

Japan Occupation Collection

1943-1983 (*Bulk: 1945-1955*)

47 items (1.5 linear feet)

Call no.: RB 027

Read collection overview [Collection overview](#)

For seven years after the end of World War II, the United States led an occupation force in Japan that oversaw comprehensive reforms of the country's military, economy, politics, and social order. Under the direction of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the Supreme Command of Allied Powers (SCAP) dismantled and disarmed the military, conducted a series of war crimes trials, and undertook significant reforms in land tenure, industry, and the economy, culminating in the imposition of new pacifist constitution that shifted power from the Emperor to parliament. In the face of the rise of the Cold War and change in international priorities, the U.S. brokered a final peace settlement with Japan that formally ended the occupation in 1952, leaving American bases and bilateral security pact intact.

Focused on the period 1945-1952, this collection includes a sampling of printed materials aimed at average American servicemen and their dependents involved in the occupation and reconstruction of Japan. The collection includes histories and guidebooks, picture books aimed at tourists, and a few examples of instructional materials and propaganda.

See similar SCUA collections:

[Cold War culture](#)[Japan](#)[Printed materials](#)[World War II](#)

Background

At a conference held in Moscow in Dec., 1945, the victorious allied powers of the Second World War agreed to an international effort to reconstruct the Japanese state along

democratic lines. U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, commander of U.S. forces in Japan, was granted authority to "issue all orders for the implementation of the Terms of Surrender, the occupation and control of Japan, and all directives supplementary thereto," and for seven years, the United States maintained an occupation force in the country that oversaw comprehensive reforms of the country's military, economy, politics, and society.



To uproot the militarism that had pervaded Japanese government, the Supreme Command of Allied Powers (SCAP) began by dismantling and disarming the Japanese armed forces and between May 1946 and Nov. 1948, they held an International Military Tribunal that tried nine senior political leaders and eighteen military leaders for war crimes. Subsequent efforts to reconstruct the state included land reforms intended to blunt the power of traditional elite, a thoroughgoing restructuring of industry and the economy to align it with western market capitalism, and the imposition of new pacifist constitution that shifted power from the Emperor to parliament. With the rise of the Cold War and change in international priorities, the U.S. brokered a final peace settlement with Japan that formally ended the occupation in 1952, leaving most American military bases and a bilateral security pact intact.

Scope of collection

Focused on the period 1945-1952, this collection includes a sampling of printed materials aimed at average American servicemen and their dependents involved in the occupation and reconstruction of Japan. The collection includes histories and guidebooks, touristic picture books, and a few examples of instructional materials and propaganda. Also included are several later items, generally prepared for tourists, revealing the complex evolution of American ideas about Japan and Japanese culture in the post-occupation years.

The collection was assembled by James and Sibylle Fraser, reflecting their long-standing and eclectic interest in the history and culture of contemporary Japan.

