



North Korean Migration to Japan

The history of North Korean migration to Japan is deeply intertwined with the broader history of Korean migration to Japan, which began in earnest during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Here are some key points:

1. **Early Migration:** The migration of Koreans to Japan began before the formal annexation of Korea by Japan in 1910. Initially, this migration was driven by economic opportunities and educational pursuits [1].
2. **Colonial Period:** During Japan's colonial rule over Korea (1910-1945), the number of Koreans in Japan increased significantly. Many Koreans were brought to Japan as laborers to fill labor shortages, especially during World War II. By 1945, there were over two million Koreans in Japan [2] [3].
3. **Post-War Period:** After Japan's defeat in World War II, many Koreans returned to the Korean Peninsula. However, a significant number remained in Japan, forming the basis of the Zainichi Korean community. These Koreans and their descendants are often referred to as Zainichi Koreans, meaning "residing in Japan" [2].
4. **Repatriation Movement:** From 1959 to 1984, there was a significant repatriation movement where many Zainichi Koreans were encouraged to move to North Korea. This movement was supported by both the Japanese and North Korean governments [1].
5. **Modern Era:** Today, the Zainichi Korean community in Japan includes individuals of both North and South Korean descent. They have faced various challenges, including issues of identity, discrimination, and legal status [1] [2].

Would you like to know more about any specific aspect of this history?

1. [Koreans in Japan - Wikipedia](#)
2. [Koreans in Japan | FSI - Stanford University](#)
3. [Exodus to North Korea Revisited: Japan, North Korea, and the ICRC in ...](#)
4. [North Korea: Understanding Migration to and from a Closed Country](#)