

***Asia-Pacific Journal* Articles Recommended for Further Reading**Popular Culture**“‘To Protect Japan’s Peace We Need Guns and Rockets:’ The Military Uses of Popular Culture in Current-day Japan”**

Sabine Frühstück

August 24, 2009

<http://www.japanfocus.org/-Sabine-Fruhstuck/3209>

This course reader has explored the ways in which past wars are presented in Japanese popular culture. In this article, Sabine Frühstück brings the discussion forward to explore how Japan’s contemporary armed forces are represented in pop culture and particularly how the military has used manga, models, and teen idols to build a “peace” brand for public consumption.

“Nationalism and Anti-Americanism in Japan—Manga Wars, Aso, Tamogami, and Progressive Alternatives”

Matthew Penney

April 26, 2009

<http://www.japanfocus.org/-Matthew-Penney/3116>

This article describes ways that the Japan-US relationship has been represented in popular culture. While some works engage in demonization of America because of complex concerns about Japanese sovereignty and American militarism, others seek a more varied or positive portrayal, looking at Japanese war crimes alongside different contexts of American violence.

“‘Hating ‘The Korean Wave’’ Comic Books: A sign of New Nationalism in Japan?”

Rumi Sakamoto and Matthew Allen

October 24, 2007

<http://www.japanfocus.org/-Mathew-Allen/2535>

Sensoron (On War) author Kobayashi Yoshinori has a rival for the title of the most popular and influential of Japan’s right-wing cartoonists. Yamano Sharin’s *Kenkanryu* (Hating the Korea Wave) is an anti-Korea screed that is representative of the xenophobic culture of online comments and videos that has emerged in Japan in the 2000s. Sakamoto and Allen explain why South Korea, a democracy that like Japan is a close ally of the United States, has become the primary target of the online right.

“Koreans, Go Home!’ Internet Nationalism in Contemporary Japan as a Digitally Mediated Subculture”

Rumi Sakamoto

March 7, 2011

<http://www.japanfocus.org/-Rumi-SAKAMOTO/3497>

In this article, Rumi Sakamoto expands on her critique of *Kenkanryu* and looks at the rhetoric of online rightists, exploring how the internet as a medium of communication has shaped ultra-nationalist expression.

“Godzilla and the Bravo Shot: Who Created and Killed the Monster?”

Yuki Tanaka

June 13, 2005

<http://www.japanfocus.org/-Yuki-TANAKA/1652>

Godzilla is one of the most famous characters in Japanese popular culture and is deeply tied to memories of the Asia-Pacific War, especially the atomic bombs and firebombing of Japanese cities. In this article, Yuki Tanaka explains the significance of Godzilla in Japanese historical memory and how the famous series reflects Japan’s postwar relationship with the United States.

“War and Peace in the Art of Tezuka Osamu: The Humanism of His Epic Manga”

Yuki Tanaka

September 20, 2010

<http://www.japanfocus.org/-Yuki-TANAKA/3412>

Tezuka Osamu (1928-1989) is known in Japan as “The God of Comics.” He is the creator of innumerable famous manga such as *Astroboy*, *Jungle Emperor*, *Phoenix*, and *Black Jack* and also produced Japan’s first TV anime. Anti-militarism, including reflection on Japan’s wartime past, was a consistent theme in Tezuka’s work. In this article, Yuki Tanaka presents an analysis of Tezuka’s career and a personal reflection on the manga artist’s importance as an anti-war thinker.

Other ThemesTextbooks Controversies**“Japanese Textbook Controversies, Nationalism, and Historical Memory: Intra- and Inter-national Conflicts”**

Yoshiko Nozaki and Mark Selden

June 15, 2009

<http://www.japanfocus.org/-Yoshiko-Nozaki/3173>

Memories of the Atomic Bombings

“Hiroshima and Nagasaki at 65—A Reflection”

Satoko Norimatsu

December 27, 2010

<http://www.japanfocus.org/-Satoko-NORIMATSU2/3463>

Tokyo Air Raid Testimony

“The Tokyo Air Raids in the Words of Those Who Survived”

Bret Fisk

January 17, 2011

<http://www.japanfocus.org/-Bret-Fisk/3471>

The Tokyo Air Raid in Drawings

“That Unforgettable Day--The Great Tokyo Air Raid through Drawings”

The Sumida Local Culture Resource Center, Translated by Bret Fisk

January 17, 2011

<http://www.japanfocus.org/-Sumida Local Cultural Research Center of Taize-/3470>

Museums

“Exhibiting World War II in Japan and the United States”

Laura Hein and Akiko Takenaka

July 20, 2007

<http://www.japanfocus.org/-Akiko-TAKENAKA/2477>

Imperial War Responsibility

“Emperor, Shinto, Democracy: Japan’s Unresolved Questions of Historical Consciousness”

Herbert P. Bix

June 13, 2005

<http://www.japanfocus.org/-Herbert P -Bix/1865>

Yasukuni Shrine

“Yasukuni Shrine at the Heart of Japan’s National Debate: History, Memory, Denial”

Takahashi Tetsuya

April 6, 2007

<http://www.japanfocus.org/-Takahashi-Tetsuya/2401>

Artwork

“Against Forgetting: Three Generations of Artists in Japan in Dialogue about the Legacies of World War II”

Rebecca Jennison and Laura Hein

July 25, 2011

<http://www.japanfocus.org/-Laura-Hein/3573>