

Is “Overcoming the Past” Possible?

In Search of Compromise

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What do these mean?

- In a previous class we discussed “reconciliation”. What do the following mean to you?
- “Coming to terms with the past”
- “Overcoming the past”
- “Postwar settlement”
- “The end of the postwar”
- “World War II as history” (as opposed to World War II “memories”)

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Solutions

- As a class, let's find a “compromise solution” to each of the issues discussed which you think will “resolve the history issue”.
- **Historical consciousness:** A broadly acceptable interpretation of Japan's war actions.
- **War responsibility:** What Japan should do to settle all legal, moral and political issues relating to history via apology, reparations, compensation and justice.
- **Commemoration:** How Japan should commemorate the dead.
- **Reciprocal Justice:** What others owe Japan in terms of apology, reparations, compensation and justice.
- **Territory:** What the boundaries of the contemporary Japanese state should be.
- **Future Direction:** How Japan can keep the history issue “closed” once it is settled.

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Historical Consciousness

- Your ideas ...

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War Responsibility

- Your ideas ...

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Commemoration

- Your ideas ...

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Reciprocal Justice

- Your ideas ...

Territory

- Your ideas ...

Future Direction

- Your ideas ...

The Japanese Official Position

- Let's now compare your thoughts on how a possible compromise might be achieved with the actual position of the Japanese government (the 2015 Abe statement).
- https://japan.kantei.go.jp/97_abe/statement/201508/0814statement.html

Next Week's Final Debate

- Next week's debate does not have a motion about which you argue "for and against".
- The role play next week is an international negotiation to resolve all outstanding issues relating to the war.
- Each student will be assigned a country, and it is your job to negotiate the best deal possible for your country.
- In preparation, review all the materials we have studied this term, and read additional materials when relevant.

Finally ...

- Don't forget that you owe me an end of term assignment!
- The assignment (worth 25% of the total grade) is a literature review regarding one of the topics we have discussed this term.
- 1000-1500 words in English. Full academic referencing. Deadline is next week.