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Japan and Iraq

An Early History

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Today's Presentation

1. The Japanese who Visited Iraq before WW2
2. Japan's Commercial Presence in Iraq
3. Japan's Negotiations with Iraq on Oil Concession



Early Japanese Visitors to Iraq

- 1620?: Petro Kasui KIBE (?), Jesuit Priest
- 1880: YOSHIDA Masaharu, Diplomat
- 1896: FUKUSHIMA Yasuharu, Military (Intelligence) Officer
- 1923: NUITA Eishiro, Diplomat
- 1924: SHIGA Shigetaka, Geographer
- 1924: KANEHARA Nobuyasu, Geologist
- 1929: KATO Toranasuke, Businessman
- 1930?: KASAMA Akio, Diplomat
- 1934: ASHIKAGA Atsuuji, Professor
- 1937: Kamikaze (Asahi Shimbun Newspaper)
- 1941: ISODA Yoko, Painter

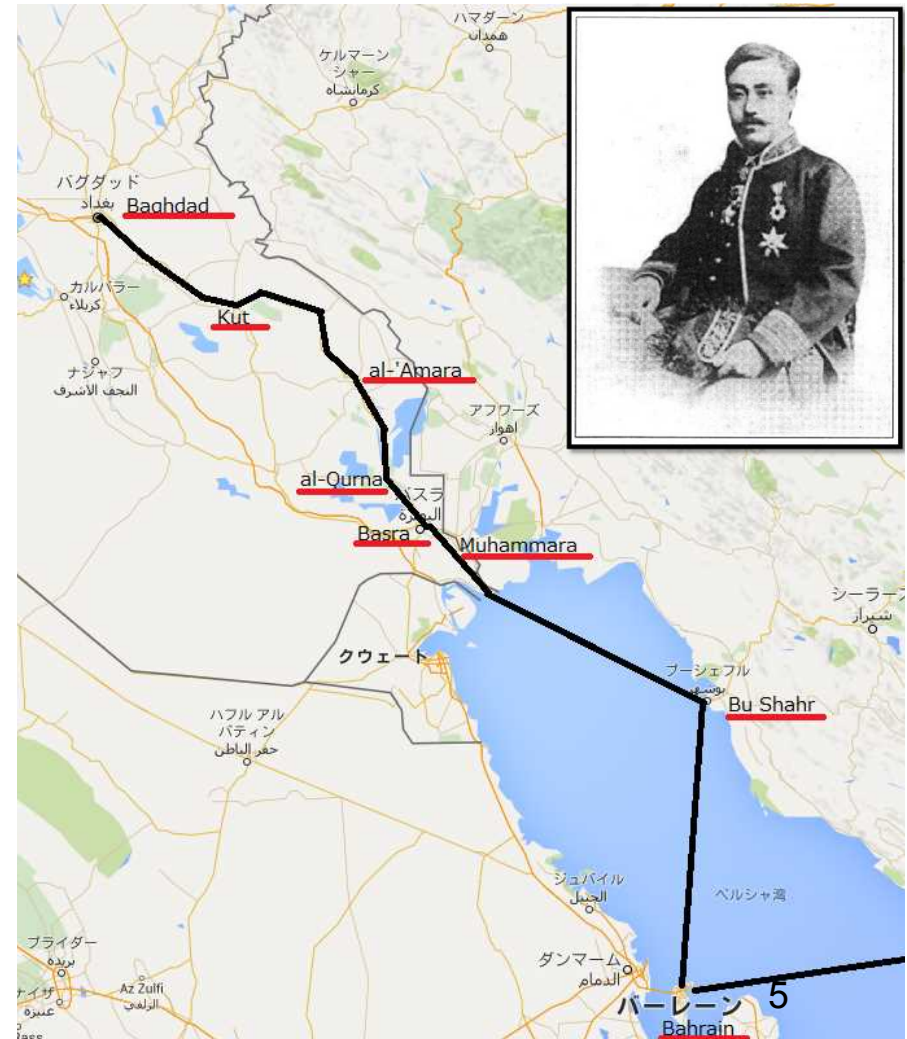
First Japanese who visited Iraq?

- Petro Kasui KIBE ペトロ岐部?
 - Born in 1587
 - A Japanese Christian and a Jesuit priest
 - Visited Jerusalem and then Rome from Goa, India in the early 17th century.
 - Didn't get round the Cape of Good Hope
 - Through the Strait of Hormuz and Iraq?
 - After returning to Japan, he was tortured to death by the Japanese authorities in 1639.



Yoshida Mission

- YOSHIDA Masaharu 吉田正春 and YOKOYAMA Magoichiro 横山孫一郎 visited Iraq in 1880 with an Indian interpreter, Ramchandra.
 - Yoshida Mission was sent by the Foreign Ministry for investigating the political and economic situations of the Persian and Ottoman Empires.
 - Yoshida was a diplomat and Yokoyama a businessman.



FUKUSHIMA Yasumasa

- Fukushima Yasumasa 福島安正 was born in Nagano in 1852 and joined the Army (General.)
- A Ride to Siberia (1892)
- Travels in Africa and the Middle East (1895) (Egypt, Turkey and Lebanon)
- A Travel in India (1895)
- A Travel in Persia (1896)
- A Travel in Turkish Arabia (1896)
 - From Persia to Turkish Arabia
 - Tehran ⇒ Hamadan ⇒ Kermansha,
 - Baghdad, Basra, Bu Shahr



中央亞細亞より
亞拉比亞へ
(福島將軍遺績續)



