

# Read the text of the Statement by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe from 14 August 2015. It is in both English and Japanese (see links on the class website). By the end of the course I want you to be able to make an informed, critical assessment of this statement and its implications.



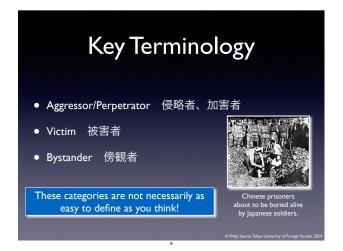






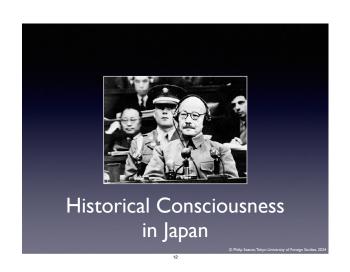


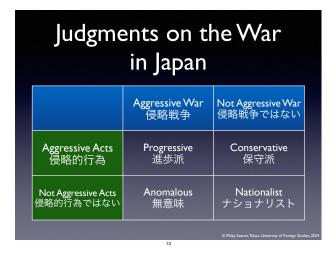


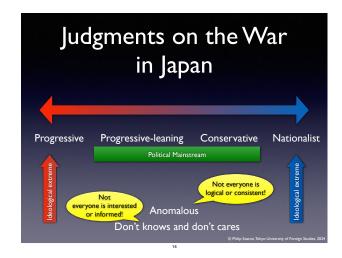


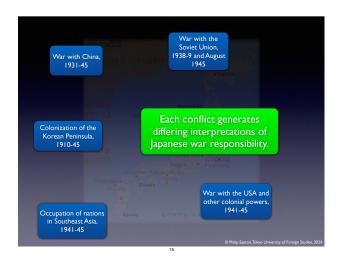




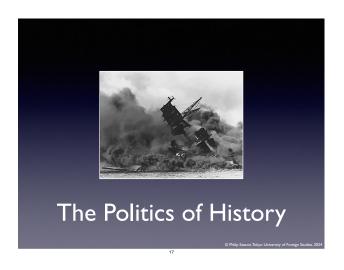














## Legacies

- The war's legacy continues to play a huge role in Japan.
- Key symbols of the Japanese state - the flag, anthem, Imperial household & constitution - plus Japan's international role continue to be influenced by the legacy of the war.







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# International Controversy

- Japan's neighbours in particular are very sensitive of how the war is remembered and commemorated in Japan.
- Diplomatic protests over Yasukuni Shrine worship, textbook content, politicians' statements etc.





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### History and Territory

- Is the history issue now being superseded by territory as the number one issue?
- Senkaku/Daioyu, Takeshima/ Dokdo, Northern Territories/ Kuriles.
- The role of American bases on Japanese territory.







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### This Course

- Six Topics (two weeks each):
- 1. Japan's wars: aggression or inevitable?
- 2. Compensation: sufficient or not?
- 3. Yasukuni Shrine: to worship or not to worship?
- 4. Active Learning: Fieldwork at a war-related site.
- 5. The A-bombs: decisive or simply destructive?
- 6. Disputed Territories: Japanese or not?
  - Exam: Is overcoming the past possible?

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## **Debating Skills**

- We will also ...
- 1. ... practice making effective academic arguments.
- ... learn how to have passionate debate on these issues without falling out with your classmates!
- 3. ... learn how to think from multiple perspectives on the same issue.

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