

Department of History
University of Wisconsin-Madison
College of Letters and Science

Militarism & Fascism in Japan
History 600

Fall 2007
Friday 1:00-3:00
5255 Humanities

Professor Louise Young
O.H. Wed. 1:30-2:30 and by appt.
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Course description

Though fascism was a powerful force in 1930s Japan, there was no single or unified fascist movement. Rather, there were many fascisms, with different programs, different agents, different sites of action. Though the various goals of this multi-dimensional movement were often at odds with one another, what fascism shared was a consciousness of overwhelming crisis and a conviction that radical, fundamental transformation was needed to break out of the deadlock. The goal of the course is to better understand the relationship between crisis in the realms of economy, society, and polity and the turn to fascism—why it was that political and cultural elites saw fascism as the solution to the multi-fronted crisis of the early 1930s.

The following required readings have been ordered for purchase at the University Book Store:

IENAGA Saburo, The Pacific War (Pantheon, 1978)
John W. Dower, War Without Mercy (Pantheon, 1986)
Michael A. Barnhart, Japan Prepares for Total War (Cornell, 1987)

All other readings are available on the Class website at Learn@ UW.

Requirements

- read weekly assignments
- one-page electronic memo posted on class list by 4 pm Thursday (15%)
- read weekly posts of class members
- participate actively in class discussion (15%)
- in small groups (2 or 3 students), prepare discussion questions for one class session (15%)
- 15-20 page final paper (40%)
- participate in student conference (15%)

Class schedule

September 7

introduction

Read: Andrew Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, Part III--
“Imperial Japan from Ascendancy to Ashes”, pp. 139-225. (WS)

- September 14 *the fifteen year war*
Read: IENAGA Saburo, The Pacific War, all (UBS)
- September 21 *economic crisis and autarky*
Read: Michael Barnhart, Japan Prepares for Total War, pp 17-49, 64-114, 198-273 (UBS)
- September 28 *the new order in Asia*
Read: Peter Duus, Ramon Myers, Mark Peattie, eds., The Japanese Wartime Empire (Princeton, 1996), 3-70, 189-304; Harry Benda, "The Japanese Interregnum" in Imperial Japan and Asia (New York, 1967) (WS)
*Paper proposal due
- October 5 NO CLASS
Individual conferences to discuss paper topics.
*Begin Peattie reading
*Revised proposals due 10/12
- October 12 *the military*
Read: Mark Peattie, Ishiwara Kanji and Japan's Confrontation with the West (Princeton, 1975), pp. 3-308
*Revised proposal due
- October 19 NO CLASS
Research period: Bibliographies due 10/26
- October 26 *agrarian fascism*
Read: Thomas Havens, Farm and Nation in Modern Japan (Princeton, 1974), pp. 3-14, 163-180, 190-274; R.P. Dore and Tsutomu Ôuchi, "Rural Origins of Japanese Fascism," in Dilemmas of Growth in Prewar Japan (Princeton 1971), pp. 181-209 (WS)
- November 2 *race, war, and propaganda*
Read: John W. Dower, War Without Mercy, pp 1-72, 191-290. (UBS)
- November 9 *intellectuals and the state*
W. Miles Fletcher, "Intellectuals and Fascism in Early Showa Japan," Journal of Asian Studies, 39.1 (Nov. 1979), 39-63; Louise Young, Japan's Total Empire (Berkeley, 1998), pp 241-303; Chalmers Johnson, An Instance of Treason (Stanford, 1990), pp. 1-59, 114-139 (WS)
- November 16 *culture of Japanese fascism*

Read: Alan Tansman, ed., The Culture of Japanese Fascism (Duke, forthcoming), essays by Brandt, Aso, Skabeland, Gerow, Cornetz, Schattschneider (WS)

- November 30 *defining "Japanese" fascism*
Read: George Wilson, "A New Look at the Problem of 'Japanese Fascism'", Comparative Studies in Society and History, 10.4 (Jul., 1968), 401-412; Peter Duus and Daniel Okamoto, "Comment: Fascism and the History of Pre-War Japan: The Failure of a Concept," Journal of Asian Studies, 39.1 (Nov., 1979), 65-76, both on class website; Maruyama Masao, Thought and Behavior in Modern Japanese Politics (Oxford, 1963), pp. 1-83, available through Madcat, ACLS Humanities E-Book Project.
- December 7 Student Conference I
**Class will run longer, 1-4 pm
- December 14 Student Conference II
**Class will run longer, 1-4 pm