

Japanese Literature of the A-Bomb

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Japanese Literature of the A-Bomb
Spring 2004
Grinnell College

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Required Books

Hersey, John. Hiroshima.
Minear, Richard, ed. Hiroshima: Three Witnesses.
Nakazawa, Keiji. Barefoot Gen. A Cartoon Story of Hiroshima. [1972-73; ET: 1987]
Oe, Kenzaburo, ed. The Crazy Iris and Other Stories of the Atomic Aftermath
Selden, Kyoko and Mark, eds. The Atomic Bomb: Voices From Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
Vance-Watkins, Lequita and Aratani, Mariko, eds. White Flash, Black Rain: Women of Japan Relive the Bomb.

Recommended Books

Lifton, Robert Jay. Death in Life: Survivors of Hiroshima.
Lifton, Robert Jay & Greg Mitchell. Hiroshima in America: A Half Century of Denial.
Treat, John Whittier. Writing Ground Zero: Japanese Literature and the A-Bomb.

Course Outline

I. Introduction

M. Jan 19: Introduction. Video: Why The Bomb Was Dropped
W. Jan 21: Hersey, Hiroshima [1946], chapters One through Four

II. The Decision to Drop the Bomb

M. Jan 26: The Official Narrative

Introduction (xi-xiii), in *Rain of Ruin: A Photographic History of Hiroshima and Nagasaki*

Stimson, Henry, *The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb* (197-211); see also, Contents (xi-xiv), in Bird, Kai and Lawrence Lifschultz, eds., *Hiroshima, s shadow*.

Lifton, Robert Jay & Greg Mitchell, *Explaining Hiroshima The Official Narrative* (3-22), in Lifton & Mitchell, *Hiroshima in America: A Half Century of Denial*

W. Jan 28: Revisionist Accounts

Selden, Mark, Introduction: *The United States, Japan, and the Atomic Bomb* (xi-xxxv), in Selden, Kyoko and Mark, eds., *Voices from Hiroshima and Nagasaki*
Takaki, Ronald, *A Past Not Past* (ch. 1, 3-11, n. 153-156); *Hiroshima: The Face of War and Humanity* (ch. 7, 121-151, n. 179-183), in Takaki, Ronald, *Hiroshima: Why America Dropped The Atomic Bomb*

III. The Atomic Bomb Experience: Witnesses to the Bombing of Hiroshima & Nagasaki

M. Feb 2: Nakazawa, Keiji. *Barefoot Gen: A Cartoon Story of Hiroshima* [in class: DVD]

W. Feb 4: *Citizens, Memoirs* (173-214), in Selden, Kyoko and Mark, eds., *Voices from Hiroshima and Nagasaki* [extra: *Poetry* (117-155)]

M. Feb 9: *The Hiroshima Murals of Maraki Iri and Maraki Toshi: A Note* (371-378), in Minear, Richard, ed., *Hiroshima: Three Witnesses*

Dower, John. *War, Peace, and Beauty: The Art of Iri Maruki and Toshi Maruki* (9-26), in Dower, John and John Junkerman, eds., *The Hiroshima Murals*
Junkerman, John. *Oil and Water: An Interview with the Artists* (121-128), in Dower and Junkerman, eds., *The Hiroshima Murals*

[extra] Dower, John, *Japanese Artists and the Atomic Bomb* (242-256), in Dower, John, *Japan in War and Peace*

[also, I urge you to go look at *The Hiroshima Panels* in the Iowa Room of the library]

W. Feb 11: *The Boy Who Was a Fetus: The Death of Kajiyama Kenji* (159-169); *Pictures By Atom Bomb Survivors* (between 214 and 219); *Children, s Voices* (219-242), in Selden, Kyoko and Mark, eds., *Voices from Hiroshima and Nagasaki*

IV. Invisible Contamination and A-Bomb Disease: The Scientific & Medical Aftermath

M. Feb 16: Shohno, Naomi, Introduction (16-29) and photographs (57-72), in *Hibakusha: Survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki*