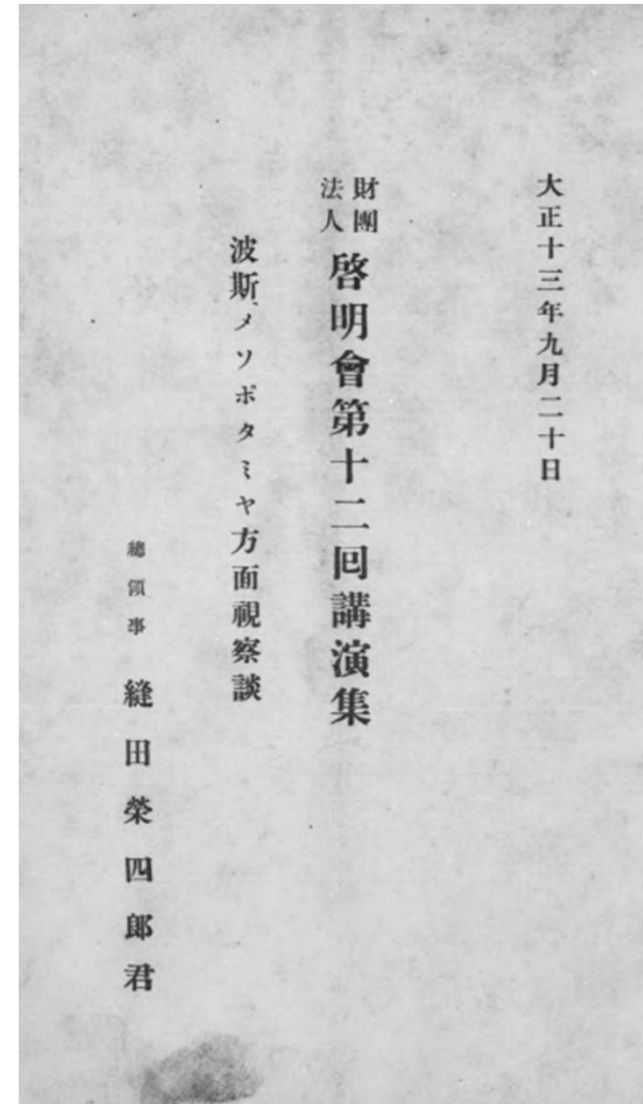
Japanese Matches

- I found Japanese matches in many shops (in Basra.) I have seen Japanese matches in India, Afghanistan, Persia and Turkey. However, I have heard their bad reputations everywhere. I grieve dishonest merchants profiteer regardless of future interests.

In 1893, when N.Y.K. started its Bombay Route, Japan started to export matches to India directly.

NUITA Eishiro

- NUITA was a career diplomat.
- Foreign Ministry sent a team led by NUITA to Persia in 1923, when he was Council General in Kolkata.
- The purpose of the team was to do research on Iranian affairs for establishing official relations with Iran.
- Arrived at Basra on November 1923.
- Moved to Baghdad by train.
- From Baghdad, the team moved to Khanaqin by train, crossed the border and then got to Tehran by car.
- Returned to Baghdad and sent some members to Mosul for doing research there.
- *Observation Report on Persia and Mesopotamia*



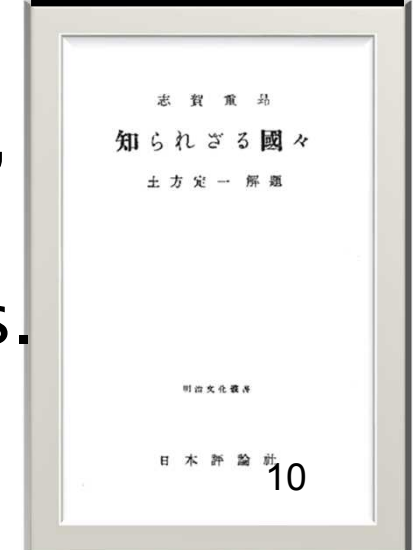


NUITA's analysis on Iraq

- Baghdad is an important point in the transportation in Iraq and surrounding area, connecting Syria, Iran, and the Gulf.
- Oil fields around Mosul
- Interested in railway networks connecting the region.
- Iraq exports dates filled in boxes made in Sweden.
 - Japan can export cheaper wooden boxes to Iraq in exchange for Swedish boxes.
 - Japan also can export cotton fabrics used for Kufiya and can compete with much more expensive British fabrics.
 - Japan's Asahi Beer has been very popular in Iraq, especially among British soldiers.

SHIGA Shigetaka (Juko) 志賀重昂

- Born in 1863 and died in 1927.
- Geographer, Professor of Waseda University, Parliamentarian
- Visited Iraq in 1924.
 - Published a book, *Unknown Countries*, in 1926.
 - Baluchestan, Oman, Southern Persia, Kuwait and Muhammara
 - Then, Basra, Baghdad and Damascus.





SHIGA's concerns in Iraq

- Iraq is “Kawanakajima 川中島” in the World and “Sekigahara 関ヶ原” in the World
 - “Kawanakajima” means “island between two rivers” in Japanese and a famous ancient battlefield in the 16th century.
 - “Sekigahara” is also a famous ancient battlefield in 1600.
 - Battle of Sekigahara is known as a decisive battle between the West and East of Japan that preceded the Tokugawa Shogunate.



Shiga's Interest in Iraqi Oil

- Age of oil is coming.
- Japan should establish its oil policy.
- Iraq is a place of struggle for oil among Western powers.
- Conducted an inspection of Anglo-Persian Oil Company's facilities along with the Shatt al-'Arab.

KANEHARA Nobuyasu 金原信康

- Director General of the Geographical Survey of Japan (GSJ)
- Visited Iraq in 1924 or 1925
- “Travels in South Western Asia,” *Journal of Geography* (Tokyo Geographical Society,) 37:1–5 (1925)
 - From Bahrain, Bu Shahr, Kuwait, Shatt al-‘Arab, Muhammara, Basra and Baghdad



故 理學士 金 原 信 泰君



Kanehara's descriptions on Iraq

- Dates plantation along with Shatt al-
'Arab
- Oil Refinery of Anglo-Persian Oil
Company at Abbadan
- Anglo-Persian Oil's operation center at
Muhammara/Khorramshahr
 - East side of Shatt al-'Arab belongs to Persia
but the area around Muhammara is under
control of the Shaykh of Muhammara who
governs the people and collects tax from
them like former Daimyo (feudal lord) in
Japan.

KATO Toranosuke

- Born in 1884.
- A Right-hand man of MIKIMOTO Kokichi who is said to be an inventor of cultured pearl and a founder of Mikimoto Pearl.
- Opened a Mumbai branch of Mikimoto Pearl and traveled to the Gulf Region and Iraq in 1929 in order to study about pearl industry and market there.

