

Introduction

Japan and Germany shares the experience of war in the twentieth century, which was characterized by total war, and the two countries were closely related during each phase of war including the First World War, the Second World War, the Cold War.

In examining the commonalities of these experiences, it is important to understand the following two points. The first is to understand the total continuity of these phases of war in the twentieth century. The second is to understand the interactive combination of strategy, tactics, and society in that continuum. The authors of the essays here have deepened this understanding in discussion of our joint research project. We had fifteen presentations in our workshops from 2019 to 2021. Of these, thirteen presenters contributed essays to this book. These essays cover a wide range of NIDS's and ZMSBw research interests. For the list of the workshops, please refer to Appendix I.

For the convenience of readers, this book is divided into three chronological sections, "The First World War and its Influences," "The Second World War and Strategy," and "The post-Second World War and Society." Let us briefly explain the summary of each essay.

In the first section, we have five essays on the military and social consequences of the First World War.

The book opens with an essay by REICHHERZER Frank, which discusses the social system of Germany in the twentieth century, created by the experience of total war. This essay represents the bottomline of this joint research project. In other words, he looks at the framing of war and warfare in German academia between the two World Wars, and identifies an overarching consequence of the First World War as "bellification." He develops this notion into an analytical tool, describing the socialization of war on the one hand and demilitarization of war on the other. Hence, Reichherzer sheds light on the active role of civil society in the planning, preparation and conducting of "total war" in Germany.

EPKENHANS Michael examines the development of German naval strategies in two World Wars, focusing on the social and tactical backgrounds. He discusses the geographical constraints of German fleet operations, inadequate sea-lane cutting

capabilities, and the impact of the United States' involvement in the First World War. His conclusion, "Though Germany was no doubt a strong naval power, it had never been a sea power" is highly suggestive.

Turning to the Japanese side, ISHIZU Tomoyuki discusses the impact of Japan's military contributions to the Allies in the First World War upon its political and strategic consequences. He focuses on Japan's efforts to maximize its national interests through negotiations with its allies, most notably Britain, and its acceptance of the Versailles Treaty System. The First World War brought Japan to a new political and strategic environment in the Pacific, a change in the balance of power in the region with the weakening of the European influence. He also discusses the transformation of the Japanese imperialism.

Nextly, ABE Shohei focuses on Japan's strategic and social factors through the process of accepting the infantry tactics of other countries by the Imperial Japanese Army after the First World War. He examines the Japanese Army's efforts to understand and adapt to the war. He shows that the Japanese Army accepted the lessons of the First World War selectively but efficiently under the lack of combat experience and of industrial strength.

At the end of the first section, WERBERG Dennis discusses the political movements of veterans created in interwar German society and their impact on its military of the Second World War. He reveals the complementary opposition within the German right wing by looking at the activity of its veterans' organization "Stahlhelm" [lit. "Steel Helmet"] in the twentieth century. Although both Stahlhelm and the National Socialist Party (NSDAP) were right-wing and mutually intended to exploit each other, they adopted different image on strategies due to the differences in the supporters associated with their political positions. This is a new perspective for understanding the society of the interwar Weimar Republic, especially for Japanese readers.

In the second section, we have five essays which analyze the background of the Japanese and German strategy during the Second World War.

Firstly, SHIMIZU Ryotaro focuses on the strategic decision-making process in Japan's entry into the Second World War, and discusses the human networks and social background, including its intelligence group. He elaborates the conception of

“Northbound” in the Imperial Japanese Army and shows how its officers planned and executed the Mukden Incident in 1931, which provoked a severe arms race between Japan and the USSR. The inferiority in this arms race in the Far East encouraged Japan to the alignment with Germany, and this in turn urged Joseph Stalin to appease Adolf Hitler who triggered the Second World War. Shimizu also indicates that Soviet intelligence activities against Japan were extremely intensified in the 1930s, of which the most prominent intelligence group was led by Richard Sorge. Finally, using newly released materials, he analyzes the activities of the Sorge spy ring concerning Japan’s strategic decision in July 1941. In spite of the myth of Sorge’s great contribution for the defense of Moscow against German aggression, Shimizu concludes that Sorge was puzzled by the “indecision” of the Japanese government.

PÖHLMANN Markus focuses on General Heinz Guderian from multifaceted perspectives, revealing the social and strategic background behind him. Pöhlmann tries to present a new interpretation of Guderian by meticulously tracing his military career. He points out the discrepancy between the general’s military career and the content of his autobiography which has been uncritically accepted until now. As a result, it becomes clear that the conventional image of Guderian based on his autobiography is strongly influenced by his cultivation of his image, his self-justification and disregard for the other’s role in the evolution of German armored forces.

Nextly, we have two essays on the analyses of social backgrounds of Japan’s strategic shift by SHINDO Hiroyuki and SHOJI Junichiro.

Shindo focuses on the evolution of Japanese strategy during the Pacific War, which generally has been described with a focus on the overall material difference between Japan and the United States. He emphasizes the significance of Japan’s interservice conflict which led to the divergence of focus and dispersal of assets in the planning and execution of Japan’s wartime strategy.

Shoji analyzes the factors behind the war termination processes of Japan and Germany, which followed quite different paths, and concludes as follows. First, the decision by Japanese leaders to change Japan’s war aims from “building the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere,” to the “preservation of national polity,” which was a central Japanese value, and the common acceptance of this revised war aim by Japan’s leaders meant that the basic orientation towards war termination had been

made within Japan. Second, a moderate faction existed in both Japan and the United States during the war, and, regardless of the fact that the two nations were at war with each other, a certain “relationship of trust” continued to exist between the two, which promoted the movements towards peace in both nations. Finally, Japan and the United States had different perceptions regarding a campaign for the Japanese Home Islands, and this became a factor in the realization of peace.

At the end of the second section, we have a unique essay by HANADA Tomoyuki. He focuses on the differences in Soviet perceptions of Japanese and German strategy as a background of its strategy. He compares the perspectives of Japan and Germany as seen by the Soviet military leadership, through an analysis of Russian historical archival documents. He reveals that the Soviets had different perspectives both on the purpose of war and the postwar conception for the two nations. He also points out that the Soviet perspective defines Russia’s current stance on the territorial issue with Japan.

In the third section, we have three essays that cover the post-Second World War era. Two of these essays, those by KRAFT Ina and REESE Martin analyze the backgrounds of Germany’s strategic shift in the post-Cold War.

Kraft describes that the multinational force structures in Europe which originated during the Cold War have evolved in various forms since the end of it. She classifies them into four multinational forms which have developed since the 1990s: NATO command structure, military structure of the EU, multinational Force in NATO (from corps scale to battalion scale), and the national military unit with a multinational character. She explains the motives of their establishment as an efficient means of utilizing military resources, a method of producing a strategic deterrent effect, and a means of political communication.

Reese shows that the post-Cold War expansion of NATO and the need to cope with the Russian power in Eastern Europe caused the new strategic role of Germany to shift from a potential combat zone to a (logistic) “strategic hub.” In the context of the recent re-emergence of the Russian threat to NATO’s eastern flank, he poses an academic reappraisal of this paradigm shift from the perspective of a historian.

The book closes with an essay by KÄSER Frank, which analyzes the military exchanges between Japan and Germany from the unique perspective of comparative

history of Japanese and German public archives. Käser offers concrete benefits for the use of archives in our research. Further, he shows where research is still needed in the study of Japanese-German military history.

We hope that the essays in this book provide readers with new perspectives and possibilities for further research, showing the organic combination of strategy, tactics, and society and the continuity of each phase of war in the twentieth century.

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