

Cai Peihuo. *Nihon honkokumin ni atau*. Tokyo: Taiwan mondai kenkyūjo, 1928. Pp. 29-32.

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To the people of the Japanese metropole (1928)

Cai Peihuo

1. To my fellow countrymen in the Japanese metropole

I am one of 3,800,000 Taiwanese people. Here, I would like to address my 60,000,000 fellow countrymen of the Japanese metropole from my heart. I venture to call you who are of a different ethnic nation, “fellow countrymen” (*dōhō*). But, this is not simply because we have the same national citizenship. Rather, following from the mutual recognition of our individuality, I believe that we are people who share a belief in peace and freedom. As such I hail you with deep affection.

Yes, you are my fellow countrymen. Here, I want to kindly recount something to you, my fellow countrymen. Perhaps it’s because I feel that we have arrived at the opportunity for a mutual recounting. It’s not that I haven’t spoken of it up until now. I just haven’t spoken of it directly to you. I, along with my fellow countrymen, since we opened our hearts to your ruling class and to the people in our ruling class ten years ago we have not been granted one request. Instead, we touched off anger and were given hell.

If conditions were the same as they had always been, I would have unavoidably chosen the gold of silence over the silver of speaking. Happily [however], an opportunity has arrived. In the metropole (*honkoku*), the system of universal suffrage has now been established. You who had no prestige have suddenly gone from the position of the ruled to stand in the position of our rulers. It is now the era in which you who were our

comrades as members of the ruled are on the verge of conducting yourselves as our rulers. It's as if your triumph has risen to the sky.

At the same time that I celebrate your new existence, I ardently pray that you do not forget the taste of your past — the bitter, terrible taste of being one of the ruled. The position of honor that you have won will for the first time make you big, and for the first time place value on your future.

But if, unhappily, you become completely intoxicated on the fumes of “being up in the world” (*risshin shusse*), the past's adversity and misfortune becomes clouded in your sight like a dream, you become complicit in the inhuman economics of the rulers who you ground your teeth about before, and you adopt the behavior of upstart, new rulers and do not turn to us who have shared your sickness, well, what shall I say then? I will renounce the sincere expectations that I hold for you.

So as not to wound the rights that we have as an individual people (*jinrui*), we [the Taiwanese people] request that we be allowed to proceed along a different path. Why? [If not] due to your sudden change [in status], the Japan that was controlled by a small class of vested interests really will become a great imperial country.

Ah! For you, it is indisputable. Like a stone that has been placed above an unfortunate assumption, for the both of us it won't do to harbor a bit of speculation. In a big voice from the bottom of my heart I call you, “Fellow countrymen!” Thus, I signal to you my heartfelt thoughts. I ask of you to hold the same feelings toward me, and in good faith to direct your ears to my words.