Gusterson, Hugh, *Remembering Hiroshima at a Nuclear Weapons Laboratory* (210-226), and photos, pp. 130 & 251, in Hein, Laura and Mark Selden, eds., *Living With The Bomb*

Introduction: The Atomic Bomb: Challenge of Our Time: (3-7, 11, 14-17); see also, Contents (xxv-xxxi), in Hiroshima and Nagasaki: the Physical, Medical and Social Effects of the Atomic Bombings

W. Feb 18: Lindee, M. Susan, ch. 7, The No-Treatment Policy (117-142), in *Suffering Made Real: American Science and the Survivors at Hiroshima*
Roeder, George, Making Things Visible: Learning from the Censors (73-99, a photographic essay), in Hein, Laura and Mark Selden, eds., *Living With The Bomb*

V. Japanese Literary Responses

As background for this five-week unit of the course, please read these two items on your own and make use of them in your position statements:

Treat, John Whittier, Preface (ix-xvii); Introduction (1-22); Atrocity into Words (25-43); pictures of writers, locations in Hiroshima and Nagasaki at time of bombings (122-123); in Treat, J. W., *Writing Ground Zero: Japanese Literature and the Atomic Bomb*

Lifton, Robert Jay, Formulation: Self and World (ch. 9, 367-395), in

Lifton, Robert Jay, *Death In Life: Survivors of Hiroshima*
Novellas

M. Feb. 23: Hara Tamiki, Summer Flowers [1949] (45-113), in Minear, Richard, ed., *Hiroshima: Three Witnesses* [extra: trans. intro., 21-40; general intro., 3-11]

W. Feb 25: Ota Yoko, City of Corpses [1950] (147-197), in Minear, Richard, ed., *Hiroshima: Three Witnesses* [extra: trans. intro., 117-142]

M. Mar 1: Ota Yoko, City of Corpses (198-273)

Short Stories

W. Mar 3: Oda, Katsuzo, Human Ashes (63-84); Takenishi, Hiroko, The Rite (169-200); Tamiki, Hara The Land of Heart,s Desire (55-62); in Oe, Kenzaburo, ed., *The Crazy Iris and Other Stories of the Atomic Aftermath*

M. Mar 8: Ota, Yoko, Fireflies (85-112); Sata, Ineko, The Colorless Paintings (113-126); Hayashi, Kyoko, The Empty Can (127-144); in Oe, *The Crazy Iris and Other Stories*

Poetry

W. Mar 10: Toge, Sankichi, selections from: Poems of the Atomic Bomb [1951] (304-369), in Minear, Richard, ed., *Hiroshima: Three Witnesses* [extra: trans. intro., 277-300]. (See also Poetry (117-155) in Selden & Selden, eds.,

Voices from Hiroshima and Nagasaki)

SPRING BREAK (March 13-28)

Women's Poetry and Prose

M. Mar 29: Vance-Watkins, Lequita and Aratani, Mariko, eds., selections from: *White Flash, Black Rain: Women of Japan Relive the Bomb*

Plays

W. Mar 31: Hotta, Kiyomi, The Island [1955/1957] (11-104), in Goodman, David G., *After Apocalypse: Four Japanese Plays of Hiroshima and Nagasaki*

M. Apr 5: Betsuyaku, Minoru, The Elephant [1962] (185-248), in Goodman,

David G., *After Apocalypse: Four Japanese Plays of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Essays*

W. Apr 7: Oe, Kenzaburo, *On Human Dignity* (107-113); *The Unsundered People* (114-118, 125-132); *Other Journeys to Hiroshima* (149-167); *From Hiroshima* (179-183), in Oe, Kenzaburo, *Hiroshima Notes*

VI. Hiroshima and Nagasaki in History and Memory

M. Apr 12: *American History and Memory*

Lifton, Robert Jay and Greg Mitchell, *Introduction: The Raw Nerve* (xi-xviii), in Lifton and Mitchell, *Hiroshima in America: A Half Century of Denial*

Linenthal, Edward & Tom Engelhardt, *Introduction: History Under Siege* (1-7), in Linenthal & Engelhardt, eds., *History Wars: The Enola Gay & Other Battles for the American Pas*

