

# The FUGU Plan – The Jews, Japanese and China

By Matthias Chang – Future Fast-Forward

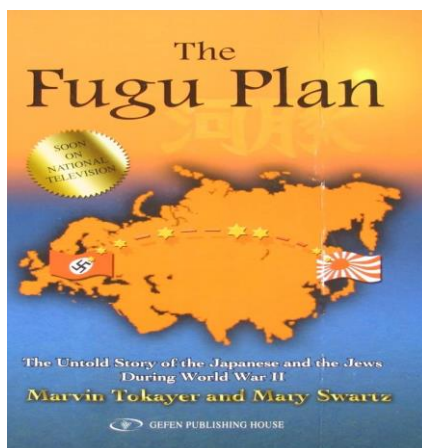
## Prologue

A devout Muslim and a friend of over 30 years (we first met over a case) **touched my Heart** and **reminded me** of an issue which I had no intention to dwell upon, as I had already prepared my research on another article which I intended to post on my website. I have decided otherwise and will elaborate on the FUGU Plan issue alerted by my devout Muslim friend.

May Allah always protect and guide him and his family in this Holy Month.

So, I retrieved from my historical archives and decided to refer only to foreign sources (not Malaysian or Chinese sources) in disclosing what is known as the FUGU Plan which 99% of Malaysians are unaware save for my a friend and a handful of other people interested in History.

Way back (in 1979), a book was written by Marvin Tokayer and Mary Swartz which gave a “glorified” account of this insidious plan. The publisher was Paddington Press, an American-owned house based in Britain. Marvin Tokayer, is a rabbi who once served as a United States Air Force chaplain in Japan in 1962-64 and later returned there as rabbi of the Jewish community from 1968 to 1976, and Mary Swartz, is a writer who lived and studied in Tokyo for four years.



Amazon gave a review and I quote: ***“A top-secret plan to create an “Israel in Asia” under Japanese control offered a safe haven in Asia for European Jewish refugees during WWII, in exchange for which their economic and technical skills would be put to work modernizing Manchuria.”***

The authors praised the Japanese and the Jews for the plan which could not be carried out eventually, but the plan was agreed upon in exchange for financial and technical skills from the Jews to the Japanese – an insidious plan hatched

by the Japanese war criminals. So if you read the book, do not forget the war crimes committed by the Japanese in China.

New York Time Digital Archives, derived from documents (some of these documents, un-translated, are in the National Archives and the Library of Congress) have been commented by Herbert Mitgang in 1979:

***“A top-secret plan to create an “Israel in Asia” under Japanese control offered a safe haven in Asia for European Jewish refuges during WWII, in exchange for which their economic and technical skills would be put to work modernizing Manchuria”.***

Israel was to be created in “occupied China” by Japanese war criminals. How very clever of the Japanese to use occupied territory as a “Haven” for Jews. Ditto, in the creation of Israel in Palestine.

I quote further from NYT archives etc.:

***“Japanese military leaders and industrialists devised in 1934 what came to be known as the “Fugu Plan.” Its initial goal was to invite 50,000 German Jews to settle in Manchukuo, as the Japanese called Manchuria. The 50,000 Jews were to serve as a vanguard for as many as a million. Under the plan, the Jews were to build the wilderness region into an independent state, turn it into a buffer against the Soviet Union and attract American sympathy and investments, thereby strengthening what was called Japan's Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.***

***The plan's name derived from the fugu - the Japanese blowfish containing a poison that must be removed before the fish can be eaten. At one meeting of “Jewish experts” in Tokyo, as reported in the documents, a Japanese naval officer observed: “If we are ever alert to the sly nature of the Jews, if we succeed in our undertaking, we will create for our nation and our beloved Emperor the tastiest and most nutritious dish imaginable.”***

One 90-page document, titled **“The Study and Analysis of Introducing Jewish Capital,”** was mainly devoted to the plan to establish a Jewish refugee settlement. The secret document spoke of “a truly peaceful land so that the Jews may be comfortably settled to engage in business at ease forever.” In the words of Col. Norihiro Yasue, a backer of the plan who was regarded as one of the most interested in the welfare of the refugees themselves, **what was desired was the creation of an “Israel in Asia.”**

Additionally NYT documents etc disclosed:

The documents disclose that a top-level Cabinet meeting was held in December 1938 at which Finance and Commerce Minister Seishin Ikeda explained the broad aims of the Fugu Plan in these words: ***“Dangerous or not, we need the Jews. The settlers themselves will be an asset to Manchukuo and Japan.***

