

Challenges and Opportunities for a Historian of Japan Teaching about Race and Imperialism

Japanese Studies and Anti-Racist Pedagogy
Center for Japanese Studies
University of Michigan

Takashi Fujitani
Dr. David Chu Chair in Asia-Pacific Studies
University of Toronto

Challenges of Teaching Critically on Racism, Imperialism and War for a historian of Japan

1. The split between area studies and ethnic studies – studying “them” has nothing to do with “us”
2. Eurocentrism in universities pressures us to stick to teaching about our specializations in Asia, not what’s happening back at “home”

Turning Obstacles into Opportunities

1. Problematizing the rubrics which discipline our teaching helps students think critically about the knowledge they consume: they learn about the politics of knowledge production
2. “Asianists,” precisely because of the Eurocentrism that we critique are (or should be!) better poised than most scholars of the so-called “West” to research, teach and think globally. Dipesh Chakrabarty once called this the “asymmetry of knowledge”

“Colonialisms in Asia”

1. The origins of this course

2. Topics

a. “How Should We Understand ‘Ourselves’ in Relation to Colonialism?”

- Edward W. Said, *Orientalism* (Vintage Books, 1979), 4-15, 31-49, 201-11;
- Frantz Fanon, “Algeria Unveiled,” in *A Dying Colonialism*, trans. Haakon Chevalier (Grover Press, 1965): 35-67;
- Chandra Talpade Mohanty, “Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses,” in *Feminism without borders: decolonizing theory, practicing solidarity* (Duke U Press, 2003), 17-43.

b. “Freedom and Empire”

- Lisa Lowe, “The Intimacy of Four Continents” (chapt.1) and “The Ruses of Liberty” (chapt.4) in *Intimacies of Four Continents* (Duke U. Press, 2015), 1-41 & 101-133;
- John Gallagher and Ronald Robinson, “The Imperialism of Free Trade,” *Economic History Review* (2nd series) 6.1 (1953): 1-15;
- Carl Schmitt, “Forms of Modern Imperialism in International Law,” in Stephen Legg, ed., *Spatiality, Sovereignty and Carl Schmitt* (Routledge, 2011), 29-45;
- A.T. Mahan, “The Panama Canal and Sea Power in the Pacific,” *The Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine*, Vol.82 (1911): 240-48;
- Teemu Ruskola, “Canton Is Not Boston: The Invention of American Imperial Sovereignty,” *American Quarterly*, Volume 57, Number 3, (September 2005), 859-884;

c. Settler Colonialism and Indigeneity

- David E. Stannard, “Disease and Infertility: a New Look at the Demographic Collapse of Native Populations in the Wake of Western Contact,” *Journal of American Studies* 24:3 (1990): 325-350.
- Required film viewing: *Before Tomorrow*, dir. Marie-Hélène Cousineau and Madeline Ivalu, distributed by Alliance Films, 2009
- Brett Walker, “Epidemic Disease, Medicine, and the Shifting Ecology of Ezo,” *The Conquest of Ainu Lands: Ecology and Culture in Japanese Expansion, 1590-1800* (UC Press, 2001), 177-203.

d. Colonial Modernity and the Question of Economic Development

- Bruce Cumings, “Colonial Formations and Deformations: Korea, Taiwan, and Vietnam,” in *Parallax Visions: Making Sense of American-East Asian Relations at the End of the Century* (Duke U Press, 1999), 69-94.
- Atul Kohli, “Origins of a Fragmented Multiclass State and a Sluggish Economy: Colonial India,” from Atul Kohli, *State Directed Development: Political Power and Industrialization in the Global Periphery* (Cambridge U. Press, 2004), 221-56.
- Gi-wook Shin and Michael Robinson, “Introduction,” to *Colonial Modernity in Korea* (Cambridge:Harvard University Asia Center, 1999), 1-18.

