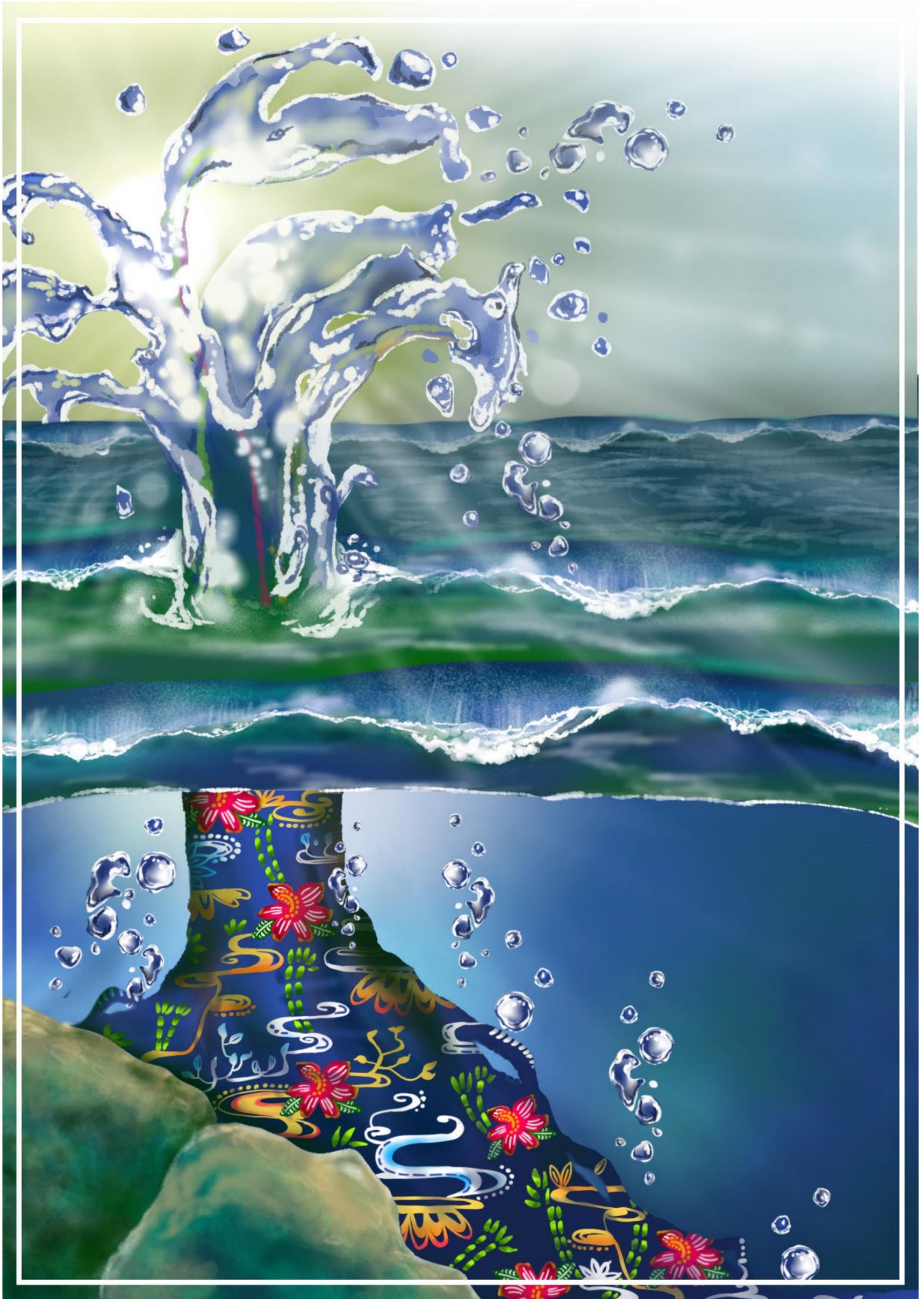




# My Migration Study

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The Soul of Okinawa: Yuno B

# My Migration Study

Yuno Bounds : 2021

Hello, My name is Yuno Bounds, this is my family migration book made for Globalization and Art Education class at University of Florida. This is the artwork I created to represent who I am and what brought me where I am now. This is a digital drawing.

