

COMPLETION REPORT

Translating War and Asianism: A Translation Project Towards a Better Understanding of Wartime Japanese Intellectuals Dispatched to the Philippines During the Second World War

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Wartime Japanese intellectuals like Miki Kiyoshi, as well as prominent writers like Kon Hidemi, played a huge part not only in the formation of Japanese wartime propaganda, but more so, in the understanding of what it meant for a country to join the war and for a people to be Asian. In the same reason as commercial advertisers were commissioned by the Japanese government to perform the various legworks of propaganda production, intellectuals and writers were mobilized to fill-up what would have been an intellectual void if not for their presence. Intellectuals, graduates and professors of prestigious universities home and abroad, as well as accomplished writers popular among their countrymen, maintained the respectable role of traditional thinkers in the Japanese society and at the same time became the intellectual life-line of a society that was only starting to understand, resist, and accommodate the various streams of thought within the country and those originating overseas. Their works were to be utilized by the imperial army as ideological foundation of the war. Some were also to be mobilized actively in pre-Pacific War think tank organizations, and during the war, as members of a number of military propaganda units dispatched to occupied territories, tasked with providing a reportage of the war and at the same time, sustain its ideological basis. Japan's eventual loss also meant that these wartime reportage and philosophical writings about the war will more likely be less translated into another language and much less studied by potential historians and other social scientists outside Japan. Composed on more than 45,000 words, my translations and translation notes of 15 of Miki Kiyoshi's essays on the war and reportage on the Philippines, a number of letters written by him, and an essay by Kon Hidemi on Miki can be considered as symbolic resurfacing and hopefully prelude of other translations and fresh new studies on notable Japanese thinkers and writers of the early 20th century (notably those who were dispatched to the country like Rōyama Masamichi, Kon Hidemi, Hino Ashihei, Ishizaka Yōjirō, Ozaki Shirō, Shibata Kenjirō, Ueda Hiroshi, Sawamura Tsutomu) who helped define the wartime Philippines and the postwar Japan, Asia, and Asianity.

Attributing mainly to the "old-style" system of writing (that existed before the major reforms in Japan's educational system and before the simplification of the 'seiji' traditional Chinese characters through the 'shinjitai' new character forms), translation of these wartime texts proved to be very difficult. Also, although a portion of one of Miki Kiyoshi's essays was translated into Tagalog in 1942, this prior translation is inconsistent with Miki's ideas and therefore was not used in my translation work. The rest of my translated materials have no other existing translations in both English and Tagalog. Despite the challenges, I am happy to report that the pioneering work was successfully accomplished with the help of the Sumitomo Foundation.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

1. Gonzalo Campoamor II, "Pan-Asianism and Miki Kiyoshi's Idea of Oriental Nothingness," a presentation at the Occupation and Liberation: An International Conference on the Pacific War in the Philippines, 4 September 2015, GT-Toyota Asian Cultural Center, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City
2. Gonzalo Campoamor II, "Miki Kiyoshi's Idea of the Filipino Oriental," a presentation at the research conference Developing International Research and Education Program on the Asia-Pacific War History: Comparison and Synthesis, 26 March 2016, Graduate School of Social Sciences, Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

A product essay of the translation project was already submitted to and accepted by the editors of the *Asian Studies Journal*. Tentative title of the essay is "Miki Kiyoshi's idea of the Asian and Filipino Oriental."

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)

It is possible to have the whole translation of essays be published as a book.