

## The Ban, Its Lifting, and the Reissue of *Shina no Yoru*: The Realities of Popular Song Censorship in Occupied Japan

*Shina no Yoru (Night in China, China Night)*, Occupied Japan, Popular Songs, GHQ/SCAP, Censorship

Kozue YOSHINO

This article reconstructs the ban, its lifting, and the reissue of the popular song *Shina no Yoru (Night in China, China Night)* in Occupied Japan, using GHQ/SCAP records. Although the film *Shina no Yoru* was not re-screened during the Occupation, the song was initially banned together with the film when censorship began but was soon permitted after its lyrics were judged harmless. This lifting conflicted with GHQ policy to remove the term “Shina” from public use and provoked protests from Chinese organizations in Japan. The case reveals limitations in GHQ censorship, which struggled to regulate popular songs that circulated across media such as film and records and were often regarded as insignificant entertainment.