

War Abroad and at Home

Second Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945)

- July 7, 1937: “Marco Polo Bridge Incident”
- PM Konoé supports all-out war
- Mid-December: Nanjing Massacre
- Jan. 1938: “No negotiation with Nationalists”
- Chiang Kai-shek retreats West
- Fall 1938: stalemate

Towards Pearl Harbor

- PM Konoé resigns: 1939
 - Adm. Yonai, PM
- Konoé returns: 1940
 - Tripartite Pact with Germany and Italy
 - German “Blitzkrieg”
- “Southern Advance”
 - French Indochina, 1940-1941



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Towards Pearl Harbor

- US: breaks off Japan-US commercial treaty, 1939
- July 1941: freeze Japanese assets in US
- August 1941: international oil embargo
- By November: Japanese leaders decide on war

Spectacular Reversal

- Cook & Cook: “an almost unbroken series of tactical, operational, and strategic disasters”
- June 1942: Battle of Midway
- August: Allied counteroffensive in Guadalcanal
- Lost control of the sea > major consequences

War of Desperation

- *Gyokusai*: “shattered jade” > suicidal final attack
 - US “banzai charges”
 - Attu, Tarawa, etc.
- “Special Attack Corps” (*Tokkō*)
 - Airplanes and torpedoes
- Declining morale: 2300 captured in Saipan (1944)

The End

- Atomic bombings: Hiroshima (August 6, 1945), Nagasaki (August 9)
- USSR declares war on Japan: August 8
- Emperor declares acceptance of Allied terms: August 15

War as Memory

- How has it been remembered in the US?
- Cook & Cook: “A Lost War”
- What’s in a name?: “World War II,” “Great East Asia War,” “Fifteen Years War,” “Pacific War,” “Asia-Pacific War”
- Long shadow

Konoe Fumimaro's "New Order"

- Elite aristocrat: Fujiwara clan
- PM: June 1937-Jan. 1939, July 1940-Oct. 1941
- Shōwa Research Association
- Replace messy pluralism with efficient authoritarianism



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Long History

- Suspicion of competition, control of industry
 - Promotion of cartels: Important Industries Control Law, 1931
 - Increased central planning, 1936-7: Cabinet Planning Board
- National General Mobilization Law: 1938
 - Allows measures to “control material and human resources” WITHOUT legislative approval

Programs of the New Order

1938-1940

- Political New Order
 - Aim to replace multi-party system with Nazi-like mass party
 - Outcome: Imperial Rule Assistance Association: 1940
- Economic New Order
 - Replace competition and profit-seeking with rational control
 - Culminates in “Control Associations” of 1940
- Labor New Order
 - Replace unions with state-controlled factory councils
 - Industrial Patriotic Service Association, 1940

Control Associations for Culture

- Japan Literary Patriotic Association (1942)
- Japan Musical Culture Association (1941)
- United Church of Christ in Japan (1941)
 - 33 Protestant denominations
 - Vow loyalty to emperor and cooperation with war effort
 - Postwar ecumenical movement

Trans-war Trends: “1940s System”

- Industrial Policy
 - “Self-control”: circa early 1930s
 - State control: 1940 Control Associations
 - Postwar MITI (Ministry of International Trade and Industry): gets the state-private mix right?
- Labor Organization
 - Wartime controls codify seniority wages
 - Patriotic Associations feed into inclusive employee unions
- Agrarian Reform
 - Further weaken landlords, strengthen tenants

Statist Modernity: Contradictions

Tension between new and old roles for
women

Mobilizing Women?

- "In order to secure its labor force, the enemy is drafting women, but in Japan, out of consideration for the family system, we will not draft them."
- "That warm fountainhead which protects the household, assumes responsibility for rearing children, and causes women, children, brothers, and sisters to act as support for the front lines is based on the family system. This is the natural mission of the women in our empire and must be preserved far into the future."
- "There is no need for our nation to draft women just because America and Britain are doing so. the weakening of the family system would be the weakening of the nation. we are able to do our duties here in the Diet only because we have wives and mothers at home."

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