

Japan at War



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出版者:W W Norton & Co Inc

出版时间:1993-10-1

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9781565840393

Haunting voices from a dark, disgraceful past, which afford a stunning and revelatory panorama of Japan's WW II experience. Counting its aggressions in Manchuria and

China, Japan (whose death toll exceeded three million) was in constant battle from 1931 through V-J Day. Cook and her husband (History/William Paterson College) spent nearly four years gathering reminiscences from dozens of ostensibly ordinary people who survived the lengthy conflict variously called the Pacific, Greater East Asia, or 15-Year War. Adding just enough background and big-picture perspectives to give coherence to first-person narratives, the authors largely allow their sources to speak for themselves. Among those willing to tell their typically grim stories are combat veterans of campaigns from Nanking to Okinawa; builders of the infamous Burma railway;; unrepentant officers; technicians who participated in barbarous medical experiments on POWs; journalists whose dispatches extolling "victories of the spirit" owed more to the military regime's police powers than to reality; cabaret dancers; diplomats; and home-front victims of America's incendiary as well as atom-bomb assaults. Also represented are troops who served with brutal occupation forces; the widow of a kamikaze pilot; conscripts trained as human torpedoes; Koreans dragooned into rear-area labor battalions; and those convicted of war crimes. About the only significant groups not included in the wide-ranging canvas are the industrialists who supplied an overmatched imperial war machine and members of resistance groups. Like its Axis partner, Japan tolerated no dissent and was able to command consensus support from an unquestioningly obedient populace that, notwithstanding the disclosures at hand, still appears capable of collective denial when it comes to assuming even regional responsibility for the horrors of a global conflagration. Oral history of a compellingly high order.

作者介绍:

【美】田谷治子 (Taya Haruko Cook)

福特汉姆大学玛丽蒙特学院的历史系教授，美国马里兰大学历史博士，从事历史研究三十余年，研究领域为日本文学、战争经历与口述史、日本女性史等。本书为其与丈夫的代表作，在写作过程中，作者采访了不下数百人，历经诸多波折才打开受访者内心尘封已久的战争记忆。通过本书，作者希望日本能够早日公开面对和反思“二战”，开诚布公地讨论“二战”相关话题，才能够阻止战争的死灰复燃。

【美】西奥多·F.库克 (Theodore F. Cook)

美国普林斯顿大学日本历史学博士，威廉·帕特森大学日本历史系教授，曾任美国海军部长顾问，以及美国海军战争学院、澳大利亚国防军学院客座教授。吉根海姆奖学金及其他多项奖项的获得者、富布莱特高级研究员。

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只有直面才能释怀

An unjust peace is better than a just war.

还是喜欢口述历史，透过个人的缝隙看见一部分真实。

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（点开链接还有更多和战时日本相关的图书，比如即将推出的另一本讲述广岛核爆的新书）看到这部作品之前，我眼里的战时日本人简直就是怪胎：他们疯狂、残忍、不可理喻，但又严守纪律；他...

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