

## **Determination to Write History for the Taiwanese: Writing Activities of Ye Jung-chong in His Later Years**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This article describes the life of Ye Jung-chong as an anti-Japanese intellectual in the post-colonial era. Before World War II, Ye Jung-chong was a right-wing intellectual of the anti-Japanese movement. Such had been his image in modern Taiwan. After the war, he published a series of works in the 1960s when Taiwan was still under martial law, thereby passing down his experiences and memories of the anti-Japanese movement in the 1920s to the younger generation. This article attempts to explore the historical background and his life experiences that changed Ye Jung-chong from an anti-Japanese intellectual into a writer of historical experiences. Although not belonging to the postwar generation, Ye Jung-chong attracted much the attention of the postwar generation both domestic and overseas because of his book, *History of the Taiwanese National Movement*, and because he was part of the “back-to-reality” trend of thought of the 1970s. Although he was invited to write *History of the Taiwanese National Movement* as a refutation of Yang Chao-chia's memoirs, it did reveal his strong “determination to write history.” In the aftermath of World War II, his role as a “writer” overlapped with his engagement to “write history.” Ye Jung-chong's zeal to write history stemmed from his demand for equal recognition of the Taiwanese history and culture. His spirit of recording history had set a precedent for the postwar generation, including Kang Ning-hsiang, Huang Huang-hsiung and others. Moreover, every time a predecessor of the anti-Japanese movement died, Ye Jung-chong published essays of commemoration and passed down memories of the forerunners. The *'tangwai'* magazines inherited his literary style, which was also a part of his legacy prior to the study of Taiwanese history in the later half of the 1980s. Analyzing the writing activities of Ye Jung-chong in his late years can shed light on the post-colonial cultural movement and the process through which historical experiences of Taiwanese under Japanese colonial rule were discoursed, which makes it a part of social memory under the KMT's dominant, one-party regime in the postwar era.

**Keywords:** Ye Jung-chong, *History of the Taiwanese National Movement*, “Determination to Write History for the Taiwanese”, Kang Ning-hsiang