

JAPAN DURING WORLD WAR II

A HISTORY WORKSHOP

PROJECT REVIEW

DUE: DEC 4

OVERVIEW

In the first part of this hybrid assignment (60%) you will write a summary of the broad historical narrative of the experience of 'everyday life in time of war,' including a discussion of the historiographical questions that it addresses, and a justification, or critique of this narrative's contribution to the field of knowledge on the Asia-Pacific War. The second part of the assignment (40%) will consist of a post-mortem of the group project. What worked and what didn't? What could have been done differently to make the project better? Were your own learning goals and interests satisfied? Why or why not? In total your project review should not exceed six double-spaced pages (approx. 1500 words) and should conform to the Department of History's Essay Style Guide.

SUBMISSION

Submit your project review to me on paper, or via e-mail (.doc or .docx format), on or before the due date.

GRADING

6 pts Creativity of speculative narrative
6 pts Plausibility of speculative narrative
6 pts Quality of project feedback
2 pts Style and formatting

Because of the time sensitive nature of this project, late assignments will be penalized heavily. Each day late will result in a penalty of one third of a letter grade (ie. A to A- to B+...). Assignments handed in more than a week late will receive a grade of zero.

BROAD HISTORICAL NARRATIVE?

The purpose of the first section of this assignment is to get you to think about the broader narratives that run through the history of the war while you are busy working with your group to prepare articles for publication on Japan History Lab. In your research essay you conducted an analysis of a single event, person or institution, but here I am asking you to speculate on how these details fit within a larger system or pattern.

You may choose to use your research paper as a starting point and show how the events you describe are connected to other events. The other articles in your group's sub-theme could provide a framework in which you can illustrate significant connections among the different events covered. But, you need not limit yourself to the topic of your research paper, or to the sub-theme group you happen to be in. You could place any

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aspect of everyday life during the war within a theoretical framework that points towards a deeper significance in certain events of the war. You could also take a chronological approach by sketching out a sequence of eras or periods in which 'everyday life' can be characterized in ways that reveal something of the changing character of the forces propelling history forward.

The idea is to trace out in broad strokes the forces, or patterns that made history happen, or, in other words, to try to explain why things happened the way they did. Obviously, it is not possible to gather and present enough evidence to 'prove' conclusions of this breadth in the time and space you have available. Instead, you should aim for a balance between creativity and plausibility in constructing a sketch of a metanarrative that explains a particular aspect of everyday life during this war.

POST-MORTEM?

There are two purposes of the second section of this assignment. First, I would like to have your honest feedback on the way the group project worked. Please provide an overview of the entire project and your role within it along with your comments. I am not interested in platitudes or empty praise, but I am interested in identifying areas that were difficult to understand, or resources, skills, and knowledge that were lacking. So long as it remains respectful, I welcome all constructive criticism. Please tell me what you really think! The other purpose of this section is to provide you with an opportunity to explain your contributions to the project. In particular, I am interested in how you learned and applied new skills, cooperated with your teammates, and provided leadership or took initiative during the course of the project.

E-mail me if you have any questions or run into trouble: Admin@japanhistorylab.ca