

The Otaru Hot Springs Case and Racial Discrimination in Japan: A Landmark Precedent



JAPANESE ONLY: The Otaru Hot Springs Case and Racial Discrimination in Japan by Debito Arudou

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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In 1985, a group of Turkish students were denied entry to a hot spring in Otaru, Hokkaido. The students filed a lawsuit against the hot spring, and the case was eventually settled out of court. The settlement included a public apology from the hot spring and a promise to never discriminate against people based on their race or nationality.

The Otaru Hot Springs Case is a landmark case in the history of racial discrimination in Japan. It was the first case in which a Japanese court ruled that racial discrimination was illegal. The case also helped to raise awareness of the issue of racial discrimination in Japan, and it led to the

passage of several laws that prohibit discrimination based on race or nationality.

The Facts of the Case

In July 1985, a group of Turkish students were visiting Otaru, Hokkaido. The students decided to go to a hot spring, but they were denied entry because they were Turkish. The students were told that the hot spring was reserved for Japanese people only.

The students were upset by the discrimination they had experienced. They filed a lawsuit against the hot spring, and the case went to trial. The trial lasted for several years, and it eventually reached the Supreme Court of Japan.

In 1995, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the students. The court ruled that the hot spring had discriminated against the students based on their race, and it ordered the hot spring to pay damages to the students. The court also issued a public apology to the students.

The Settlement

After the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the students, the hot spring settled the case out of court. The settlement included the following terms:

- * A public apology from the hot spring to the students
- * A promise from the hot spring to never discriminate against people based on their race or nationality
- * A payment of damages to the students

The settlement was a landmark victory for the students. It was the first time that a Japanese court had ruled that racial discrimination was illegal. The

settlement also helped to raise awareness of the issue of racial discrimination in Japan, and it led to the passage of several laws that prohibit discrimination based on race or nationality.

The Impact of the Case

The Otaru Hot Springs Case has had a significant impact on the issue of racial discrimination in Japan. The case helped to raise awareness of the issue, and it led to the passage of several laws that prohibit discrimination based on race or nationality. The case also helped to establish a precedent for future cases of racial discrimination in Japan.

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