

JAPAN'S CONTESTED WAR MEMORIES

The 'memory rifts' in historical consciousness of World War II

Philip A. Seaton

Japans Contested War Memories

Karin Nielsen-Saines

Japans Contested War Memories:

Japan's Contested War Memories Philip A. Seaton, 2007-03-12 Japan's Contested War Memories is an important and significant book that explores the struggles within contemporary Japanese society to come to terms with Second World War history Focusing particularly on 1972 onwards the period starts with the normalization of relations with China and the return of Okinawa to Japan in 1972 and ends with the sixtieth anniversary commemorations Analyzing the variety of ways in which the Japanese people narrate contest and interpret the past the book is also a major critique of the way the subject has been treated in much of the English language Philip Seaton concludes that war history in Japan today is more divisive and widely argued over than in any of the other major Second World War combatant nations Providing a sharp contrast to the many orthodox statements about Japanese ignorance amnesia and denial about the war this is an engaging and illuminating study that will appeal to scholars and students of Japanese history politics cultural studies society and memory theory **History and War Memories in Hokkaido** Philip A. Seaton, 2015-07-24 Hokkaido the northernmost island of Japan barely features in most histories of the Second World War However the combination of distinctive war experiences a vibrant set of local historian groups and powerful media organizations disseminating local war history has generated an identifiable set of local collective memories Hokkaido s status as an early colonial acquisition also makes the island an important vantage point from which to reassess the course and nature of the Japanese Empire This book argues that Hokkaido's experiences of war and its militarized post war constitutes a local case study with a much greater national and international significance on both theoretical and empirical grounds than first impressions might suggest Using Japanese language sources presented for the first time in English and a number of detailed local history case studies it offers a fascinating and hitherto little known perspective on the Second World War It also combines a comprehensive theory of how war memories operate at the local level within a broad historical context that explains Hokkaido's pivotal role within Japanese imperial history Demonstrating that understanding local history and memories is essential for a nuanced understanding of national history and memories the book will be highly valuable to students and scholars of Japanese history Second World War history and Asian history

Remembering the Road to World War Two Patrick Finney,2010-09-13 Remembering the Road to World War Two is a broad and comparative international survey of the historiography of the origins of the Second World War It explores how in the case of each of the major combatant countries historical writing on the origins of the Second World War has been inextricably linked with conceptions of national identity and collective memory *The Politics of War Memory in Japan* Kamila Szczepanska,2014-05-09 Since the 1990s questions of Japanese wartime conduct apologies for aggression and compensation to former victims of the country s imperial policies have been brought to the fore of national and regional politics The state is undoubtedly the most important actor in the process of memory production and along with conservative legislators and the grass root revisionist movement there has been a consistent trend towards denying or undermining the

existing acknowledgments of responsibility for Japan s wartime past However to fully comprehend war memory in Japan due attention must be paid to competing discourses that demand an alternative view and only then can the complexity of Japanese war memory and attitudes towards the legacies of the Asia Pacific war be understood The Politics of War Memory in Japan examines the involvement of five civil society actors in the struggle over remembering and addressing the wartime past in Japan today In studying progressive war memory activists it quickly becomes clear that the apologia by conservative politicians cannot be treated as representative of the opinion of the majority of the Japanese public Indeed this book seeks to remedy the disparity between studies devoted to the official level of addressing the history issue and the grass root historical revisionist movement on the one side and progressive activism on the other Furthermore it contributes to scholarly debates on the state of civil society in Japan challenging the characterisation of Japanese civil society as a depoliticised space by demonstrating a more contentious side of civil society activism Drawing important new empirical research this book will be of huge interest to students and scholars of Japanese civil society Japanese politics Japanese history and memory in Japan

War Memory and East Asian Conflicts, 1930–1945 Eveline Buchheim, Jennifer Coates, 2023-06-29 This book explores how narratives exhibitions media representations and cultural heritage sites that communicate memories of conflicts in East Asia between 1930 and 1945 spread interact and are re packaged for post war audiences across national divisions The contributors examine individual case studies of grassroots engagement with war memory and collectively demonstrate the necessity of remaining aware of the researcher as participating in another kind of engagement with war memory Contributions showcase a number of ways of doing research on war memory alongside case studies from diverse regions of the world Taken together they bring a fresh perspective to scholarship on war memory which has tended to focus on space text exhibition or personal narrative rather than bringing these elements into dialogue with one another **Defeat** Akiko Hashimoto, 2015 In The Long Defeat Akiko Hashimoto explores the stakes of war memory in Japan after its catastrophic defeat in World War II showing how and why defeat has become an indelible part of national collective life especially in recent decades Divisive war memories lie at the root of the contentious politics surrounding Japan's pacifist constitution and remilitarization and fuel the escalating frictions in East Asia known collectively as Japan's history problem Drawing on ethnography interviews and a wealth of popular memory data this book identifies three preoccupations national belonging healing and justice in Japan's discourses of defeat Hashimoto uncovers the key war memory narratives that are shaping Japan's choices nationalism pacifism or reconciliation for addressing the rising international tensions and finally <u>Japan's Nationalist Right in the Internet Age</u> Jeffrey J. Hall, 2021-04-07 Japan's nationalist overcoming its dark history right have used the internet to organize offline activism in increasingly visible ways Hall investigates the role of internet mediated activism in Japan's ongoing historical and territorial disputes He explores the emergence of two right wing activist organizations Nihon Bunka Channel Sakura and Ganbare Nippon which have played a significant role in pressure campaigns