加藤 虎之助
御本 幸吉氏と

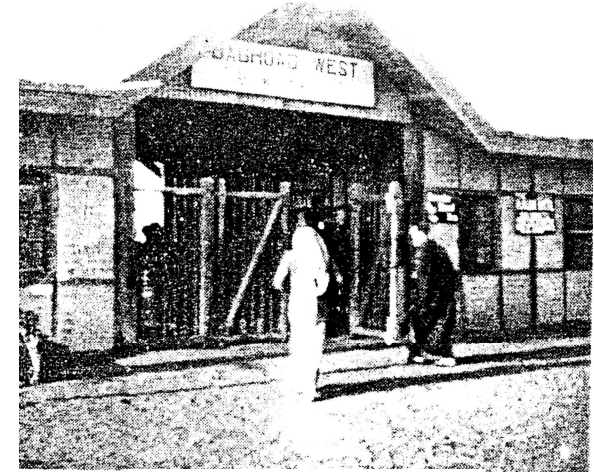


御本 幸吉氏（左）と加藤 虎之助

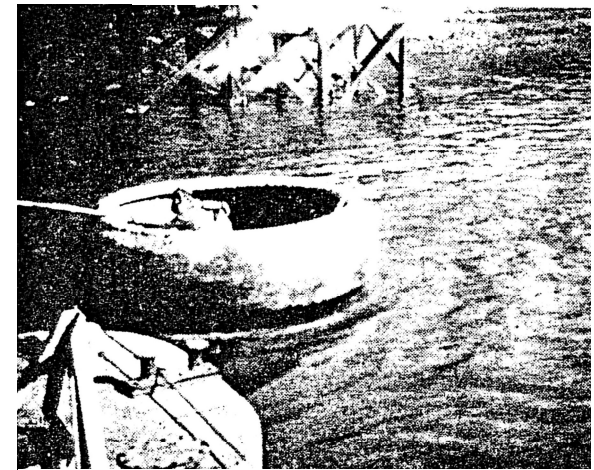
Master Mikimoto and I
(Private Edition)

KATO's Visit to Iraq

- Arrived at Basra on December 1929.
- He visited al-Hira, Tell al-Uhaymir (Kish) and then Baghdad.
- He found Japanese Asahi Beer at Baghdad.
 - SHIGA had already mentioned Asahi Beer and its salesman in Iraq.



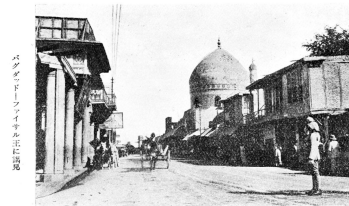
Baghdad Station



Quffa, Traditional Round Boat in Iraq

KASAMA Akio

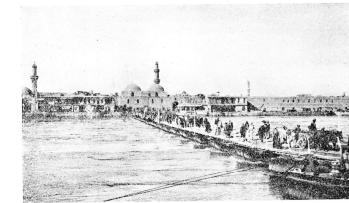
- Born in 1885.
- Appointed as Minister Plenipotentiary to Tehran in 1928.
- Leading Expert on Islam and the Middle East in Japanese Foreign Ministry.



道行くアラビア人は、シスラーといつて、鉢巻の両側に固い棒のあるものを着けてゐる。これはファイサル王自身の意匠になると云はれてゐる。ペルシア人は新式のバハラグワイ帽を被つてゐる。けれども、その中で最も面白いのは、鉢巻の様に巻き附けた上を繩の様なもので、更に幾重にも巻いた被り物である。これは沙湾のアラビア人には普通の頭巾であつて、鉢巻をチャフイヤと云ひ繩をアガルと呼ぶ。

横町へ這入ると河沿ひの狭いリグアーストリートと云ふのにアマテ細工の店が軒を並べてゐる。これはイラク王國の唯一の工藝品で、銀地にアンチモニーの象嵌をしたもの、紙切だの、ナブキン・リンダの、煙草入だのがそれで作られてゐる。傳説ではアマテ細工人は悉くバブテスマのヨハネの子孫と自稱してゐる。

二九



を呼び止める。ゲヤ人等が、殆ど忘れかけたアラビア夜話をもう一度目の前に浮び出させる。流線形の最新式の自動車グロウチと洋灰や鋼を運ぶ驢馬の行列をすり抜けて飛んで行く。銀座あたりに見る様なショウ・ウインドから一寸横丁に入ると、往來でゴシ／＼お得意の髭を剃つてゐるアラビア人の床屋がある。マホメド教徒でない人達は、昔の僅のトルコ風のフェイズを被つてゐるが、アラビア人はその職業、階級に従ひお國振りの鉢巻を締めて悠々と歩いてゐる。

町内で最も多く人だかりのしてゐる處は、名物のコヒヒを飲まして呉れる喫茶店風の場所だ。こゝの椅子に寛々と腰を下ろし、水煙草を吸ひながら二時間も三時間も無駄話をしてゐる。勿論男許だ。隅の方には時々將棋盤の様なブリク・ブリク等を遊んでゐる。

二八

Kasama. *Desert Countries*





KASAMA met King Faysal

- Kasama was granted an audience with King Faysal of Iraq in 1930 or 31 (?)
- He met the King again in the next year when the latter visited Tehran.
- Baghdad was the most disappointing place in the world he ever visited.

ASHIKAGA Atsuuji

- Born in 1901 as a son of Viscount ASHIKAGA Otomaru.
- Professor of Kyoto University
- Japan's Earliest Iranologist.
- From Basra, and then Baghdad, entered Iran via Khanaqin in September, 1934.



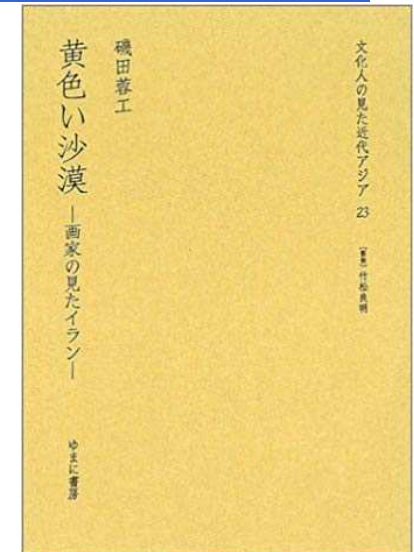
KAMIKAZE-Go's Visit

- Asahi Shimbun Newspaper dispatched the first Japanese-built airplane called “Kamikaze-Go” to Europe and Kamikaze-Go arrived at Basra and Baghdad on April 1937.
- Asahi Shimbun published special featured articles on Iraq in 1938.