I currently live in Gainesville Florida, as of 2021, and I'm originally from Okinawa, Japan. Okinawa is now a part of Japan, but it used to be an independent kingdom called the Ryukyu Kingdom. Because of this, Okinawa took a different pathway than that of Japan. I will first talk about brief history of Okinawa/Ryukyu Kingdom and how it was unified to Japan, followed by my personal history what led to where I am. At the end, I provided a history chart comparing Japan and Okinawa.



(The shuri Castle : Watercolor by Yuno Bounds)

## History of Okinawa

- The Ryukyu Kingdom
- The Age of Great Trade
- The invasion of Japan (Satsuma)
- World War II (Battle of Okinawa)

# The Ryukyu Kingdom

Okinawa prefecture in Japan was used to be an independent kingdom called “The Ryukyu Kingdom.” Okinawa is part of Japan now, but Okinawa took a different pathway than mainland Japan. Thus, people who originated in Okinawa are often referred to as “Okinawan” rather than “Japanese.” Post 12th century Okinawa, it was called Sanzan (Three Principalities) period. The Island had three kingdoms based on area, and they fought over the control of the island. The king of the southern principality, King Sho Hashi, unified the three kingdoms at the beginning of the 15th century, becoming the Ryukyu Kingdom.





## The Age of Great Trade

The king of Ryukyu Kingdom, Sho Hashi established his government in Shuri. The Ryukyuan trade during the Sho Dynasties revolved around tributary trade with China begun during the Sanzan Period. This era was commonly known as “The Age of Great Trade” or “Golden Age.” (“Ryukyu Dynasty” n.d.) The Ryukyu island became a center of trade and served as the center of economic and cultural interchange between south-east Asia, China, Korea, and Japan for several centuries. The culture of the Ryukyuan Kingdom evolved and flourished in a unique political and economic environment, which gave its culture a unique quality. (“Gusuku Sites” n.d.)



## The invasion of Japan (Satsuma)



The invasion of Satsuma happened in 1690, the Shimazu clan from Satsuma, in southern Japan, invaded Okinawa. For the next 270 years, Satsuma demanded taxes from the Okinawans and controlled trade in exchange for island protection. Okinawa assumed status as a Satsuma colony. (“U.S Air Force Fact Sheet” n.d.)

After the invasion of Satsuma in 1609, Ryukyu became a part of Japan's shogunate system, named "Ryukyu Han." In 1879, Okinawa was officially established as a prefecture of Japan, due to the Abolition of the Han System and Establishment of the Prefecture System. This ended the 450 years of the Ryukyu Kingdom. Around this time, many of the unique culture and traditions of the Ryukyu were suppressed by the Japanese government, and Ryukyu language was banned. From the beginning of the 20th century, children were forced to wear dialect cards as punishment if they spoke the Ryukyu language.





## World War II (Battle of Okinawa)

During the World War II, Okinawa became a fierce, and the only land battle in Japan that involved civilians. It is said that about one third of Okinawan population was killed in the War. The Battle of Okinawa proved to be one of World War II's hardest ground field battles.



After the war, Okinawa was placed under the administration of the United States. During this time, Okinawa developed a further unique culture influenced by American culture. In 1972, Okinawa was returned to the Japanese administration. Okinawa remains under the Japanese administration today.  
("Introduction of Okinawa" 2013)

