The Postwar Settlement and Territory Issue

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Today's Video Lecture

- Loose Ends: The International Military Tribunal for the Far East and the San Francisco Peace Treaty.
- Postwar Relations with China, South Korea, and the USSR/Russia.
- The Territorial Disputes: Why do little islands matter?

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Loose Ends

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International Military Tribual for the Far East

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"Victors' Justice"

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Who was not tried?

- The emperor
- Researchers in Unit 731
- Commanders of the Japanese air force
- Commanders of the Allied air forces
- Any Allied soldiers guilty of war crimes
- Many Japanese soldiers guilty of war crimes

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Treaty of San Francisco, 1951

The text of the treaty.

Read the work of Kimie Hara.

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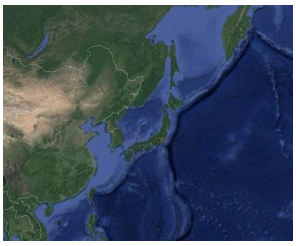

Postwar Relations

Let's look at this Chronology for historical background.

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Factors Affecting Postwar Relations

- Wartime experiences: invasion of China, colonization of Korea, breach of the neutrality pact by the USSR.
- Cold War relations
- Relations with third parties
- Relative economic and cultural strength

The strength of Japan's bargaining position has weakened considerably since the 1980s.

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Domestic Factors

- China: Deep internal divisions. Tension in Sino-Japanese relations results from a mixture of legitimate grievances and political expediency (generating national unity).
- Korea: The vital role of the Korean War (north vs south, resisters vs collaborators, communists vs capitalists). Korea divided while Japan benefitted economically: a very bitter pill to swallow …
- Russia/USSR: Indifference to Japan. Russia got what it wanted during the war (Sakhalin, the Kuriles).

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Why Little Islands Matter

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Why Little Islands Matter

- National pride: Victory in the territory issue = Victory in the history issue.
- Blood sacrifice: Never give away territory that people have died to gain.
- Economics: Ocean resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone
- Strategic Importance: Naval passage to the open seas; control of sea lanes.

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Towards Next Time

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Our Next Debate

- The motion is "The Senkaku Islands, Takeshima and the Northern Territories are Japanese territory".

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