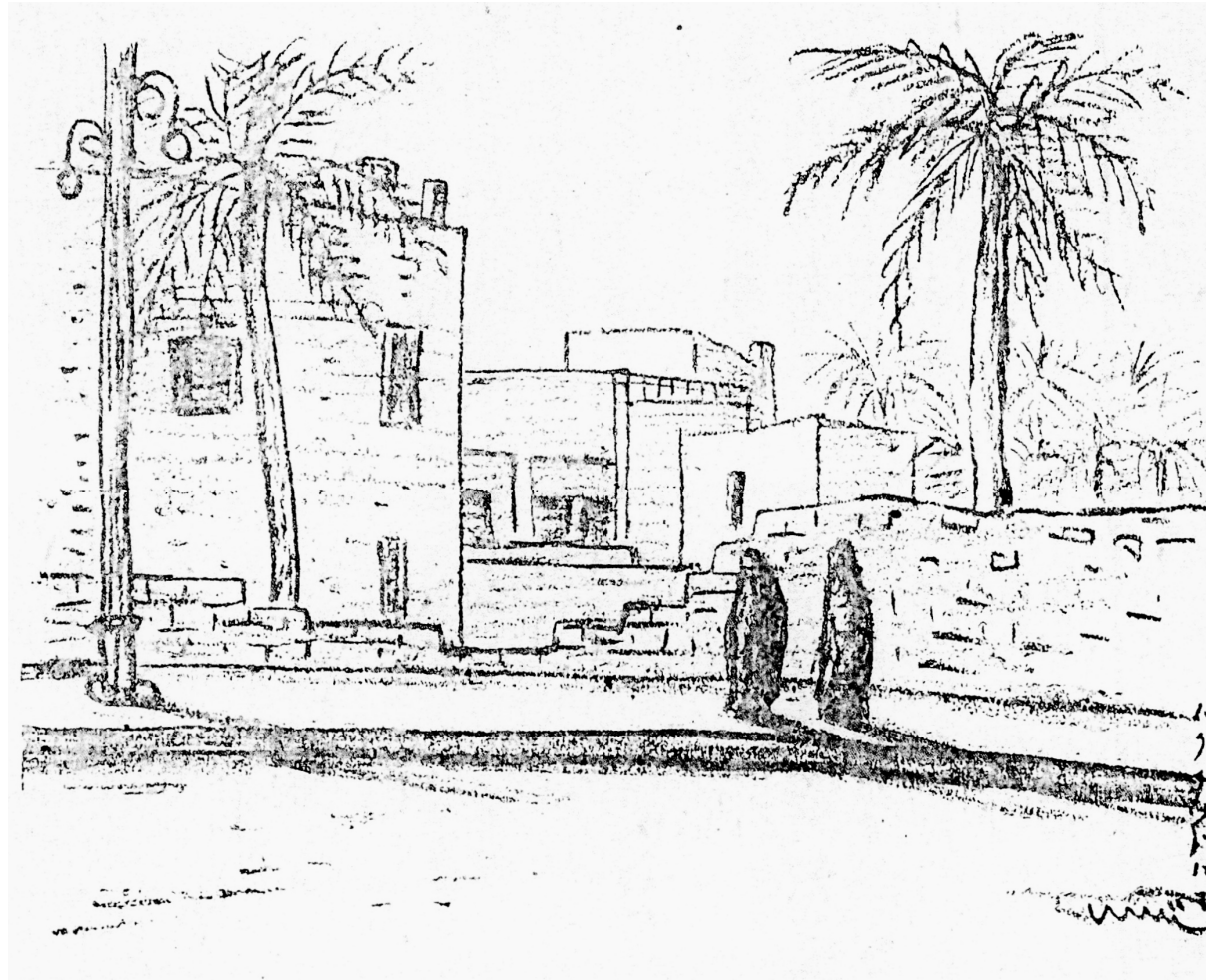
ISODA Yoko

- Born in 1906
- Learned Western style paintings in Japan.
- Became famous as military painter
- Visited Baghdad in 1941 but soon moved to Tehran after spending a few days in Iraq.
- Wrote essays about Baghdad





