

Lecture 23

War Experience & Memory

0. Intro

- Defining the war; analyzing reasons for the war
- Dealing with defeat, discontinuity, and death

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. *shusen* (war's end)
- b. individual tied & died with state
- c. pure blood => pure defeat

3. Nation-Death

- a. Quantifying defeat
- b. Communal death and a community of death
- c. Depicting discontinuity & death: traumatic, insecure break from the past
- d. How to write a story about a past that can't be written?
Hibakusha (atomic bomb blast survivor) art & literature