Hogan, Michael J. *The Enola Gay Controversy: History, Memory, and the Politics of Persuasion* (200-232), in Hogan, Michael J., ed., *Hiroshima in History and Memory*

W. Apr 14: *Japanese History and Memory*

Orr, James J., *Beyond the Postwar* (173-179), in Orr, James J., *The Victim as Hero: Ideologies of Peace and National Identity in Postwar Japan*

Walker, J. Samuel, *History, Collective Memory, and the Decision to Use the Bomb* (187-199), in Hogan, Michael J., ed., *Hiroshima in History and Memory*

Also, if you can, read one (or both) of the following on Reserve:

[r] Lifton, Robert Jay, *Residual Struggles: Trust, Peace, and Mastery* (253-316), and/or *Perceiving America* (317-365), in Lifton, *Death In Life*

M. Apr 19: *Comparative Japanese and American History and Memory*

Asada, Sadao, *The Mushroom Cloud and National Psyches: Japanese and American Perceptions of the Atomic-Bomb Decision, 1945-1995"* (173-201), in Hein, Laura and Mark Selden, eds., *Living With the Bomb*

Hein, Laura and Mark Selden, *Commemoration and Silence: Fifty Years of Remembering the Bomb in America and Japan* (3-34), and photograph, p. 148 (*Enola Gay* cartoon), in Hein and Selden, *Living With the Bomb*

VII. Conclusion: Legacy of Hiroshima: Moral, Psychological, Political

W. Apr 21: *Hiroshima,s Legacy: Moral, Psychological, Political* (301-360), in Lifton, Robert Jay, and Greg Mitchell, *Hiroshima in America*

VIII. Student Presentations (individual assignments to be announced)

M. Apr 26

W. Apr 2

M. May 3

W. May 5

Requirements

1. Regular attendance
2. Position statements on the readings
3. In-class presentation, response, and leading of discussion
4. Final presentation and paper, ca. 8-10 pp.

Position Statements

These position statements are meant to provide jumping-off points for our class discussions. They may, but usually do not have to, address one or another study question on the reading as a whole. A brief paragraph, ca. 200-400 words, is enough. The goal should be to get to the point of the issue at hand, and to make an appropriate critical response. They should be typed and printed from a computer.

In-Class Presentation and Response

Presentation. Each of you will be asked once in the semester to make a brief oral presentation (about 10 minutes) in class on that day's readings. These presentations should not be summaries. Rather, you should focus on what you think are the main points at issue in the readings, and provide your own critical assessment of the reading. You may prepare a written version if you wish. However, the presentation itself should be made from an outline or short notes, not by reading from a written text or extended prose notes.

Response. Each of you will also be asked once in the semester to make a brief oral response (about 5 minutes) to a classmate's presentation. You should prepare yourself to be ready to listen carefully to, think about, and respond to the presentation. Your job will be to give a thoughtful, critical appraisal of the content of the presentation.

Final Presentation and Paper

A topic of your choice related to an issue or unit in the course and agreed upon with the instructor. You should turn in an abstract and tentative bibliography by Monday, April 12th. The first part is an in-class presentation and discussion with the class of the results of your research. The presentation should be about ten or fifteen minutes, leaving ten or fifteen minutes for discussion. The presentation should be made from an outline or short notes, not by reading from the text of a paper or extended prose notes. The second part is the written version, a paper of 8-10 pages taking into account the discussion.

Class Listserv

A class listserv will be set up for the course through which study questions and announcements, etc., will from time to time be distributed.

[r] = Recommended Readings, on Library Reserve

II. The Decision to Drop the Bomb

M. Jan 26:

[r] Igarashi, Yoshikuni, *The Bomb, Hirohito, and History: The Foundational Narrative of Postwar Relations between Japan and the United States* (ch. 1, 19-46, n. 212-220), in Igarashi, *Bodies of Memory: Narratives of War in Postwar Japanese Culture, 1954-1970*

[r] Ford, Nancy Gentile, *The Decision to Drop the Atomic Bomb in World War II* (203-230), in Ford, Nancy Gentile, *Issues Of War and Peace* (includes memos and other documents)