A Baghdad Sketch



Japanese Legation in Baghdad

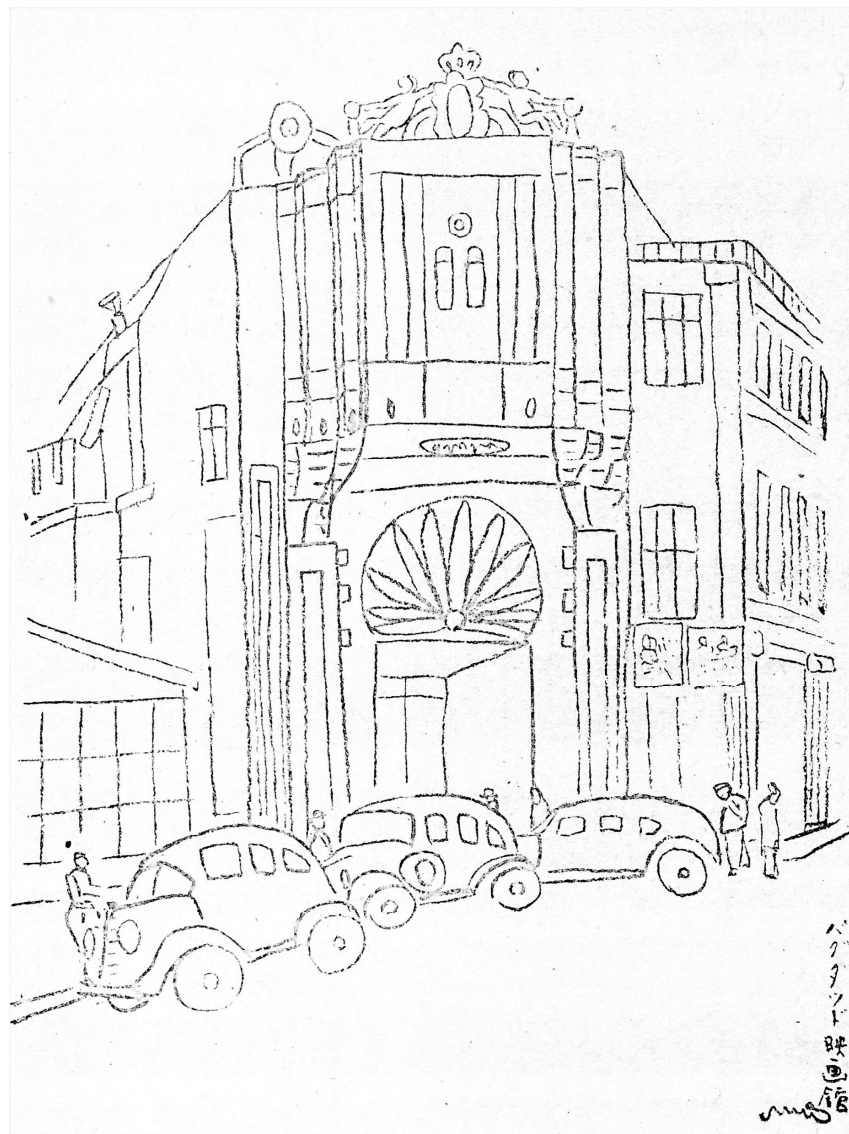




Banks of the Tigris River, Baghdad

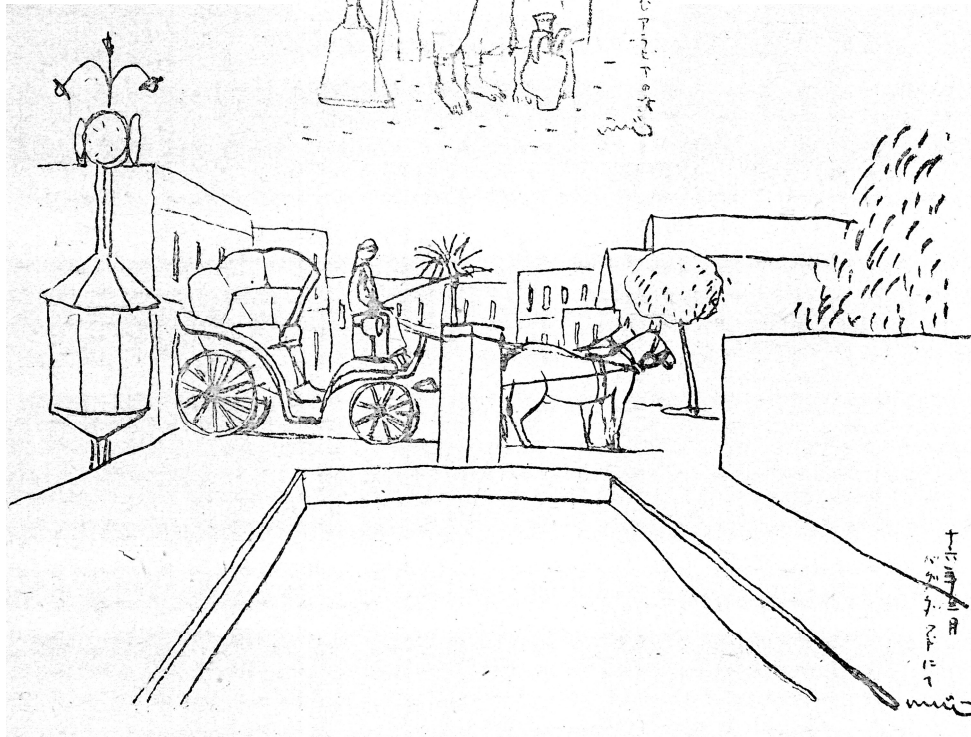


Cinema in Baghdad

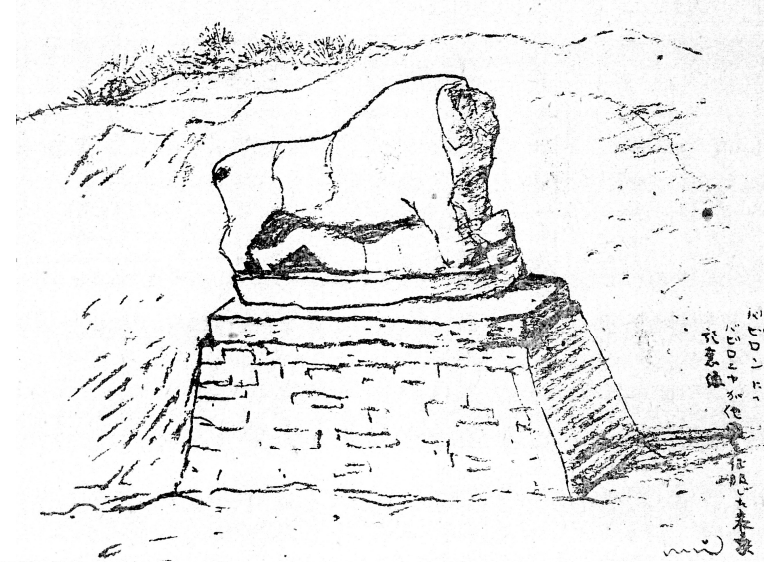




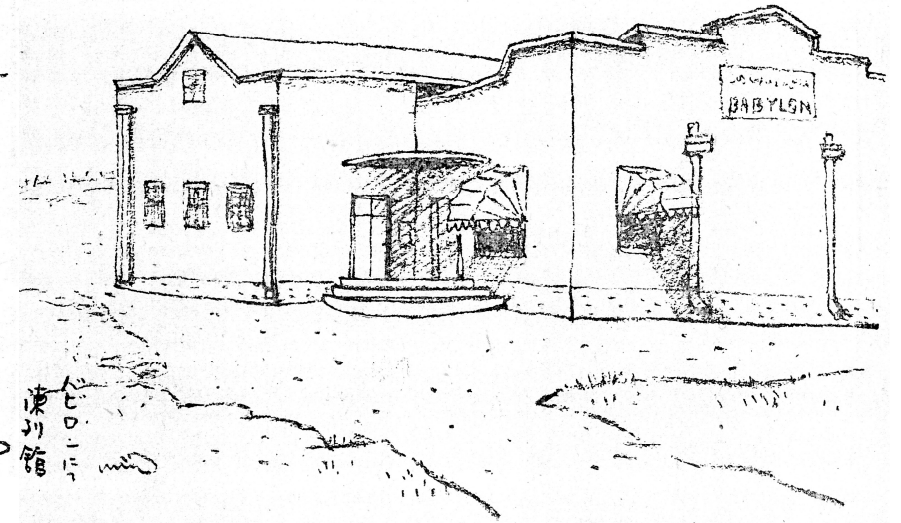
水汲み小屋



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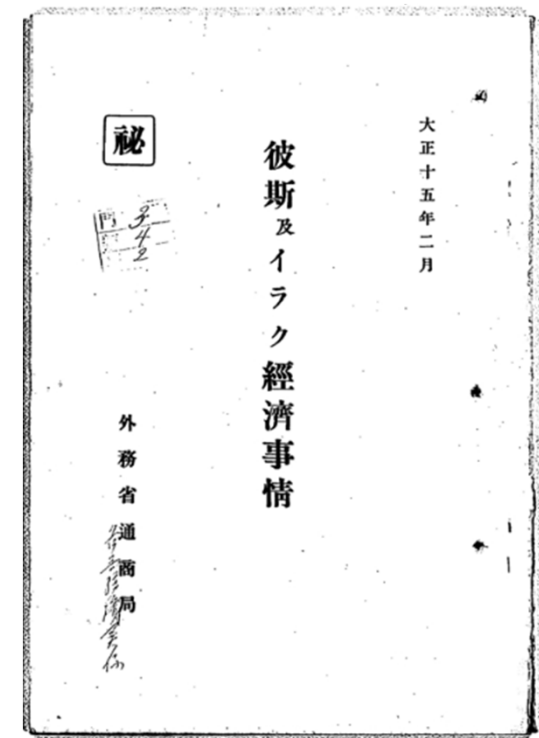
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Japan's Commercial Interests in Iraq

- Confidential Report on *Economic Situation in Persia and Iraq*, made by Trade Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1926.
 - Providing important points in trade with Persia and Iraq in detail.





Japan's Economic Presence in Iraq

- British dominance of trade in Iraq
