Abstract
Scholarship on the Korean War has tended to focus on the military offensives of the first year of the conflict, big power interventions, and the armistice negotiations. This paper joins the work of recent scholars who have explored various dimensions of the social history of the war. In particular, the wartime history of South Korea will be examined through the window of the UN Civil Assistance Command, an organization set up by the UN Command in the autumn of 1950 to manage the large refugee flows, prevent civil unrest, and keep civilians away from military lines of communication.