

## **Taiwanese Interned in India during World War II**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Following the Japanese attack on the Pearl Harbor and Malay Peninsula on December 8, 1941, many civilians were taken captives by belligerent countries for fear of espionage. Taiwanese living in the Malay Peninsula and Singapore were detained and then transferred to India. They were first interned at an old castle called Purana Qila, New Delhi and then at the Japanese Internment Camp in Deoli, Ajmer in central India. The internees were finally released and returned to Taiwan in May, 1946.

This article reconstructs the little-known wartime history of forced migration of Taiwanese living abroad. Analyzing the list of internees shed light on the pre-war history of Taiwanese residing in the Malay Peninsula who used to live among Chinese communities. However, they were interned at the Japanese Internment Camp in India owing to their nationality and began living like the Japanese. The particular identity of Taiwan and the complex relationships between Taiwan, China and Japan makes wartime experience of overseas Taiwanese one of a kind.

**Keywords:** Internment Camp in India, Purana Qila, Deoli/Ajmer, Taiwanese, Internee