

Lecture 17

Good Wives, Wise Mothers, and Riot Grrrrrls

0. Intro

- Contesting women's roles in the new Japan
 - If you can't join them, beat 'em: radical women
- Documents (ER) : "Reflections on the Way to the Gallows" &
"The Road to Nihilism"

1. What about women?

- a. The received role of women in Meiji Japan
- b. Meiji gender ideology: *ryōsai kenbo* (good wife, wise mother)
- c. Meiji reform efforts
 - Christian missionaries
 - Japanese women activists in mid-Meiji: Fukuda Hideko

2. Defining women's roles

- a. State definitions: Civil Code of 1898
 - State-sponsored women's associations
- b. Laboring women
- c. Feminist definitions: Seitōsha (Bluestockings Society, 1910s)
 - Hiratsuka Raichō, Yosano Akiko, Itō Noe
 - Debate over social issues: *bosei hogo* (protection and preservation of motherhood)

3. "Riot grrrrrls"

- a. Kanno Sugako and the High Treason Incident (1910-11)
- b. Itō Noe and her anarchist lover Ōsugi Sakae
- c. Kaneko Fumiko, Pak Yeol, and their plot to bomb the emperor