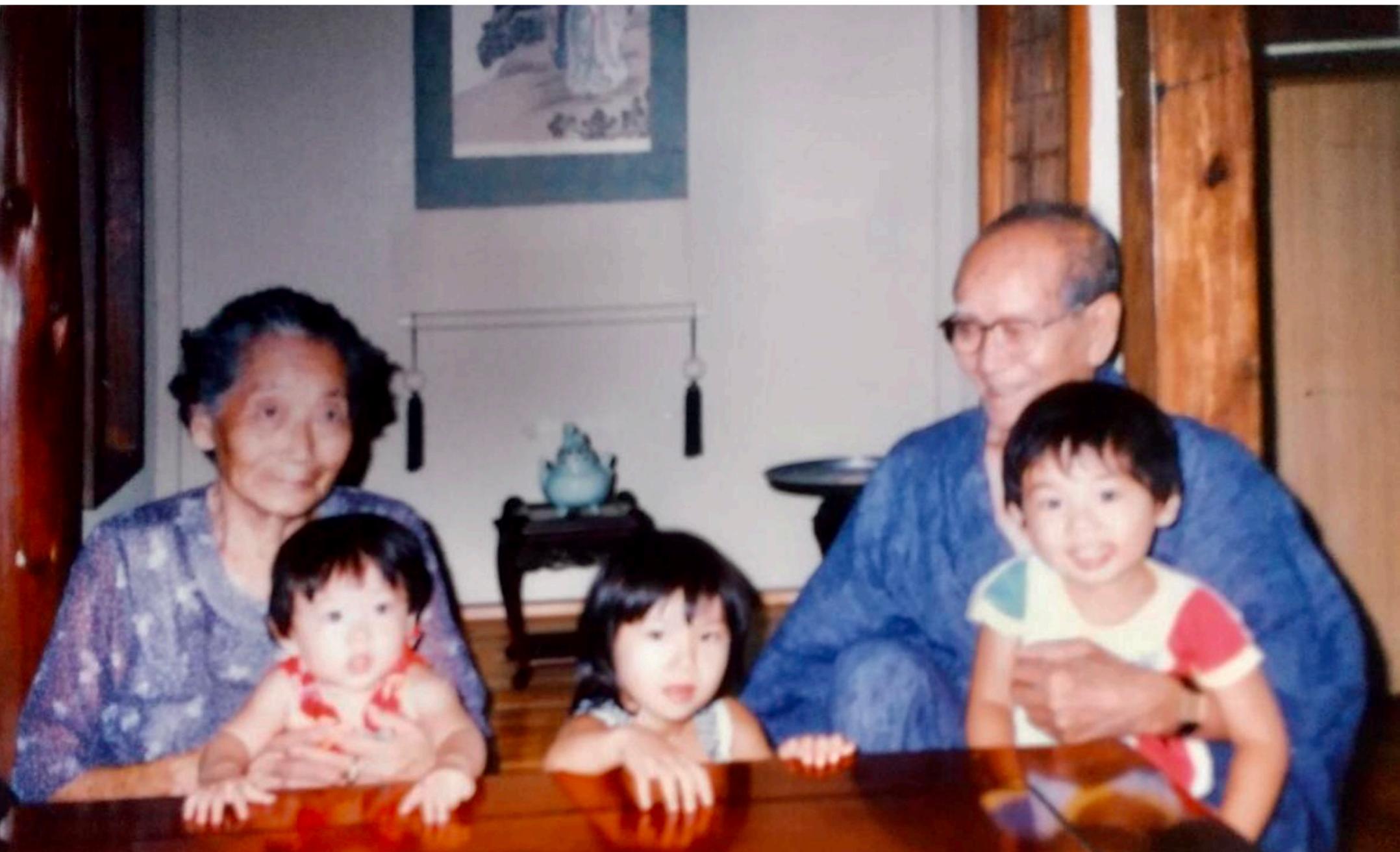


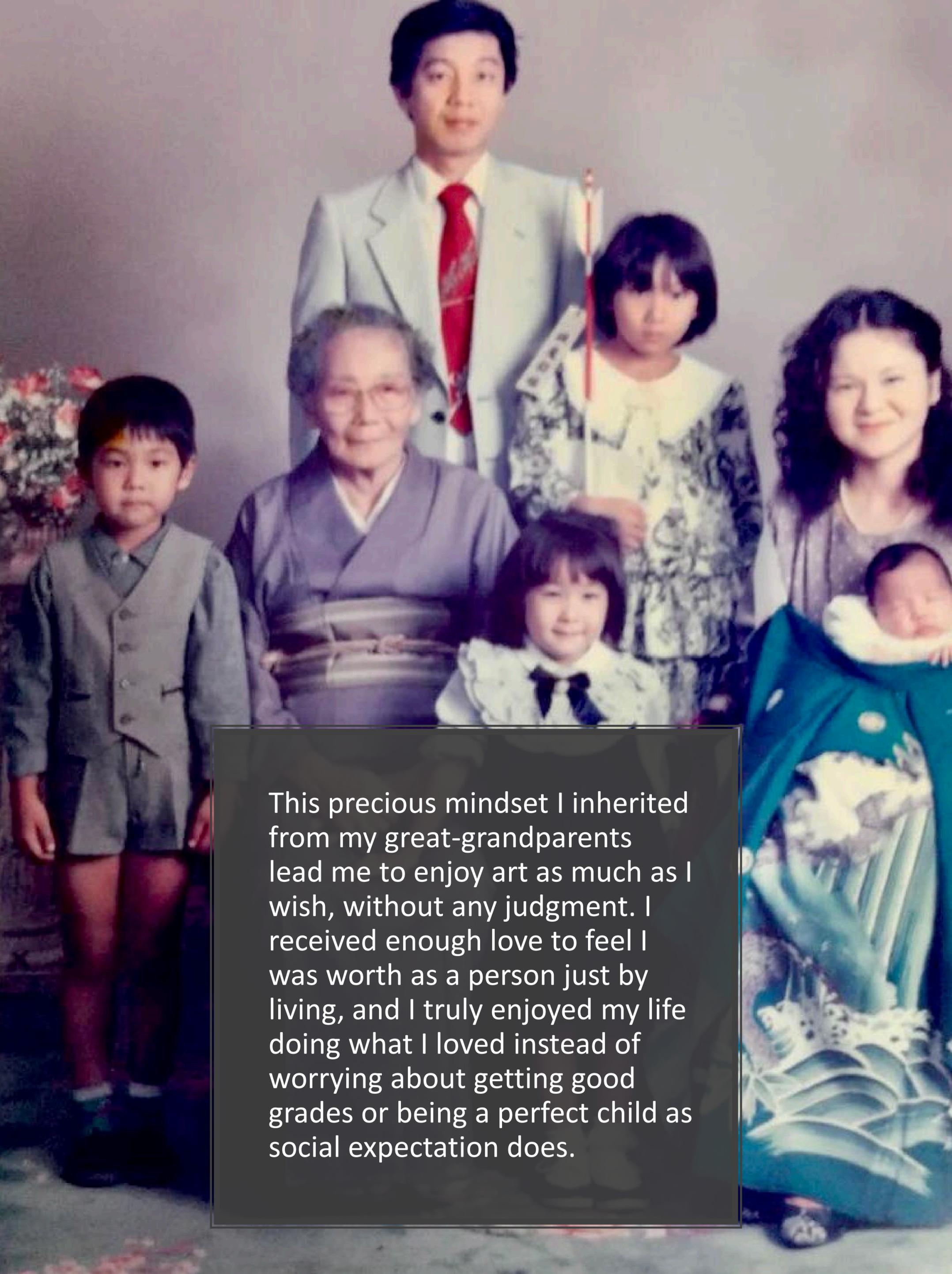


## My Migration History

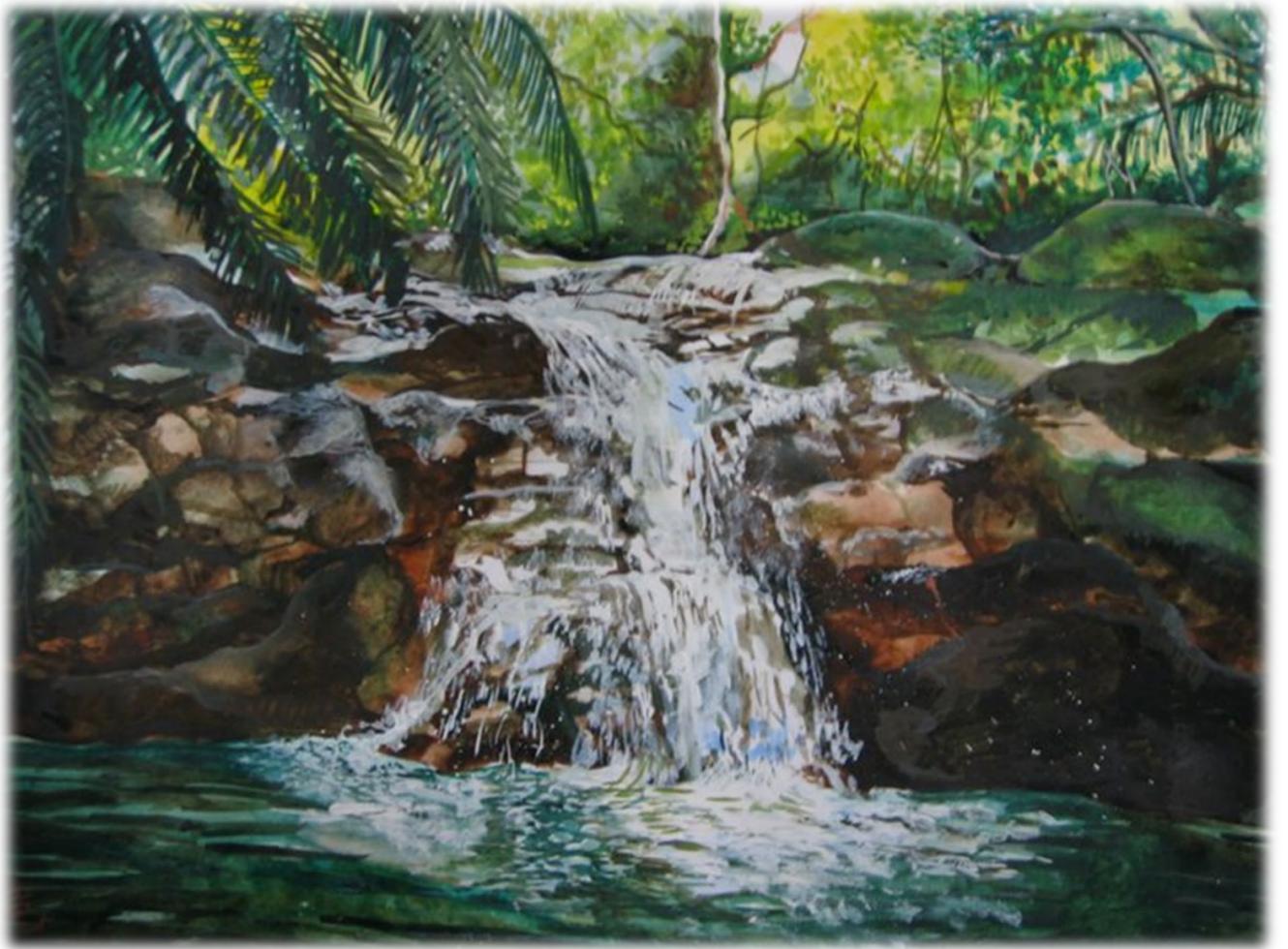
When I was a child, I lived with my family, grandparents, and great-grandparents. I have been close to my great-grandfather. As I mentioned in Okinawan/Ryukyu history, the path was not easy for Okinawans. The Ryukyu Kingdom flourished its culture and the trades from nearby countries, but it diminished as the kingdom was unified to Japan. My great-grandparents and grandparents lived through the WWII, and as a descendant of the survivor of the Battle of Okinawa, I grew up listening to real stories about how horrifying it was. They lived in the cave, run away from fires and guns, walked over the dead bodies, and ate dirt, bugs, grass, anything to starve off their hunger. Japan triggered the War, but the civilian had nothing to do with the decision and did not receive the right information about the war.

