Our topic today is war films relating to the period 1931–1945. Two questions:

1. How is the war remembered in Japan?
2. How do these war memories lend themselves to representation in cinema?

Judgments on the War in Japan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aggressive War</th>
<th>Not Aggressive War</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aggressive Acts</td>
<td>Progressive</td>
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<td>Conservative</td>
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<td>Anomalous</td>
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<td>Nationalist</td>
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Progressive | Progressive-leaning | Conservative | Nationalist

Don’t knows and don’t cares

Each conflict generates differing interpretations of Japanese war responsibility.

War with China, 1931–45

War with the Soviet Union, 1938–9 and August 1945

Colonization of the Korean Peninsula, 1910–45

Occupation of nations in Southeast Asia, 1941–45

War with the USA and other colonial powers, 1941–45

Extract from Japan’s Contested War Memories.


Page 154: categories, genres and moods.

Pages 159-61: Secrets of success. Box office and critical acclaim.

Read in more detail for homework.
• Murudeka: Opening and Chapter 12. Military heroes.
• Kike Wadatsumi no Koe: The village scene (52:30). Good Japanese vs Bad Japanese.
• Tora Tora Tora: Opening statement on factual accuracy and Chapter 25. Historical film.
• Harp of Burma: Chapter 13. Mizushima burying the dead. Military victim-heroes and/or good Japanese.
• Grave of the Fireflies: The air raid (5:30). Victim-heroes.
• Kantai Collection: Episode 1, B Part. Fantasy.
• Tokyo Trials: Chapter 43. Documentary.