against Japanese media outlets campaigns to influence historical memorials and campaigns to assert Japan's territorial claim to the Senkaku Diaoyu Islands Taking a multi disciplinary approach he analyses how activists maintained cohesion raised funds held protests that regularly drew hundreds to thousands of participants and used fishing boats to land activists on disputed islands Detailing events that took place between 2004 and 2020 he demonstrates how skilled social actors built cohesive grassroots protest organizations through the creation of shared meaning for their organization and its supporters A valuable read both for scholars seeking insight into the dynamics surrounding Japan's history disputes and territorial issues as well as those seeking to compare Japanese right wing internet activism with its counterparts elsewhere Memorial Spaces of Japan's Empire Edward Boyle, Steven Ivings, 2024-09-19 Ongoing arguments over how histories are honoured as evidenced by the conflict between South Korea and Japan over the opening of Tokyo's Heritage Information Centre in June 2020 reveal the extent to which heritage processes enable states to assert legitimacy and power on a global stage Here Contesting Memorial Spaces of Japan's Empire shines a timely spotlight on the complicated histories and disputed legacies of various sites associated with Japan's empire in Asia and the Pacific Bringing together a team of international scholars this transnational study sees contested memorial spaces as windows for us to explore how borders are created moved and altered in everyday life From the Asan Bay Overlook Memorial Wall in Guam and the Puppet Emperor Palace in China to Japan's Ainu Museum and the Cowra War Cemetery in Australia the diverse range of case studies examined here foreground the complex relationship Japan and its neighbours have with their imperial past and reveal how these relations stand at the intersection of individual actions societal choices and memory collectives In doing so this innovative collection of essays bridges history geography and heritage studies to provide an invaluable new approach to the study of imperial conflict and memory politics in modern Japan Victimhood Nationalism Jie-Hyun Lim, 2025-04-01 Nationalism today depends on the perception of victimhood The historical memory of past suffering endows nationalist movements with political legitimacy and a sense of moral superiority Koreans recall Japanese colonial atrocities while Japan commemorates the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Israel sanctifies the Holocaust and Poland trumpets the Nazi and Soviet occupations Even Germany and Russia perpetrators of historical crimes today cast themselves as victims by pointing to national suffering In this theoretically sophisticated and empirically rich book Jie Hyun Lim offers a new way to understand nationalism and its political instrumentalization of suffering developing the concept of victimhood nationalism and exploring it in a range of global settings He examines relations among Poland Germany Israel Korea and Japan focusing on how memories of colonialism the Holocaust and Stalinist terror have converged and intertwined in transnational spaces With an emphasis on memory formation Lim scrutinizes how perpetrators in Germany and Japan transformed themselves into victims as well as how nationalists in Poland Korea and Israel portray themselves as hereditary victims in order to rebut external criticism He considers the construction of nations as victims and perpetrators tracing the interaction of history and

memory Ultimately the book contends challenging victimhood nationalism is necessary to overcome the endless competition over national suffering and instead promote reconciliation mutual understanding and transnational solidarity **Popular Culture and the Transformation of Japan-Korea Relations** Rumi Sakamoto, Stephen Epstein, 2020-06-11 This book presents essays exploring the ways in which popular culture reflects and engenders ongoing changes in Japan Korea relations Through a broad temporal coverage from the colonial period to the contemporary the book s chapters analyse the often contradictory roles that popular culture has played in either promoting or impeding nationalisms regional conflict and reconciliations between Japan and Korea Its contributors link several key areas of interest in East Asian Studies including conflicts over historical memories and cultural production grassroots challenges to state ideology and the consequences of digital technology in Japan and South Korea Taking recent discourse on Japan and South Korea as popular cultural superpowers further this book expands its focus from mainstream entertainment media to the lived experience of daily life in which sentiments and perceptions of the popular are formed It will be useful to students and scholars of Japanese and Korean studies as well as film studies media studies and cultural studies more widely Chapter 3 of this book is freely available as a downloadable Open Access PDF at http www taylorfrancis com under a Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial No Derivatives CC BY NC ND 4 0 license

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Table of Contents Japans Contested War Memories

- 1. Understanding the eBook Japans Contested War Memories
 - The Rise of Digital Reading Japans Contested War Memories
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
- 2. Identifying Japans Contested War Memories
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
- 3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an Japans Contested War Memories
 - User-Friendly Interface
- 4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Japans Contested War Memories
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - Japans Contested War Memories User Reviews and Ratings
 - Japans Contested War Memories and Bestseller Lists
- 5. Accessing Japans Contested War Memories Free and Paid eBooks
 - Japans Contested War Memories Public Domain eBooks
 - Japans Contested War Memories eBook Subscription Services
 - Japans Contested War Memories Budget-Friendly Options

- 6. Navigating Japans Contested War Memories eBook Formats
 - o ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - Japans Contested War Memories Compatibility with Devices
 - Japans Contested War Memories Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Japans Contested War Memories
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking Japans Contested War Memories
 - Interactive Elements Japans Contested War Memories
- 8. Staying Engaged with Japans Contested War Memories
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers Japans Contested War Memories
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Japans Contested War Memories
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Japans Contested War Memories
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Japans Contested War Memories
 - Setting Reading Goals Japans Contested War Memories
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Japans Contested War Memories
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Japans Contested War Memories
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
- 14. Embracing eBook Trends
 - Integration of Multimedia Elements

• Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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