W. Jan 28:

[r] Walker, J. Samuel, *The Decision to Use the Bomb: A Historiographical Update* (11-37), in Hogan, Michael, ed., *Hiroshima in History and Memory*

[r] Bernstein, Barton, *Understanding the Atomic Bomb and the Japanese Surrender: Missed Opportunities, Little-Known Near Disasters, and Modern Memory* (38-79), in Hogan, Michael, ed., *Hiroshima in History and Memory*

[r] Bix, Herbert, *Japan's Delayed Surrender: A Reinterpretation* (80-115), in Hogan, Michael, ed., *Hiroshima in History and Memory*

III. The Atomic Bomb Experience: Witnesses to the Bombing of Hiroshima & Nagasaki

W. Feb 4:

[r] Storytellers (85-147), in Yoneyama, Lisa, *Hiroshima Traces: Time, Space, and the Dialectics of Memory*

M. Feb 9:

[r] Dower, John and John Junkerman, eds., *The Hiroshima Murals*

[r] *The Hiroshima Panels* (smaller version: on Reserve)

[r] *The Hiroshima Panels* (larger version: in the Iowa Room of Burling Library)

W. Feb 11:

[r] Lifton, Robert Jay, *Hiroshima* (ch. 1, 13-14); *The Atomic Bomb Experience* (ch. 2, 15-56), in Lifton, *Death In Life: Survivors of Hiroshima*

IV. Invisible Contamination and A-Bomb Disease: The Scientific & Medical Aftermath

M. Feb 16:

[r] Physical Effects, Medical Effects, in Hiroshima and Nagasaki: the Physical, Medical and Social Effects of the Atomic Bombings

W. Feb 18:

[r] Social Effects, in Hiroshima and Nagasaki: the Physical, Medical and Social Effects...

[r] Lifton, Robert Jay, Invisible Contamination (ch. 3, 57-102); A-Bomb Disease (ch. 4, 103-163), in Lifton, Robert Jay, Death In Life: Survivors of Hiroshima

[r] Igarashi, Yoshikuni, The Age of the Body (ch. 2, 47-73, n. 220-227); Re-presenting Trauma in Late-1960s Japan (ch. 6, 164-198, n. 245-250), in Igarashi, Bodies of Memory

V. Japanese Literary Responses

[r] Treat, John Whittier, Genre and Post-Hiroshima Representation (45-81); The Three Debates (83-120); in Treat, Writing Ground Zero

[r] Lifton, Robert Jay, Creative Response: 1) A-Bomb Literature (ch. 10, 397-450), in Lifton, Robert Jay, Death In Life: Survivors of Hiroshima

[r] Lifton, Robert Jay, Creative Response: 2) Artistic Dilemmas (ch. 11, 451-479), in Lifton, Robert Jay, Death In Life [on films]

[r] Lifton, Robert Jay, The Survivor (ch. 12, 479-541), in Lifton, Death in Life

[r] Igarashi, Yoshikuni, A Nation That Never Is: Cultural Discourse on Japanese Uniqueness (ch. 3, 73-103, n. 227-230), in Igarashi, Bodies of Memory

[r] Dower, John, The Bombed (ch. 5, 116-142), in Hogan, Michael J., ed., Hiroshima in History and Memory

[r] Orr, James J. Victims, Victimizers, and Mythology (1-13, n.185-187), in Orr, James J., The Victim as Hero: Ideologies of Peace and National Identity in Postwar Japan

[r] Orr, James J., Hiroshima and Yuiitsu no hibakukoku [The only country that suffered from the atomic bomb]: Atomic Victimhood in the Antinuclear Peace Movement (36-70, n.194-208), in Orr, The Victim as Hero

[r] Irmela Hijiya-Kirschner, Post-World War II Literature: the Intellectual Climate in Japan, 1945-1985," in Schlant, E. and J. Thomas Rimer, eds., Legacies and Ambiguities: Postwar Fiction and Culture in West Germany and Japan

M. Feb. 23:

[r] Treat, John Whittier, Hara Tamiki and the Documentary Fallacy (125-153), in Treat, Writing Ground Zero: Japanese Literature and the Atomic Bomb