***As Ayukawasan has said, 'No Japanese has ever made a good pair of shoes ... but the Jewish shoemakers....'***

Gisuke Ayukawa, one of the leading industrialists in pre-war Japan, studied ironworking in the United States, returned to Japan and created the huge combine that would be known as Nissan Industries. Finance and Commerce Minister Ikeda continued: ***“Even more important, their settlement will encourage other Jews to release capital we cannot get any other way. By simply welcoming these beleaguered Europeans, we will gain the affection of the American Jews who control the press, the broadcast media, the film industry and possibly President Roosevelt himself. We cannot afford to alienate the Jews. If Japan imitates Germany's severe control of the Jews, discrimination will develop in connection with our foreign trade. On the other hand, if Japan goes in the opposite direction and befriends the Jews, entirely new economic possibilities will be open to us.”***

According to Rabbi Tokayer, the Fugu Plan sponsors looked for a signal of approval from leading Jewish figures, especially Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, the president of the World Jewish Congress, who was a friend of President Roosevelt.

Early in 1940, Mitsuzo Tamura, a Japanese steel-container manufacturer and a strong advocate of the plan, visited Rabbi Wise in New York at the request of Lew Zikman, a Jewish industrialist in Manchuria. But Rabbi Wise offered him no encouragement, citing Japan's militarism and mistreatment of conquered people. Later, in June 1940, Rabbi Wise indicated to Jewish leaders in Tokyo that he might consider the Japanese settlement plan if the State Department approved. But war in Europe and growing tensions between Japan and the United States ruled out such a possibility.

### **Another Perspective**

I will not provide you with another perspective by Kevin McGeary:

A number of events have happened in the last few years to suggest that we *might be returning to the 1930s, the last great period of darkness in Western political history.* Yet a little-known tale from World War II involves a dispute between Japan and Germany, two of the 20th century's biggest partners in war crime. ***Japan's campaign to populate Manchuria with Jewish refugees, many of whom were fleeing the Nazis, was marketed as a humanitarian project, but many of the officials behind it would be executed as war criminals after Japan's 1945 surrender. Its backstory is even more bizarre than the premise suggests.***

By the early 1920s, the city's Jewish population had reached 20,000, accounting for five per cent of the total population. ***The settlers excelled in the fields of finance, business, law, medicine and art, helping Harbin develop rapidly into a city that could compete with Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai and***

**Hangzhou for economic and cultural activity.** And in 1931, that territory became part of Japan's Empire, with the invasion of Manchuria.

In 1934, entrepreneur and politician Yoshisuke Aikawa (today best known as the founder of Nissan) published an essay in The Japanese Diplomatic Periodical titled **'Plan to Invite 50,000 German Jews to Manchuria.'** The article was well received in Japan.

Aikawa's ambitious plan had several problems. Money was in short supply because of the worldwide economic situation; it was difficult for Japan to give incentives to its own population to emigrate there. And having broken the monopoly of Western dominance and, after stunning the world by withdrawing from the League of Nations with a defiant speech from Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka, the country was something of a pariah to the West.

It became apparent to some that it might be a good idea for Japan to form an alliance with the Jewish people. Jewish culture had been held in particular high esteem in Japan since 1904, when American banker and tycoon Jacob Henry Schiff, incensed by Czar Nicholas' treatment of his people, extended loans to the Empire of Japan in the amount of \$200 million (approximately \$32.2 billion in 2016). This provided approximately half the funds needed for Japan's success in the Russo-Japanese War.

By this time, anti-Semitic movements in central Europe were in full swing, forcing many Jews to flee. If Japan could provide sanctuary for the numerous engineers, lawyers, accountants and bankers forced into refugee status, it would also establish its image as a humanitarian nation. That is not to say that the people behind this plan were not extremely racist. **In the parlance of the day, Jews were seen as similar to Japanese fugu, or pufferfish: delightful if treated with care but highly toxic if handled unskillfully.**

The person in charge of what became known as the 'Fugu Plan' was Imperial Japanese Army Colonel Norihiro Yasue.

By the 1930s, Yasue's influence and that of his comrades had grown, particularly among those who were frustrated by Japan's relative lack of influence in global affairs. Yasue and his "Jewish experts" met the so-called "Manchurian faction." Yoshisuke Aikawa in particular was interested in Yasue's ideas, and together they came up with the Fugu Plan. In 1939, **Yasue recommended that Japan set up an autonomous Jewish region near Shanghai, providing a safe place for Jewish refugees to live, and granting them the autonomy to live as they desired. He also arranged for the Abraham Kaufman, who helped to save hundreds of thousands of Jewish refugees in both World Wars, to be invited to Tokyo on a formal visit.**

Yasue was central to the operations of nearly every aspect of the Fugu Plan. He coordinated everything from choosing and setting up sites for settlements, transporting people to the settlements, speaking with community leaders to gain economic and moral support, and working within the bounds granted him by the Japanese government. He organized missions to Jewish communities in the

*United States and cultural exchanges with rabbis that stressed the similarities between Shinto and Jewish beliefs.*

*When the Soviet Union invaded Manchuria in August 1945, Norihiro Yasue did not attempt to flee. He arranged a formal farewell to his family, in which he announced he did not feel it would be honourable to flee from the damage he and his generation had inflicted through the war. He allowed himself to be captured by the Soviet forces and died in 1950 in a labour camp in Khabarovsk.*

And deservedly so!

