

The “Pro-Japanese” Police in Early Post-Liberation South Korea 1945-1950

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Outline

1. 60 Years Ago
2. Researching Police and My Dissertation
3. Anger Against the Police
4. Targeting the Police
5. The Police Perspective
6. The Legacy

Major Cases of Violence Against Police from 1945-1950

- 1945.8.15-17 90% of Korean police officers abandon their posts at Japanese surrender. Attacks on individual police reported around the peninsula. Spontaneous.
- 1946.9-11 **“Autumn Harvest Uprising” in South Korea, over 200 police tortured, mutilated, and killed. Often spontaneous. Police families attacked and many stations destroyed.**
- 1947.7 Sporadic attacks on police on Cheju-do. Spontaneous.
- 1948.4.3 Cheju-do uprising begins in full with attacks on 11 police stations. Organized. South Korean Labor Party eventually leads the uprising.
- 1948.10.19 Yösu rebellion erupts with soldier mutiny, people’s courts in Yösu try and execute many police. Police also killed in Sunch’ön, also occupied by rebels.
- 1948-1953 Partisan attacks on police stations common, numbering several dozen to several hundred every month. Mostly organized under Communist leadership.

Origins of Leading Police Officers Active During US Military Government Rule, 1946

	Colonial-Era Police	Total Police	Percentage
Commissioner	1	1	100
Precinct Commander	5	8	63
Provincial Office Commander	8	10	80
Superintendent	25	30	83
Inspector	104	139	75
Sergeant	806	969	83

(Results of a military survey done following the 1946 Autumn Harvest Uprising)