W. Feb 25:

[r] Treat, John Whittier, Ota Yoko and the Place of the Narrator (199-226), in Treat, Writing Ground Zero: Japanese Literature and the Atomic Bomb

[r] Postwar Peace and the Feminization of Memory (187-210), in Yoneyama, Lisa, *Hiroshima Traces: Time, Space, and the Dialectics of Memory*

W. Mar 3:

[r] Treat, John Whittier, *Nagasaki and the Human Future* (ch. 9, 301-349, n. 435-439), in Treat, *Writing Ground Zero: Japanese Literature and the Atomic Bomb*

W. Mar 10:

[r] Treat, John Whittier, *Poetry Against Itself (155-197)*, in Treat, *Writing Ground Zero*

W. Apr 7:

[r] Treat, John Whittier, *Oe Kenzaburo: Humanism and Hiroshima (229-258)*, in Treat, *Writing Ground Zero: Japanese Literature and the Atomic Bomb*

M. Apr 12:

[r] Lifton, Robert Jay and Greg Mitchell, *Memory and Witness: Struggles With History (207-300)*, in Lifton and Mitchell, *Hiroshima in America: A Half Century of Denial*

[r] Boyer, Paul, *Exotic Resonances: Hiroshima in American Memory* (ch. 6, 143-167), in Hogan, Michael J., ed., *Hiroshima in History and Memory*

[r] Lifton, Robert Jay and Greg Mitchell, *Appendix: Cultural Responses to Hiroshima (361-383)*, in Lifton and Mitchell, *Hiroshima in America: A Half Century of Denial*

[r] Linenthal, Edward, *Anatomy of a Controversy (9-62)*, in Linenthal and Engelhardt, eds., *History Wars: The Enola Gay and Other Battles for the American Past*

[r] Yoneyama, Lisa, *For Transformative Knowledge and Postnationalist Public Spheres: the Smithsonian Enola Gay Controversy (323-346)*, in Fujitani, T., Geoffrey M. White and Lisa Yoneyama, eds., *Perilous Memories: the Asia-Pacific War(s)*

W. Apr 14:

[r] Postwar Peace and the Feminization of Memory (187-210), in Yoneyama, Lisa, *Hiroshima Traces: Time, Space, and the Dialectics of Memory*

[r] *Hiroshima (92-111)*, in Buruma, Ian, *The Wages of Guilt*

[r] *Aftermath (91-152)*, in Hersey, John, *Hiroshima*

[r] *Cartographies of Memory (43-82)*, in Yoneyama, Lisa, *Hiroshima Traces...*

M. Apr 19:

[r] Dower, John, *Three Narratives of Our Humanity (63-96)*, in Linenthal and Engelhardt, eds., *History Wars: The Enola Gay and Other Battles for the American Past*

[r] Engelhardt, Tom, *The Victors and the Vanquished (210-250)*, in Linenthal and Engelhardt, eds., *History Wars: The Enola Gay & Other Battles for the American Past*

VII. Conclusion: Legacy of Hiroshima—Moral, Psychological, Political

W. Apr 21:

- [r] Ethnic and Colonial Memories: The Korean Atom Bomb Memorial (151-186), in Yoneyama, Lisa, *Hiroshima Traces: Time, Space, and the Dialectics of Memory*
- [r] Oda, Makoto, *A Writer in the Present World: A Japanese Case History*, in Schlant, E. and J. Thomas Rimer, eds., *Legacies and Ambiguities*
- [r] Toyonaga, Keisaburo, *Colonialism and Atom Bombs: About Survivors of Hiroshima Living in Korea (378-394)*, in Fujitani, T., Geoffrey M. White and Lisa Yoneyama, eds., *Perilous Memories: the Asia-Pacific War(s)*