e. Racism

- Immanuel Kant, excerpted as, “This fellow was black: a clear proof that what he said was stupid,” in Emmanuel Chukwudi Eze, ed., *Race and the Enlightenment* (Blackwell, 1997), 38-64;
- Peter Duus, “Defining the Koreans: Images of Domination,” from *The Abacus and the Sword* (University of California Press), 397-423;
- Paul A. Kramer, “Race-Making and Colonial Violence in the U.S. Empire: The Philippine-American War as Race War,” *Journal of Diplomatic History* 30:2 (April 2006), 169-210;
- “Shades of Guilt” on Twilight Zone (2002)

f. Sex and Gender

- Ann Laura Stoler, “Making Empire Respectable: The Politics of Race and Sexual Morality in Twentieth Century Colonial Cultures,” in Anne McClintock, Aamir Mufti, and Ella Shohat, ed., *Dangerous Liaisons: Gender, Nation, & Postcolonial Perspectives* (UMinnesota Press, 1997), 344-73;
- Yoshimi Yoshiaki, “The Kōno Statement: Its Historical Significance and Limitations, in Nishino Rumiko, Kim Puja, and Onozawa Akane, ed., *Denying the Comfort Women* (Routledge: 2017), 17-39.
- Nishino Rumiko, “Forcible Mobilization: What Survivor Testimonies Tell Us,” in Nishino, Kim, Onozawa, ed., *Denying...* , 40-63.
- Norimatsu, Satoko Oka, “Canada’s ‘History Wars’: The ‘Comfort Women’ and the Nanjing Massacre,” *Asia-Pacific Journal* 18:6:4 (15 March 2020): 1-18.
- Teresia K. Teaiwa, “Bikinis and Other S/pacific N/oceans,” in Setsu Shigematsu and Keith L. Camacho, *Militarized Currents: Toward a Decolonized Future in Asia and the Pacific* (U of Minnesota Press, 2010): 15-31.
- Seungsook Moon, “Regulating Desire, Managing the Empire: U.S. Military Prostitution in South Korean, 1945-1970), in Maria Hohn and Seungsook Moon, ed. *Over There: Living with the U.S. Military Empire from World War Two to the Present* (Duke U Press, 2010), 39

