

# The Jewish Society in wartime Shanghai as reported in *Tairiku Shinpo* (Part II: May – August 1939)

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## Abstract

This series of papers is based on a thorough search of articles in *Tairiku Shinpo* identifying those that mention Jewish residents in Shanghai under the Japanese military control. The present second part covers the period May-August 1939, a period characterised by the continual influx of Jewish refugees from Germany and its occupied territories, which induced the Japanese government to dispatch to Shanghai the Naval captain Koreshige Inuzuka (1890-1965), renowned as 'expert for Jewish affairs' in Japan and Manchuria.

Through this contemporaneous press information, we learn that the arrivals of German-Austrian Jews, which then seemed interminable and becoming of even larger scale, provoked alarm not only from the local Japanese authorities but also from the delegation of the International Settlement ('Board of Works') and the representatives of the French Concession successively. When, on 21 August 1939, the Japanese local military authorities prompted by Inuzuka published the regulations forbidding entry of newly arrived refugees in the Japanese defense sector, the International Settlement and the French Concession, fearing its repercussions on them, took similar action.

Nevertheless, these closure measures were destined to be momentary. The outbreak of the WWII would bring a new order of things, forcing the three foreign authorities (Japanese, British and French) to review their respective restrictive policy concerning the Jewish refugees.