 - British share of Iraq's total imports averaged between 45% and 50% with Indian share of 25% before WWI.
 - British share was declining during the 1920th, mainly due to the harsh foreign competition
 - Japan started to export its products to Iraq at the end of the 1920th, though some goods like matches had been exported to Iraq via India in the late 19th century.
 - Biggest rival in Iraqi markets was Japan in the 1930s.
 - Japan's percentage of total imports of Iraq in 1930–31 was 1.83% but after a few years it grew to more than 20% in 1934–35.
 - Japanese textile had captured about 75% of the market by 1935.
 - In 1933, Japanese shipping lines began calling at Basra.

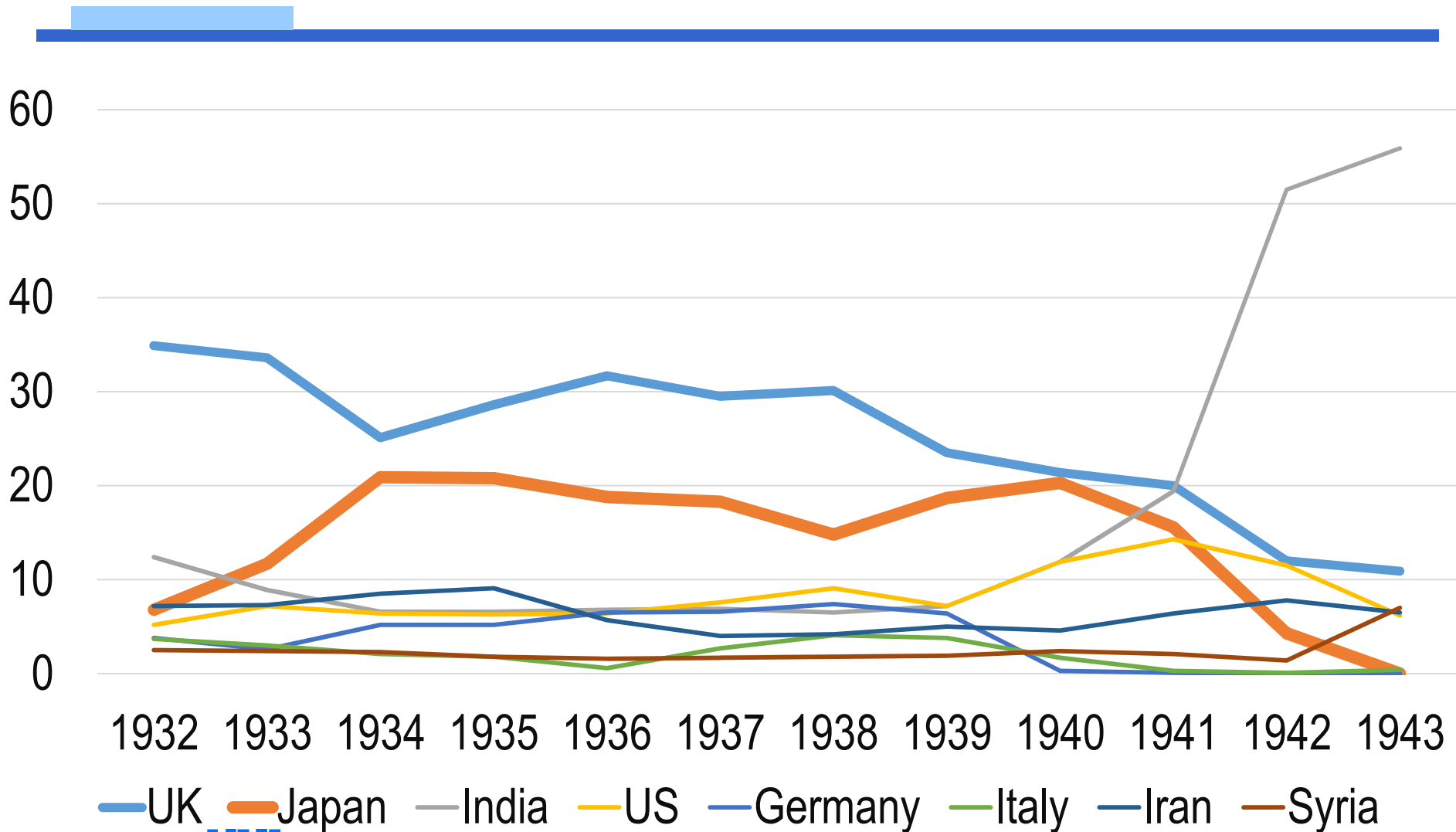


Iraqi Imports by Country of Origin (%)