### **Other Plans You Did Not Know**

#### **The Maurice William Plan (1934)**

Maurice William, a Russian Jewish dentist who lived in New York, was the first one to suggest that China could be a shelter for Jewish refugees. William first showed his proposal to Albert Einstein, who was recorded as being impressed by the idea. Later, William sent his plan to China for approval. However, the proposal was likely declined at that time.

#### **The Sun Ke Plan (1939)**

In his plan, Sun Ke, an official of China suggested accepting Jewish refugees to China, to gain support from both other Western countries which had sympathy for Jewish refugees and from Jews refugees themselves, and to fight against Japan, which was one ally of Nazi Germany that China was opposed to.

#### **The Jakob Berglas Plan (1939)**

In the same year, Jakob Berglas, a German Jewish businessman also proposed his plan to the Chinese government. The plan included a proposal to ensure 100,000 Jewish refugees emigrated to China, and each person would pay £50, to build up a Jewish social community. **Thus an amount of £5,000,000 would be sent to China, which could be used to support the country's war efforts.** However, under the fear that a massive wave of migration may draw attention and attacks from Germany, the Chinese government finally decided to modify the plan, only accepting Jewish refugees without citizenship allowed as migrants to live in China. Otherwise, they were only considered foreigners.

### **Some Background** source: The Shanghai Ghetto

The International Settlement of Shanghai was established by the Treaty of Nanking. Police, jurisdiction and passport control were implemented by the foreign autonomous board. Under the Unequal Treaties between China and European countries, visas were only required to book tickets departing from Europe.

*Following the Battle of Shanghai in 1937, the city was occupied by the army of Imperial Japan, except for the Shanghai International Settlement, which was not occupied by the Japanese until 1941 in the aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Before 1941, with Japanese permission, the Shanghai International Settlement allowed entry without visa or passport. By the time when most German Jews arrived, two other Jewish communities had already settled in the city: the wealthy Baghdadi Jews, including the Kadoorie and Sassoon families, and the Russian Jews.*

In 1935, the Chinese diplomat Ho Feng-Shan started his diplomatic career within the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of China. His first posting was in Turkey. He was appointed First Secretary at the Chinese legation in Vienna in 1937. When Austria was annexed by Nazi Germany in 1938, and the legation was turned into a consulate, Ho was assigned the post of Consul-General.

At the time it was not necessary to have a visa to enter Shanghai, but the visas allowed the Jews to leave Austria. Many Jewish families left for Shanghai, from where most of them would later leave for Hong Kong and Australia. Ho continued to issue these visas until he was ordered to return to China in May 1940. The exact number of visas given by Ho to Jewish refugees is unknown. It is known that Ho issued the 200th visa in June 1938 and signed the 1906th visa on 27 October 1938. How many Jews were saved through his actions is unknown, but given that Ho issued nearly 2,000 visas only during his first half year at his post, the number may be in the thousands. Ho died in 1997.

(Note: the above was edited for purposes of brevity)

### **Critical Take Away**

China as an occupied country was earmarked by the Japanese to be the “Israel in Asia” as the above analyses have disclosed.

Has the Japan changed in her geopolitical outlook vis-à-vis China? No, Japan continues as a junior party to the US (being defeated in WWII) and her agenda is to re-conquer China.

Taiwan was a colony of Japan for years until WWII and most Japanese who have settled in Taiwan have Mandarin names as a camouflage. The Kuomintang faction escaped from their defeat in China to Taiwan with the connivance of the USA. The US and Japan have reconciled and are now partners in the geopolitical game to defeat and humiliate China again.

The next war in Asia would be fought by the Japanese in total obedience and subservience to the US dictates. This is a given!

However, it will be a different ball game! President Xi has declared that China will never suffer another century of humiliation.

Malaysians must be vigilant as Japan has created a “left behind” tentacle of political stooges in Malaysia to serve her geopolitical ambitions. With the US as

the geopolitical Boss, these traitors are using race, religion, culture to implement a Divide and Conquer strategy to disunite Malaysia.

**So, be careful! Be loyal to our King and Country, and protect and save Malaysia!**