

**Officers, Adventurers and Statesmen:**

**Reconsidering Militarism in Twentieth Century Japan**

**International Conference, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem,**

**June 18-20, 2017**

On August 15, 1945 the government of the Empire of Japan transmitted its acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration. According to the prevailing narrative, forged in that declaration and during the Tokyo War Crime Trials, the force most responsible for the Pacific War and its horrors was Japanese militarism. And the primary movers of militarism, it was argued, were three main groups of people: officers, conservative statesmen, and right-wing civilian adventurers.

This conference aims to bring together new perspectives and scholarship on Japanese political and military history to comprehend the role that statesmen, officers and adventurers played in Japan’s turn towards war after 1931. Drawing on newly accessible materials from political, military, diplomatic, and intelligence archives, the participants in this conference will approach prewar Japanese militarism and adventurism in comparative and global perspectives. We will discuss events both in Japan itself and in the frontiers of the Japanese Empire: China and Manchuria. Specifically we examine the following questions: What was the relationship between the changing shape of war and changes in domestic politics and right of supreme command in the 1930s? Were conspiratorial field officers and right-wing ideologues truly able to control and determine the foreign policy of the empire? What was the process of decision-making and policy control in prewar Japan? Did the control system of the Imperial Army truly disintegrate in the 1920s and 1930s? And what role did Japanese military institutions play in giving East Asia its particular shape and identity?

In addition to our discussion of Japanese militarism, we will also hold comparative panels on similar phenomenon of militarism and adventurism elsewhere in Asia and in global perspective.

**Sponsors**:

The Azrieli Foundation

The Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies

The Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace

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Conference Program

**June 18 (Sunday)**

**Opening Event:** (Maiersdorf House Banquet Hall)

17:30: Reception

18:00: Greetings: Nissim Otmazgin, Chair of the Asian Studies Department, Acting Director, Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace.

18:25: Artistic program (Obon Dance and martial arts show)

19:00**: Keynote Address: Emperor and Militarism in Modern Japan**

Ben Ami Shillony, (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

20:00: Dinner

**June 19 (Monday)**

9:30: Greetings and introduction: Danny Orbach (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) and Andrew Levidis (Cambridge University)

10:00 – 12:00: **Ideology, Mobilization and Total War** (Abba Eban Room, Truman Institute)

**Chair and Commentator: Rotem Kowner (University of Haifa)**

**Mori Yasuo** (Dōshisha University): Preparation for total war in 1920s Japan

**Naraoka Sōchi** (Kyoto University):The First World War and Japan: From territorial expansionism to international cooperation

**Shimizu Yūichirō** (Keio University): Lessons for total war: what did Japanese bureaucrats learn from the First World War?

**Roger Brown** (Saitama University): Conservative nationalism in Japan on the eve of War: Yasuoka Masahiro, global confrontation and Japan's divine mandate

12:00-13:30 (Lunch, Maiersdorf House)

13:30-15:15: **Manchurian Encounters: Militarism and the nexus of empires** (Abba Eban Room, Truman Institute)

**Chair and Commentator**: Yuri Pines (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Mark Gamsa** (Tel Aviv University)**:**Border crossing between the Russian Far East and Manchuria

**Emer O'Dwyer** (Oberlin College)**:**A Fractured Civil-Military Union: The South Manchurian Railway Company and the Kwantung Army, 1933-34

**Bjorn Koolen** (Sophia University, Tokyo): Inside the Kwantung Army

15:45-17:30: **Statesmen, politicians and the making of Japanese militarism** (Abba Eban Room, Truman institute)

**Chair and Commentator: Ayala Klemperer-Markman (Tel Aviv University)**

**Tobe Ryōichi** (Teikyō University)**:**Why did Japanese soldiers become politicized? An analysis of the Development of soldiers' consciousness 

**Andrew Levidis** (Cambridge University):After February 26, 1936: Prince Konoe Fumimaro and The Imperial Way Faction

**Rotem Kowner** (University of Haifa)**:**The Pacifist-Militarist Statesman: The “Multiple Personality” of Konoe Fumimaro and the Nature of Japanese Prewar Militarism

**Bruce Grover** (University of Heidelberg): Visions of national reconstruction and Asian leadership in prewar Japanese military ideology: The cultural thought and political action of General Hayashi Senjūrō

18:00-19:00: **Keynote Address – Imperial democracies in Twentieth Century** **Japan**

Andrew Gordon (Harvard University)

19:00: Cocktail Reception (Truman Institute)

**June 20 (Tuesday)**

10:00-12:00: **Adventurers, pirates and medics: military encounters from the ground up** (Abba Eban Room, Truman Institute)

**Chair and Commentator: Nissim Otmazgin** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Danny Orbach** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)**:**The military-adventurous complex and the roots of Japanese imperialism

**Grégoire Sastre** (CRCAO, Université Paris Diderot): The relations between non-institutional agents and military intelligence: The Institutionalization of the expansionist ideology

**Nguyen Thu** (Institute of Sino-Nom Studies, Hanoi)**:**Japanese sea adventurers in Vietnam during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries

**Reut Harari** (Tel Aviv University)**:** Imperial Medicine?Japanese Military Medics in War-Torn China

12:00-13:00: lunch (Maiersdorf House)

13:15-14:45: **Militarism around the world: Comparative Perspectives** (Abba Eban Room, Truman Institute)

**Chair and Commentator: Yagil Henkin** (IDF Command and General Staff College)

**Cathal Nolan** (Boston University): The allure of battle

**C. Christine Fair** (Center for Peace and Security, Georgetown University): Pakistan's way of war: Militarism and Strategic Culture

**Carter Eckert** (Harvard University)Imperial redux: The South Korean Military from the coup of February 26, 1936 to the coup of May 16, 1961

15:15-18:00: **The spirit and imprints of Militarism: Ideology, culture and memory** (Abba Eban Room, Truman Institute)

**Chair and Commentator: Ehud Harari** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Clinton Godart** (Hokkaido University): Rethinking religious militarism in prewar Japan

**D. Colin Jaundrill** (Providence College): Teleologies left and right: empire, militarism, and the historiography of the Imperial Japanese Army

**Sigal Ben-Rafael Galanti** (Beit Berl College)**:** Japanese militarism reexamined

**Ury Eppstein** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)**:**Militarism in Japanese school songs

18:30-19:00- **Concluding Lecture**

**Sheldon Garon** (Princeton University)**:**Five Things You’d Want to Know in Explaining Japan’s Surrender in 1945

**19:15-19:45: concluding remarks:** Danny Orbach (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) and Andrew Levidis (Cambridge University)

**Dinner in a Jerusalem Restaurant**

**June 21 (Wednesday)**

Jerusalem Old City tour for conference participants