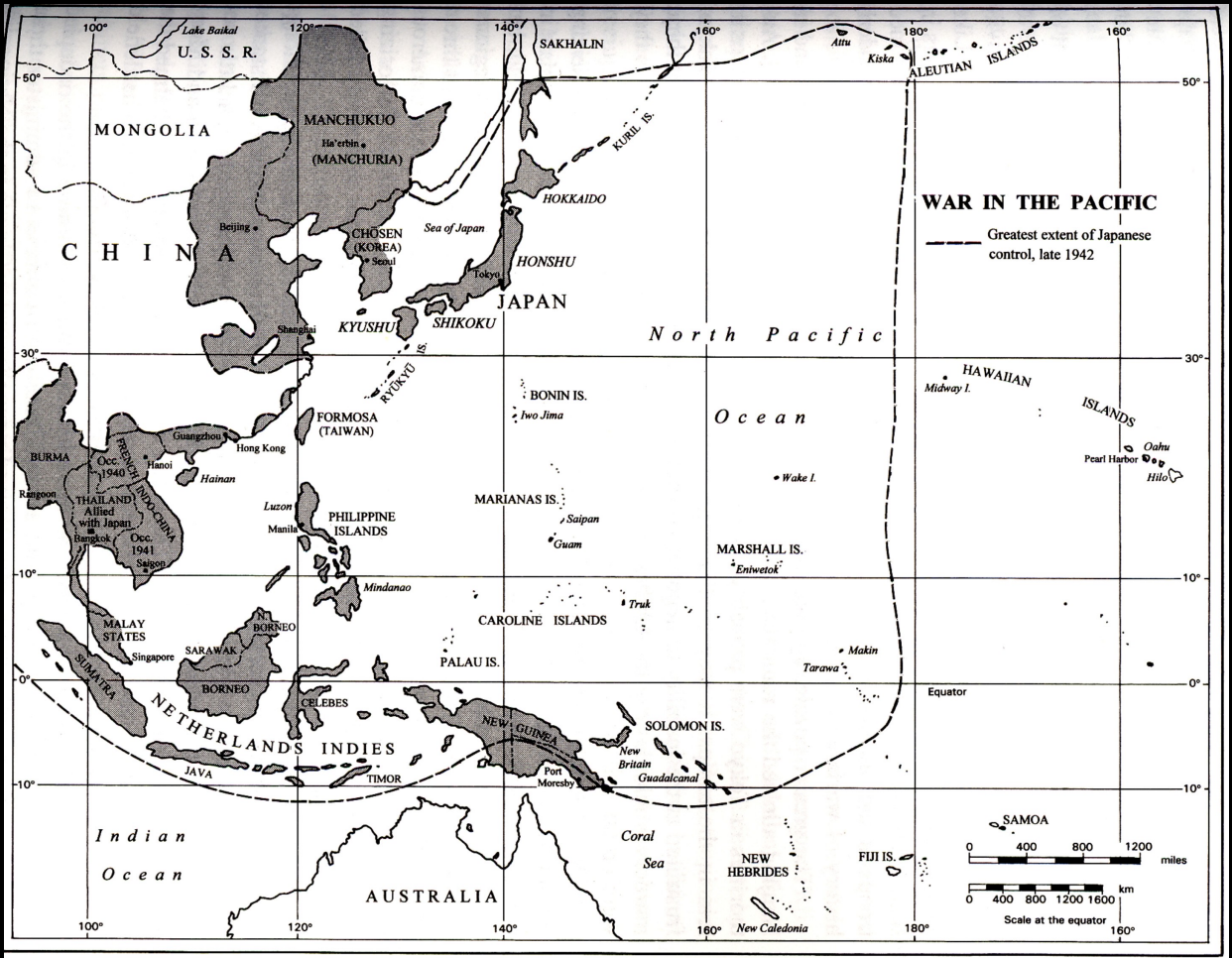
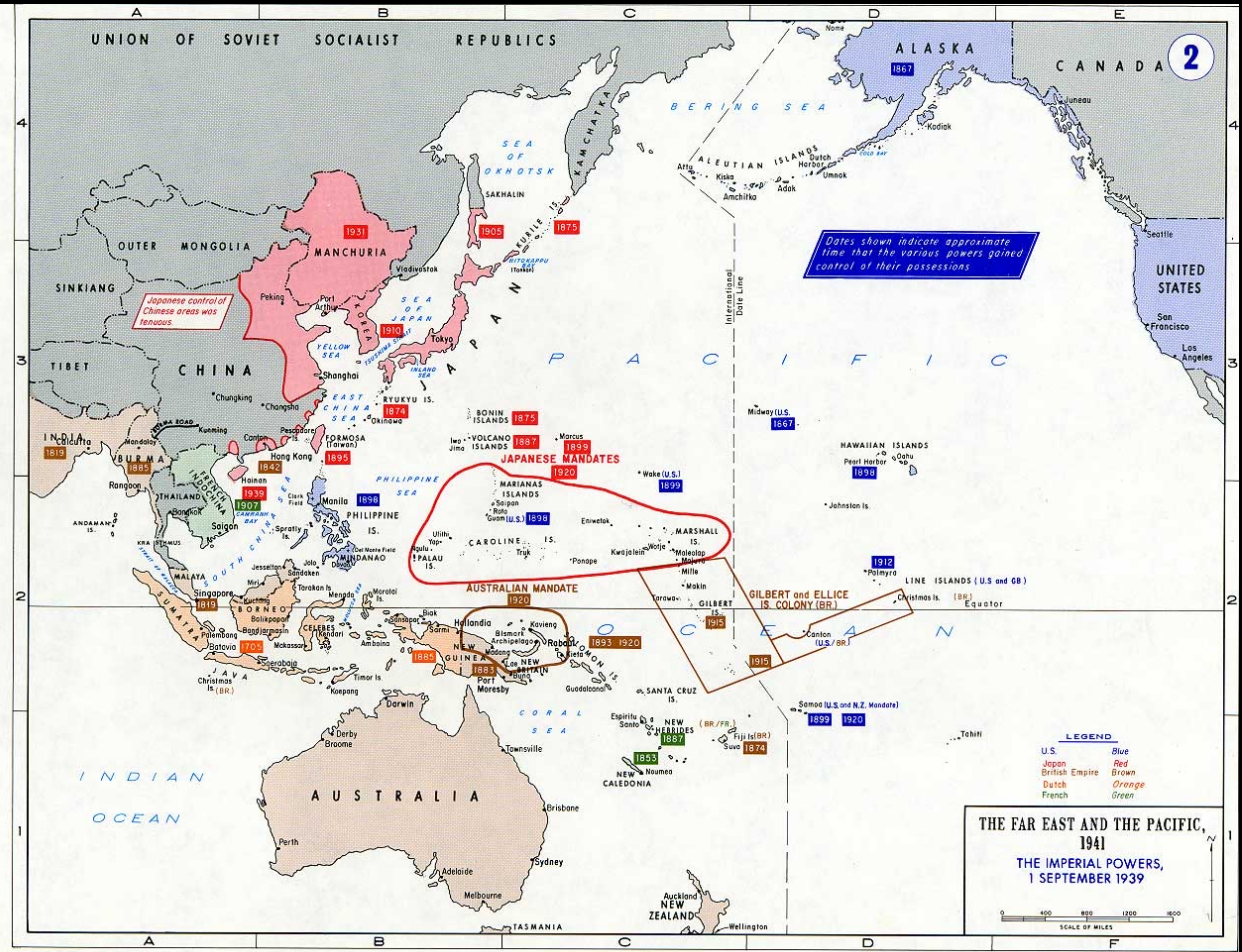
“The Asia-Pacific War(s)”