TWO ATOMIC BOMB NOVELS

- [r] Ibuse Masuji, *Black Rain* [1966]
- [r] Lifton, Robert Jay, *Appendix: Black Rain (543-555)*, in Lifton, *Death In Life*
- [r] Orr, James J., *Sentimental Humanism: The Victim in Novels and Films (ch 5, 129-135, on Black Rain)*, in Orr, James J., *The Victim as Hero*
- [r] Treat, John Whittier, *Ibuse Masuji: Nature, Nostalgia, Memory (ch, 8, 261-299, n. 432-435)*, in Treat, John Whittier, *Writing Ground Zero*
- [r] Sakaki, Atsuko, *Obsessed With Inscription: Ibuse Masuji, s Kuroi ame, or (Re)Writing Memories*, in Sakaki, Atsuko, *Recontextualizing Texts: Narrative Performance in Modern Japanese Fiction*
- [r] Oda Makoto, *The Bomb (alternate title: H: A Hiroshima Novel)* [1984]
- [r] Treat, John Whittier, *The Atomic, the Nuclear, and the Total: Oda Makoto (ch. 10, 351-394, n. 439-444); Concluding Remarks: And Then (397-401, n. 444-445)*, in Treat, John Whittier, *Writing Ground Zero*
- [r] Oda, Makoto, *A Writer in the Present World: A Japanese Case History*, in Schlant, E. and J. Thomas Rimer, eds., *Legacies and Ambiguities*

FOUR ATOMIC BOMB FILMS (on reserve at Library Listening Room or AV Center)

- Record of a Living Being* (105 minutes, dir. Akira Kurosawa, 1955) Library
- Hiroshima, Mon Amour* (91 minutes; dir. Alain Resnais, 1959) AV Center
- Black Rain* (123 minutes, dir. Shohei Imamura, 1988) Library
- Rhapsody in August* (98 minutes, dir. Akira Kurosawa, 1991) Library
- Our Hiroshima* (43 minutes, 1995; Canadian documentary) Library
- Books on Library Reserve
- Bird, Kai and Lawrence Lifschultz, eds., *Hiroshima, s shadow*
- Buruma, Ian, *The Wages of Guilt: Memories of War in Germany and Japan*
- Dower, John, *Japan in War and Peace*
- Dower, John and John Junkerman, eds., *The Hiroshima Murals*
- Ford, Nancy Gentile, *Issues Of War and Peace*
- Goodman, David G., *After Apocalypse: Four Japanese Plays of Hiroshima and Nagasaki*
- Hein, Laura and Mark Selden, eds., *Living With the Bomb...*

Henshall, Kenneth. Dimensions of Japanese Society: Gender, Margins, and Mainstream.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki: the Physical, Medical and Social Effects of the Atomic Bombings

The Hiroshima Panels (small version)

The Hiroshima Panels (large version: downstairs in the Iowa Room of Burling Library)

Hogan, Michael J., Hiroshima in History and Memory

Ibuse, Masuji, Black Rain

Igarashi, Yoshikuni, Bodies of Memory: Narratives of War in Postwar Japanese Culture...

Lifton, Robert Jay, Death in Life: Survivors of Hiroshima

Lifton, Robert Jay and Greg Mitchell, Hiroshima in America: A Half Century of Denial

Lindee, M. Susan, Suffering Made Real: American Science and the Survivors of Hiroshima

Maruki, Toshi, Hiroshima no Pika

Oda, Makoto, The Bomb [alternate title: H: A Hiroshima Novel]

Oe, Kenzaburo, Hiroshima Notes

Orr, James J., The Victim as Hero : Ideologies of Peace and National Identity in Postwar Japan

Sakaki, Atsuko, Recontextualizing Texts: Narrative Performance in Modern Japanese Fiction

Treat, John Whittier, Writing Ground Zero: Japanese Literature and the Atomic Bomb

Yoneyama, Lisa, Hiroshima Traces: Time, Space, and the Dialectics of Memory

On Order for Library Reserve

Fujitani, T., G. M. White and Lisa Yoneyama, eds., Perilous Memories: the Asia-Pacific War(s)

Linenthal, Edward T. and Tom Engelhardt, eds., History Wars: Enola Gay and Other Battles for the American Past

Schlant, E. and J. Thomas Rimer, eds., Legacies and Ambiguities: Postwar Fiction and Culture in West Germany and Japan

Unforgettable Fire: Pictures Drawn by Atomic Bomb Survivors