

## **From Mountains to Foothills: Social Networks and Collective Relocations of Paiwan and Rukai Tribes**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This article comprehensively collates the history of collective relocations of Paiwan and Rukai tribes since 1931, and explores whether the configuration of relocations corresponded to the original geographical and social networks of tribes. After the Busha Incident of 1930, relocating the mountain tribes became the chief policy of the government. Bunun and pan-Atayal, who were considered by the Japanese the most difficult to govern, bear the brunt of impact. During the 1940s, the Japanese rulers turned their spearheads to Paiwan and Rukai, and launched large-scale relocation plans. Without respecting for the original geographical and social networks of tribes, the relocation involved extensive cross-territorial migration, even mergers of hostile tribes. Following the defeat of Japan, the plans remained unfulfilled. The Kuomintang (KMT) government, while continuing to relocate mountain tribes, made no attempt to carry out the previously unfinished plans. Post-war relocations had greater respect for the wishes of the indigenous peoples and most of the cases were in line with the original geographical and social networks of tribes. Severe hit of Typhoon Morakot in 2009 once again forced the indigenous peoples who remain in their original settlements to move down the mountain. However, the allocation mechanism of permanent housing with household as a unit led to split and dispersion among the tribes. Today, most of the Paiwan and Rukai peoples have left the mountains, and settled along foothills regions on both sides the Central Mountain Range.

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