Despite all that they had to go through, my grandparents and great-grandparents were nothing but caring personal. Okinawan people have overcome the pain of their past through the spirit of helping one another. My grandparents never blamed anyone for anything what they had to go through; instead, they were appreciative of everything in life. Their deep love for me taught me to focus on positivity and things to appreciate instead of hating, blaming, or accusing of something uncontrollable in life. Life is a treasure, and we are all worth as who we are just by being alive.

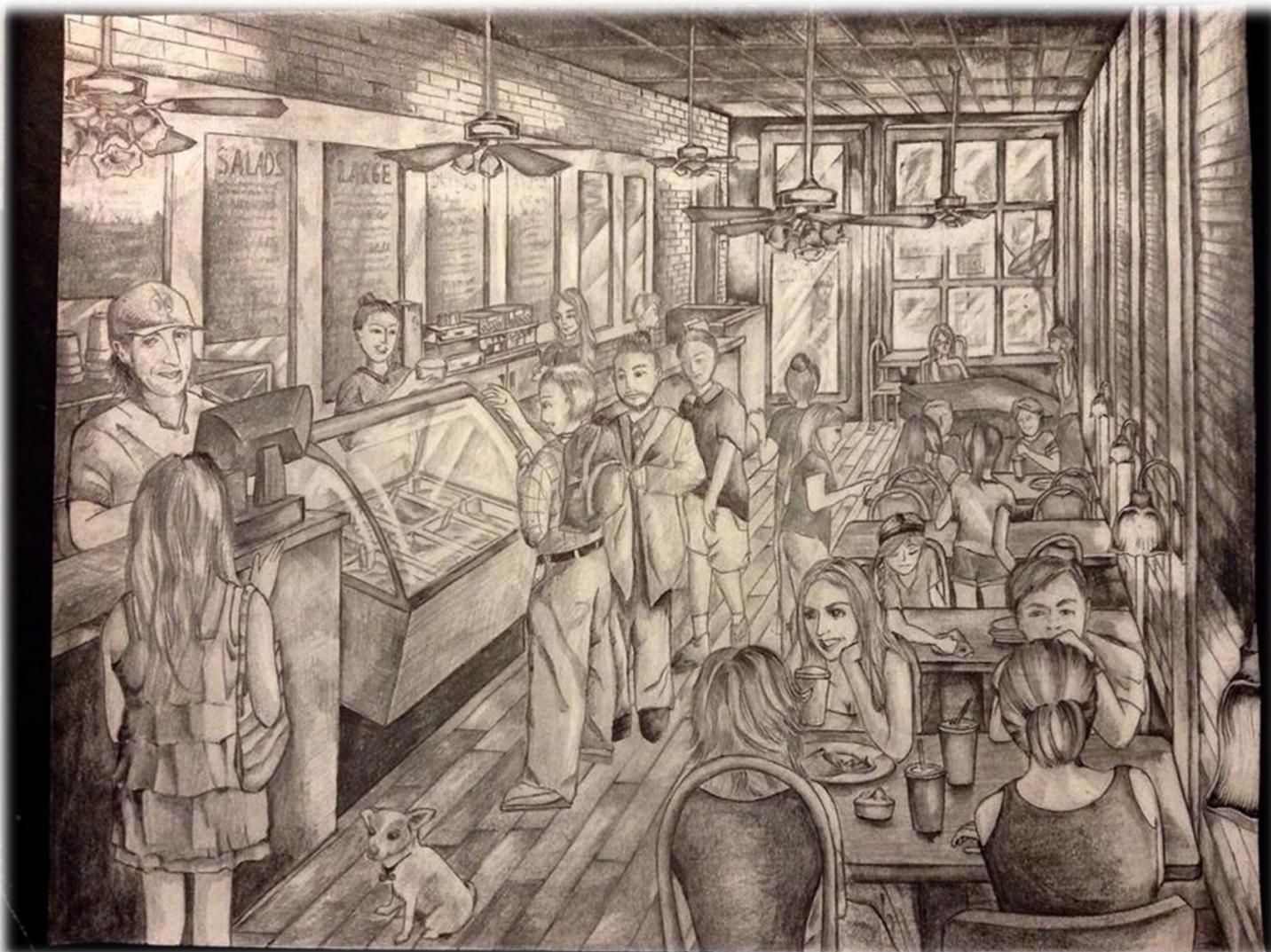




This precious mindset I inherited from my great-grandparents lead me to enjoy art as much as I wish, without any judgment. I received enough love to feel I was worth as a person just by living, and I truly enjoyed my life doing what I loved instead of worrying about getting good grades or being a perfect child as social expectation does.



As a result, I found a love of drawing, and my middle school teacher suggested that I take the entrance exam for specialized art high school, which became the turning point in my life. In high school, I met a teacher who taught me to gain the skills to find my way and encouraged autonomy to move forward on my own, even when I face the walls.





By the end of high school, I decided to study abroad to see the broader world. I knew it was not going to be easy, but I trusted myself that I could do it. This self-trust came from the unconditional love and trust I received from my great-grandparents and support from my family.

It was challenging, but I enjoyed every minute of U.S. life; every single day was an adventure and an opportunity to new findings. I started to study English so hard because I truly enjoyed communicating with people in English. Listening and learning about different cultures, thinking, opinions, and ethics was just so eye-opening for me, coming from a tiny island. After studying abroad, I went back to Okinawa, and I had an opportunity to work on an American base located in Okinawa. I enjoyed meeting and learning with children from a variety of backgrounds.

