



The Pacific War and the Occupation of Japan

東京裁判 International Military Tribunal for the Far East

- We will watch the first 45 minutes of this documentary film.

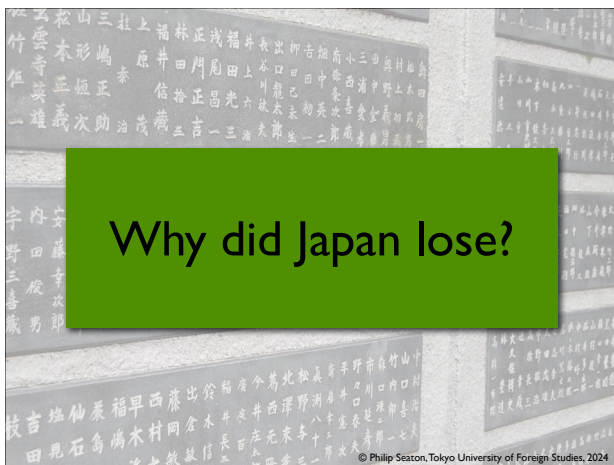


Victor's Justice?



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



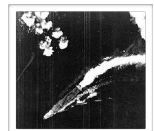
Why did Japan lose?

Midway

- Many early victories (Malaya, Singapore, Indonesia etc) for Japan.
- April 1942: The Doolittle raid on Japanese precipitates the Midway Operation.
- Japanese carrier force is destroyed at Midway and Japan loses control of the Pacific Ocean.



Midway



Imperial Overstretch

- Without control of the sea, territories could be picked off one by one.
- Island-hopping campaign of the Allies.



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War of Attrition

- Guadalcanal: the first major land campaign of the Allied counter-offensive, August 1942 to February 1943.
- Guadalcanal became known as Ga-to (Starvation Island).
- Japan would always come out second best in a war of attrition.



Guadalcanal

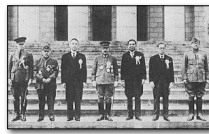


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Hearts and Minds

- Japan claimed to be fighting a war to liberate Asia from Western colonialism.
- The Greater East Asian Co-Prosperity Sphere is first announced in 1940.
- Ultimately, Japanese brutality in occupied territories generated more resistance than cooperation.



Greater East Asia Conference, 1943



The realities of Japanese occupation

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Air Raids

- Devastating B-29 raids on Japan after November 1944 following the capture of Saipan.
- Most major cities heavily damaged. Hundreds of thousands killed.
- Disruption of war production.



<http://www.japanairraids.org>

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Blockade

- Japanese shipping was sunk, harbours mined and coastal ports shelled.
- Disruption to supply lines both domestically (e.g. Tsugaru Straits) and internationally.
- Economic collapse and starvation.



The ferry connecting Hakodate and Aomori on fire, July 1945

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Stalemate in China

- Vast numbers of Japanese troops are bogged down in China.



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Soviet Attack

- 1939: Nomonhan Incident (Khalkin Gol, defeat for Japan).
- April 1941: Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact
- 9 August 1945: Soviets join the war against Japan. Capture Sakhalin and the Kuriles.

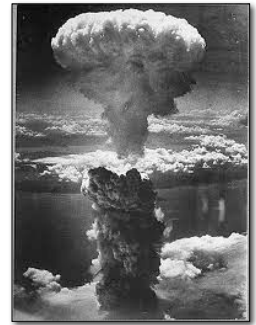


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The A-bombs?

- Our debate for next time:
- “The A-bombs did not force Japan to surrender”



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