

Politics, Memory and Public Opinion

Coming to Terms with
Japan's Wartime Past

PROF. SVEN SAALER
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In the 1980s and 1990s, Japanese cabinets went to great lengths to achieve reconciliation with its former wartime enemies and to “come to terms” with the nation’s wartime past. In recent years, however, priorities have shifted once again. This talk will address the debates about the historical memory of the Asia-Pacific War (1931-45) by looking at changes in government declarations as well as popular attitudes towards war responsibility and interpretations of the past in the last three decades.

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