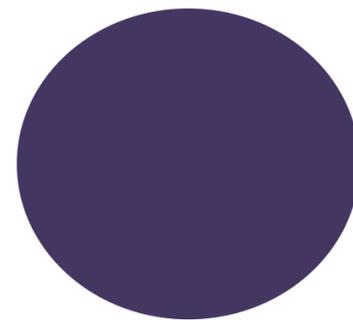
While I was working on the base, and then I met my husband, a Marine stationed in Okinawa. After we got married, my husband wanted to stay in Okinawa, but he wanted to finish college as he was leaving the Military. And we decided that it would be better for him to do so in the U.S. We moved to the U.S, my husband graduated from UF, and upon his graduation, he was offered a job here in Gainesville. By that time, we had three children, and also, it was the time when Covid19 hit the world.





We decided to stay where we are for now, and it was hard for me to go back to work with three small children when their schools shut down with Covid19, so I decided to go for a Master's at UF for the field of what I love while I raise children. We want to go back to Okinawa eventually, but we are enjoying here and learning a lot, so we will go with the flow and look forward to any future that awaits us.

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# History Timetable of Japan and Okinawa

Century	JAPAN	Year	OKINAWA
3-11 century	Jomon era Yayoi era Heian era		Neolithic era / Shell mound age
12 century	Kamakura Period(from 1185)		Gusuku period Sanzan period
13-16 century	Nanbokucyo era Muromachi period(from 1336)	▶ year 1429	<b>Ryukyu Kingdom period(450 years)</b> (First Sho Dynasty)
	Sengoku era (Age of civil war) Azuchi-Momoyama period(from 1573)	▶ year 1470 ▶ year 1609	(Second Sho Dynasty Early Stage) Invasion of Ryukyu by Satsuma Han
17 century	Edo Period(from 1603)	▶ year 1872	(Second Sho Dynasty Later Stage) Disposition of Ryukyu(became Ryukyu Han)
19-20 century	Meiji Period(from 1868)	▶ year 1879	<b>Okinawa Prefecture(Japan)</b>
	Taisho period (from 1912)		
	Showa period(from 1926)	▶ year 1941 ▶ year 1945 (27 years) ▶ year 1972	World War II End of Battle of Okinawa American colonial era Okinawa reverted to Japan
21 century	Heisei period(from 1989)		
	Reiwa period(from 2019)		



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