



Japanese Society at War: Death, Memory and the Russo-Japanese War (Studies in the Social and Cultural History of Modern Warfare)

By Professor Naoko Shimazu

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As the first international conflict of the twentieth century, the Russo-Japanese War attracted much contemporary global interest. This text was the first full-length study to examine the war from the perspective of its impact on Japanese society, and sheds light on its implications for modern Japan. What did the war mean to the Japanese people and how did they respond to it? Naoko Shimazu presents a fascinating and highly innovative account of the attitudes of ordinary Japanese people towards the war through a wide range of sources including personal diaries, letters, and contemporary images. She deals with themes such as conscripts and battlefield death, war commemoration, heroic myths, and war in popular culture. Challenging the orthodox view of Meiji Japan as monolithic, she shows that there existed a complex and ambivalent relationship between the Japanese state and society.

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"Naoko Shimazu is to be congratulated for widening the lens through which we can now look at the Russo-Japanese War." -Sanda Wilson, *Journal of Japanese Studies*

"...a valuable contribution to the literature and should be read widely by all people interested in the period when Japan entered the 20th century." - *Reviews in History*

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About the Author

Naoko Shimazu's major publications include *Imagining Japan in Post-war East Asia* (co-editor, 2013), *Nationalisms in Japan* (editor, 2006) and *Japan, Race and Equality: The Racial Equality Proposal of 1919* (1998). She is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, Professorial Associate of the Japan Research Centre at SOAS, University of London, Associate of MEARC at Leiden University, and a former Japan Foundation Fellow. She serves on the editorial boards of *Japan Forum*, *Modern Asian Studies*, *Reviews in History*, and *Theory, Culture and Society*. Her current major project is a monograph, *Diplomacy as Theatre: Asian and African Performances at the Bandung Conference of 1955*.

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