Collection inventory

Lory, Hillis: <i>Japan's military masters</i> . Washington, D.C. : Infantry Journal	1943
<i>Pic</i>	1944 June 20
<i>Yank, the Army weekly</i>	1945 Feb. 9
<i>Time</i> . [serviceman's edition]	1945 May 14
<i>New Yorker</i> . [serviceman's edition]	1945 July 7
<i>The punch below the belt</i> . Washington, D.C. : U.S. War Department Military Intelligence Division [restricted]	1945 Aug. 1
<i>Time</i>	1945 Aug. 20
<i>Guide to the western Pacific for the use of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps</i> . CINCPAC-CINCPOA Bulletin 126-44	1944 Aug.
<i>Time</i> [serviceman's edition]	1945 Aug. 27
<i>Guide to Japan</i> . CINCPAC-CINCPOA Bulletin 209-45 [restricted]	1945 Sept. 1
<i>Saipan Beacon</i> , vol. 4, 19	1945 Sept. 24
<i>Colliers</i>	1945 Oct. 13
Gorer, Geoffrey: <i>Japanese character structure and propaganda</i>	ca.1945
<i>Guide map of Tokyo</i> . Tokyo : Nippon Chizu Kaisha	1946 Feb.
<i>Tokyo, Fall of 1945</i> . Tokyo : Bunka-sha	1946
Hoffmaster, Paul: <i>Japan today: a portfolio of sketches, Tokyo-Yokohama, 1945-1946</i> . Japan : Engineer, Eighth U.S. Army	ca.1947
<i>Japan, the pocket guide</i> . Tokyo : Japan Travel Bureau	1947
<i>Up to now! Eighth U.S. Army</i> . Boonjudo : Eighth U.S. Army Printing Plant	1947
<i>Religions in Japan</i> . Tokyo : Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers	1948
Bristol, Horace: <i>Japan</i> . Tokyo : East-West	1949
Taki, Shodo: <i>Japan today: a pictorial guide</i> , 2nd. ed. Tokyo : Society for Japanese Cultural Information	1950
<i>Manners and customs of Japan</i> [color slide set]	1950
<i>Japan pictorial</i> . Tokyo : Nippon Seihan	1951
Bristol, Horace: <i>Tokyo on a 5 day pass</i> . Japan : East-West	1951

Sheba, Kimpei: <i>I cover Japan</i> . Tokyo : Tokyo News Service	1952
<i>Japan in pictures, 1945-1951</i> . Tokyo : Tokyo News Service	ca.1952
Thacher, Russell: <i>The Captain</i> . New York : Pocket Books	1952
Domain of the Golden Dragon [certificate for crossing the international date line]	1953 Dec. 19
Mutsu, Ian and Oland D. Russell: <i>Here's Tokyo</i> . Tokyo : Tokyo News Service Ltd.	1953
Gluck, Jay: <i>Ah so: misadventures of a foreigner in Japan</i> . Tokyo : Phoenix Books	1954
<i>Glimpses of Japan</i> . Tokyo : East-West	1954
<i>Wonderful Japan</i> . Tokyo : Kiyohide Yamashita	1954
Hume, Bill: <i>Baby-san: a private look at the Japanese occupation, 18th Japanese printing</i> . Tokyo : Charles E. Tuttle	1955
<i>Japan up to date</i> . Japan : s.n.	1955
Frew, Bob: <i>Motoring in Japan</i> . Tokyo : Charles E. Tuttle	1955
Teahouse of the August Moon [menu for SS President Wilson]	1956 June 6
Bosworth, Alan R.: <i>GINZA GO, papa-san</i> , 2nd printing. Tokyo : Charles E. Tuttle	1956
Higa, Gasei et al.: <i>Tours of Okinawa</i> . Tokyo : Bridgeway Press	1959
<i>Journal of Social and Political Ideas in Japan</i> , vol. 1, 3	1963 Dec.
<i>Goodwill ambassadors</i> . New York : World Peace Study Mission	1964
Gluck, Jay and Sumi: <i>Japan inside out</i> , 5 vols. Vol. 1m Through the red torii; vol.2, Down the Tokaido; vol. 3, Imperial Kyoto; vol. 4, Osaka; vol. 5, Tokyo. Tokyo : Asia Institute	1964
<i>Contemporary religions in Japan</i> , vol. 6, 2	1965 June
<i>Yakeato ni nagareru ringo no uta : senryo?ka no Nihon</i> . Tokyo : Gakushu Kenkyusha	1982

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Language:

English

Provenance

Gift of James and Sibylle Fraser, 2014.

Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, Sept. 2015.

Copyright and Use (More information)

Cite as: Japan Occupation Collection (RB 027). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects

- Japan--History--Allied occupation, 1945-1952
- Japan--Pictorial works

Genre terms

- Maps
- Photographs

Link to similar SCUA collections

[Cold War culture](#)

[Japan](#)

[Printed materials](#)

[World War II](#)



Special Collections & University Archives

University Libraries : UMass Amherst

154 Hicks Way : Amherst, Mass. 01003-9275 : Ph. 413-545-2780