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# The Inculturation of Tenrikyo in Postwar Taiwan

[\*abstract]

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## Abstract

This paper will explore how the religious practices of a Japanese new religious movement (known as Tenrikyo) have played a prominent part in the establishment and propagation of that religious organization in postwar Taiwan. The author will focus on the development of Tenrikyo in both urban and rural areas of Taiwan, in which Tenrikyo's local churches are established, and will ask the Tenrikyo adherents what has been done to propagate the movement and why. Since 1967, Tenrikyo has been officially undertaking missionary activities in Taiwan, dedicating itself to increasing the well-being of the Taiwanese populace through the promotion of religious teachings and practices such as *Mikagura-uta* (ritual performance or 'Songs for the Service'), *Sazuke* (ritual Healing or 'Divine Grant') and *Ojibagaeri* (pilgrimage or 'Return Home'). The author locates Tenrikyo's scheme within the framework of Taiwanese-Japanese relations in the postwar era. In addition, the author argues that certain of Tenrikyo's practices appeal to the Taiwanese mindset, empowering the political, social, and medical aspects of Taiwanese adherents. The author then advances to a more widely theoretical consideration by discussing how Tenrikyo's practices have become a force for enabling Taiwanese people to accommodate themselves to the changing world.