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### **Power and Practice in Japanese “Traditional” Dance Culture**

In Japan, there is a traditional dance culture named "*Bon Odori*" in which people join together in dance over the summer season. During the period of "Bon", people believe that the dead return to the world of the living. Bon Odori is considered a traditional culture in Japan because it originated in the dancing sutra. However, during the transition from the Edo Period, through the Meiji Period and to the Showa Period, the government imposed policies banning Bon Odori, which resulted in many varieties of bon dancing being forgotten.

This paper explains "Kawachi Ondo", which survived the policies prohibiting Bon Odori and it examines how people practiced this dance culture in opposition to these policies.