

Re-Examining Japanese Wartime Intellectuals: Kiyoshi Miki during the Japanese Occupation of the Philippines

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Abstract

This paper analyzes the specific writings of Kiyoshi Miki, one of Japan's most celebrated philosophers, who wrote about Filipino society as a member of the 14th Army Propaganda Corps in the Philippines. It sheds light on how the subject of the Filipino Oriental Character became a centerpiece of these writings. In doing so, the paper rethinks other aspects of the Japanese occupation of the Philippines, and reexamines the role of Japanese intellectuals during the war. Miki had an ambivalent place in wartime cultural and economic policy; on the one hand, he was part of the propaganda machinery of Japanese imperialism and on the other, a bona fide intellectual who wrote passionately about Philippine society and incurred the ire of the Japanese imperial bureaucracy.

Keywords: Kiyoshi Miki, Second World War, Filipino Oriental character, intellectual history, wartime intellectuals