	UK	Japan	India	US	Germany	Italy	Iran	Syria
1932	34.9	6.8	12.4	5.2	3.8	3.7	7.2	2.5
1933	33.6	11.7	8.9	7.2	2.6	3.0	7.3	2.4
1934	25.1	20.9	6.6	6.4	5.2	2.1	8.5	2.3
1935	28.6	20.8	6.6	6.3	5.2	1.8	9.1	1.8
1936	31.7	18.8	6.8	6.4	6.5	0.6	5.7	1.6
1937	29.5	18.3	6.9	7.6	6.6	2.7	4.0	1.7
1938	30.1	14.8	6.5	9.1	7.4	4.1	4.2	1.8
1939	23.5	18.7	7.2	7.2	6.4	3.8	5.0	1.9
1940	21.4	20.3	11.9	11.9	0.3	1.7	4.6	2.4
1941	20.0	15.6	19.4	14.3	0.1	0.3	6.4	2.1
1942	12.0	4.3	51.5	11.5	0.0	0.1	7.8	1.4
1943	10.9	0.0	55.9	6.2	0.0	0.4	6.5	7.0



Iraqi Imports by Country of Origin (%)





Japan's Oil Negotiations with Iraq

- Japan believed that it had the same rights with the US in oil concessions of Iraq as one of the victorious nations of WW1.
 - It is good for Japan that victorious nations would recognize Japan's right of equal opportunity in oil concessions in Mosul, Iraq. The Imperial Government asks a plenipotentiary to get British recognition of Japan's right without any troubles. (1923)
- Oil was discovered in Iraq in 1927.
- Japan started to invade Manchuria in 1931.
 - New Energy Policy was desperately needed.
- In 1933, Japan started to examine the purchase of an oil concession in Iraq proposed by the British Oil Development Company (BODC.)
 - However, Japan was not serious enough for acquiring the concession. The negotiations were fizzled out soon.



Japan's Oil Imports from the Gulf

- 1921 Iran, first from the Middle East
- 1934 Bahrain, first from the Arab Gulf States
- 1935 Iraq, first from Iraq
- 1939 Saudi Arabia, first from Saudi Arabia



Iraqi Exports to Japan

Year	Export value (ID)	Export to Japan/Total Export
1933-34	6,377	0.22%
1934-35	6,871	0.17%
1935-36	3,424	0.09%

Report of Research Group on Foreign Affairs, 1937 (in Japanese)



Iraqi Frustration of Trade with Japan

- Japan didn't buy anything from Iraq.
 - Iraq wanted to export its main products, dates, and etc. to Japan, but...
- British pressure on Iraq to introduce a measure to restrict Japanese exports to Iraq for obstructing its rival.



Trade Frictions between Japan and Iraq

Japan Protests to Iraq against its hostile tariffs to Japanese goods

Asahi Shimbun, March 3, 1935

There are movements against Japanese goods in Iraq

二日その筋着取によればイラク國は日本が三月二十七日の關稅協定を機會として又これを口實として日本國に對し禁止的關稅を課するこ

イラクへ抗議

聯盟脱退を口實に禁止關稅

とに決定したとの報道がある
イラク國は嘗て英國の委任統治下にあつたが一九三二年十二月三日に獨立し事實上英國の支配

下にあつたもので
従つて今回の我國に對する關稅の暴落には英國側の策動も疑はれるので我國領事局は頗る不快を感じイラク國に對し嚴重その反省を求めの方針である

Negotiations of establishing legation in Iraq will start soon

イラク各地で
邦品排斥
輸入稅増率の要ひ
【マルセイユ十三日路透電】バグダッドよりの鐵道によれば、最近イラク各地においては日本製品に對する反感甚だしく現に二三地方においてはこれに激怒した民衆が日本品販賣店を襲撃した事もあると、何れにしても日本製品に對する輸入稅率増加は近き將來に實行されるはずで、イラク政府は既にその態度を決定してゐると、鐵道報道によれば一九三三年中におけるランカシヤよりの關稅品輸入は六十二パーセントの減少を見

Asahi Shimbun, March 15, 1934

イラクに公使館設置
近く交渉開始
近東諸國に對する我が輸出貿易は二三年來斷斷的増加をとげ然にイラク國とは駐トルコ大使館商務官本軍志氏が同國首府バグダッドに出張して通商條約の締結交渉中であり、對日本關係の將來は、益々重要性を加へ来る事情にあるので、特に今夏巡視使松島大使もイラク國を訪問同國政府と公使交換に關する内交渉を進めることとなつて居り明年度發給にはバグダッドに公使館新設を要求することに方針を決定してゐる、尙イラク國政府と交渉中の本商務官は同國が條約締結の前線として日本に對しデット(債務)の輸入を要求し(同國のデット總額は世界產額の八割を占む)日本側がこれに應諾し得ず交渉進展の模様もないので近くバグダッドを引揚げ條約交渉を一時延期しなくてはならぬ事態にある

Asahi Shimbun, April 30, 1935



Economic Sanction against Japan

- Iraqi Government imposed an economic sanction on Japan.
 - Japan had to take Iraqi produce to the extent of 15% by value of Japanese exports to Iraq in 1934, which was increased to 35% in 1938.

Iraq's Main Exports to Japan (1937, Iraqi Dinar)

• Dates	29
• Grains	121,197
• Wool	22,419
• Cotton	129,033
• Leathers	700
• Flax	30,047
• Licorice	75
• Butter Oil	3

Rapid Expansion of
Japan's Imports from Iraq

*Report of Research
Group on Foreign
Affairs, 1937 (in 36
Japanese)*



Establishment of Legation in Baghdad

Announcement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs No.84

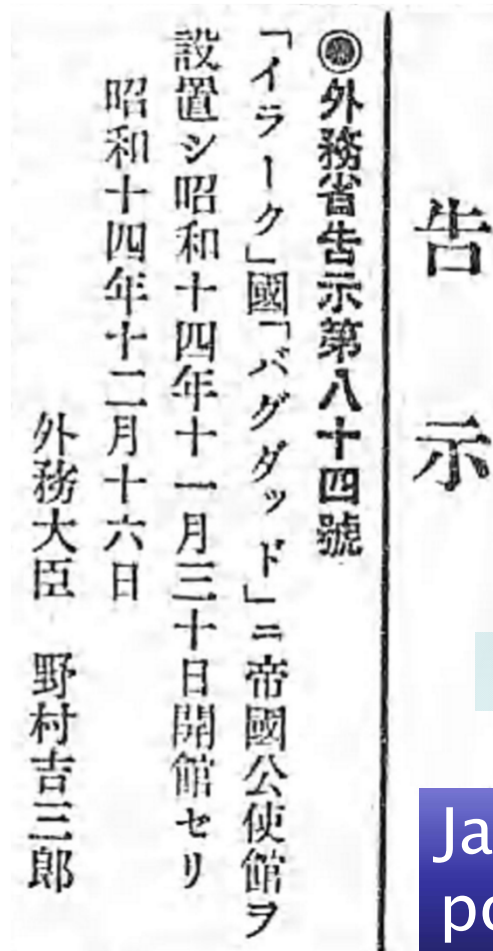
Imperial Legation of Japan was established and opened in Baghdad, Iraq on November 30, 1939.

