

**Lecture 08:**  
**War Flames to Peace Flames:**  
**Godzilla, the Tokyo Olympics and Historical Redemption**

**1. Recovery, Remembrance, and Redemption**

- a. Monstrous memories and war metaphors
- b. Olympics as economic impetus for Tokyo, pride for Japan
- c. Symbol of re-acceptance into international community
- d. “Atom Boy” (Sakai Yoshinori) lights “Peace Flame” at opening

**2. Transformation of Urban Image**

- a. Tokyo perceived to change more at Olympics than during war
- b. Construction eliminates prewar elements, postwar legacies
- c. Good excuse to invest in infrastructure (finally!)
- d. Making Tokyo hygienic (finally, sort of)

**3. Transformation of Bodily Images**

- a. 1945 = hideous *hibakusha* ---> 1954 = monstrous Godzilla  
---> 1964 = aesthetically pleasing athletic bodies
- b. Sakai, final torch carrier, embodies this transformation
- c. Dramatic message: Japan recovered from destruction of the war
- d. War sufferings highlight—even became necessary—for recovery

**4. Transformation of War Memories**

- a. The Women’s Volleyball Team vs. the World
- b. Coach Daimatsu Hirobumi’s Boot Camp = Wartime Mobilization
- c. Personal War, National Victory -> war defeat motivated him to win
- d. Transforms wartime hardship into fond memories