Who Became the Soldiers? Part 1
Inequality in Pre-War Showa Period Military Service Cohorts

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, we used SSM survey data to analyze the characteristics of people who served in the military from the 1920s to the 1940s. We elucidated the features of people who served in the military according to their service period, cohort and age. The results of the analysis are as follows. First, many people who served in the military were born in between 1916−25. Second, the inequality between those who served in the military, and those who did not, is large in the cohort born between 1906–15, and the inequality in people who served is large in the cohort born between 1896–1905. From these results, we conclude that the national mobilization regime promoted equality within the cohorts and inequality between cohorts in Japan during the Pacific War.

Key Words: conscription system, cohort, inequality