December 16, 1939

NOMURA Kichisaburo, Minister of Foreign Affairs

KUMABE Taneki was appointed as first Minister Plenipotentiary.

Japan tried to play a political role in Iraqi politics, supporting anti-British politicians.

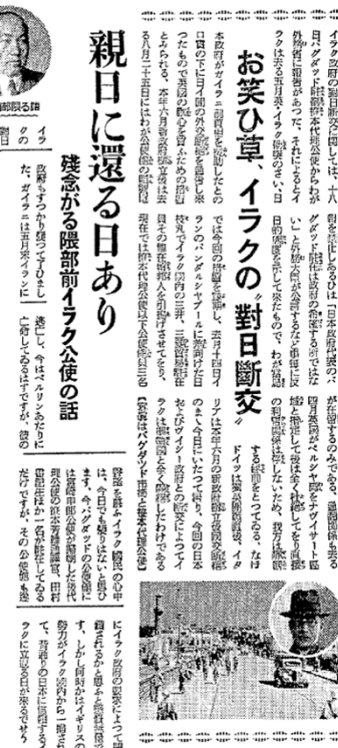


Iraq Declared War

- Iraq severed diplomatic relations with Japan and declared war against Japan on January 16, 1942.

Someday, Iraq will be pro-Japanese again.

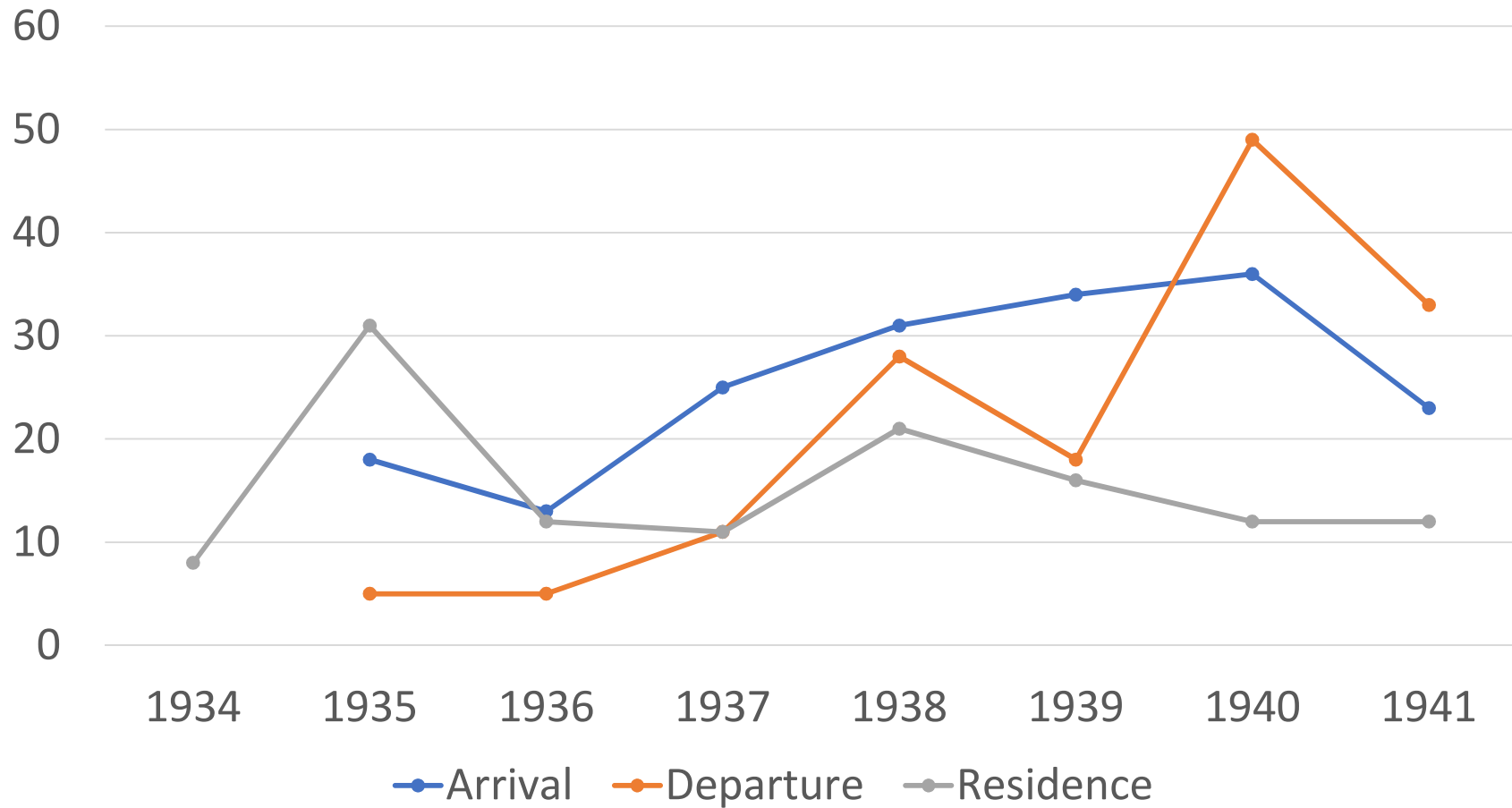
Iraq broke off diplomatic relations with Japan!
What a joke!



Asahi Shimbun, Nov.19, 1941



Iraqis in Japan





Iraqis in Japan

- All the Iraqis were living in Hyogo Prefecture during this period.
- They were working in private companies or shops or working as traders.

The Number of Iraqi Residents in Japan is around 250 in 2017.