

Lecture 02:
“Mourning & Meaning”

1) What to call the war? And why does it matter?

WWII, Pacific War, Fifteen Years War, Asia-Pacific War, Greater East Asia War, War Resistance Against Japan, War of Liberation

2) Postwar as rupture in the national psyche

- a) *haisen* (war defeat) vs. *shûsen* (end of war)
- b) individual tied & died with state
- c) pure blood => pure defeat

3) The problem of talking about the war that was lost (Cook & Cook's 4 points)

- a) The shock of defeat: no set form for relating memories
- b) Agency and responsibility: who did it? how did it happen? why?
- c) Rationalizing sacrifices: making meaning out of loss; “a Good Defeat”
- d) Admitting a human enemy had defeated Japan.

(See Document 02: Two Views on the War Dead)