1. The origins of this course

2. Topics

a. “Good War” or “War of Empires”

- T. Fujitani, Lisa Yoneyama & Geoffrey White, “Introduction,” in *Perilous Memories*, p.1-29;
- Gerald Horne, “To be of ‘Pure European Descent’” and “Asians versus White Supremacy,” *Race War!: White Supremacy and the Japanese Attack on the British Empire*. (New York University Press, 2004 or 2005, p.17-42 and 187-219.



b. From Imperial Collaboration to Conflict

- “Tojo Meets the Greater East Asia Conference,” in Joyce C. Lebra, ed., *Japan’s Greater East Asia Co Prosperity Sphere in WWII* (Oxford U. Press, 1975), 88-93
- “The Atlantic Charter”

c. Between Equality and Difference: Okinawa, Taiwan and Korea

- Alan Christy, “The Making of Imperial Subjects in Okinawa,” *positions* 1:3 (1993): 607-39;
- Matthew Allen, “Wolves at the Back Door: Remembering the Kumejima Massacres,” in Hein and Selden, ed., *Islands of Discontent* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2003), 39-64;
- Tomiyama Ichiro, “‘Spy’: Mobilization and Identity in Wartime Okinawa,” in Umesao Tadao, T. Fujitani, and Kurimoto Eisei, ed. *Japanese Civilization in the Modern World: Vol. XVI. Nation-State and Empire* (Osaka: National Museum of Ethnology, 2000): 121-32;
- Paul D. Barclay, “Japanese Empire in Taiwan,” from *Oxford Research Encyclopedia, Asian History* (Oxford U Press, 2020), 1-26.

d. Internment of Nikkei in N. America

- *No-No Boy* (U of Washington Press, 1978)
- “World War II: Internment of Japanese Americans,” *The Atlantic* (Aug. 21, 2011)

e. Hawaii and Pacific Islanders at War

- Beth Bailey and David Farber, "Introduction," from *The First Strange Place* (Free Press, 1992), 15-29;
- Lamont Lindstrom and Geoffrey M. White, "War Stories," in Geoffrey M. White and Lamont Lindstrom, *The Pacific Theater* (U of Hawaii Press, 1989), 3-36.
- Keith Camacho, "World War II in the Mariana Islands," in *Cultures of Commemoration* (U of Hawaii Press, 2011), 39-58.

f. Weapons of Mass Destruction: Chongqing, Tokyo, Hiroshima, Nagasaki

- Film viewing and discussion: “Hiroshima: Why the Bomb was Dropped” (ABC)
- Tetsuo Maeda, “Strategic Bombing of Chongqing by Imperial Japanese Army and Naval Forces,” in Yuki Tanaka and Marilyn B. Young, ed., *Bombing Civilians* (New Press, 2009), 135-153;

g. War and Sex

- Sarah Soh, “Japan’s Military Comfort System as History” and “Public Sex and the State,” in *The Comfort Women* (Chicago U. Press, 2008), 107-142 & 197-225;
- Marilyn E. Hegarty, “A Buffer of Whores,” from *Victory Girls, Khaki-Wackies, and Patriotutes* (NYU Press, 2008), 85-109