tribes with close connections to locations distant apart would also sever inter-tribal ties. This paper presented three cases of intra-tribal split and seven cases of inter-tribal break-up that occurred between 1931 and 1945 for further in-depth research.

**Keywords:** Ethnic History, Historical Sociology, Social Network Analysis, Historical GIS