

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR JOHN DOWER, *WAR WITHOUT MERCY*:

1. According to Dower, what were the similarities between Japanese and American propaganda? (as represented in *Know Your Enemy*, *Why We Fight*, and *Read This and the War is Won*).
2. According to Dower, why were the Japanese the subject of so much more American hatred than the Germans? What evidence does he use to support his conclusion?
3. According to Dower, what three lines of argument were used to justify the “extermination” or “thoroughgoing defeat” of the Japanese people?
4. In what ways does Dower suggest the war in the Pacific differed from the war in Europe?
5. According to Dower, what were the dominant stereotypes of the Japanese held by Americans?
6. In what ways was the Pacific War a “race war” according to Dower?
7. What effect did racism have on the Pacific War, according to Dower?
8. What sorts of things did you read in Dower’s book that challenged you to rethink common perceptions about the Pacific War?