

Special Issue: The 100th Anniversary of the 1923 Great Kantō Earthquake (Table of Contents)

Kerry Smith

A century ago, on the first day of September 1923, a powerful earthquake struck the Kantō Plain, toppling buildings and triggering firestorms throughout Tokyo and Yokohama. Thousands of ethnic Koreans were murdered in the aftermath. The disaster took over 100,000 lives and cast a long shadow over Japan in subsequent years. To this day, millions of Japanese children practice disaster prevention on September 1st.

Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus presents a special issue on the anniversary of the quake. Our authors below assess its economic, political, and cultural impact and ponder the lessons learned. Finally, Watanabe Hidenori, professor at The University of Tokyo Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, explains his work to digitally map the quake, and its revolutionary impact on combating official disinformation.

We would like to thank all our authors for working so hard to put this collection together in time for the anniversary. We also received invaluable editorial assistance from Laura Hein, David Slater, Mary McCarthy, Tristan Grunow and Laney Bahan, who edited and shepherded the manuscripts from submission to publication with great patience and professionalism.

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Readers of this special may be also interested in Kenji Hasegawa's 2022 article "[The 8 p.m. Battle Cry: The 1923 Earthquake and the Korean *Sawagi* in Central Tokyo.](#)"