

Contested Memories and Reconciliation Challenges

*Japan and the Asia Pacific on the 70th Anniversary of
the End of the Second World War*

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A working definition of reconciliation

A sustained, ever-evolving process of self-reflective learning and relationship-building in which contested memories of the divisive past, incompatible worldviews, and polarized identities become more tolerable and acceptable to one another.

Contested Memories & Reconciliation Challenges: Japan & the Asia Pacific

1. How should we define reconciliation?
2. What are the most significant challenges to regional reconciliation from each country's perspective? (Japan, Korea, China, and USA as focus.)
3. What are the most important messages you would like Japan to consider on the question of history?
4. From the viewpoint of each of the four countries, what suggestions would you like to make to your own domestic constituency about how to address the question of historical memory and reconciliation challenges?
5. From a broader regional perspective of international relations in the Asia Pacific, what recommendations would you like to make to facilitate reconciliation?

The Japanese Empire's activities and presence in the Asia Pacific

Time period	Areas	Types of violence exercised
1879-	Ryukyu Islands	Annexation
1895-1945	Taiwan	Colonial rule
1905-05	Sakhalin South, Russia	War and annexation
1910-45	Korea	Colonial rule
1931-45	Manchuria (Northeast China)	Colonial rule
1937-45	China	Invasion and war
1941-45	Southeast Asia	Invasion, war, and colonial



Expanding Social Space for Conciliation & Reconciliation

	Track I	Track II	Track III
Legal			
Financial/material			
Political			
Moral/spiritual			
Educational/cultural			