

# Heisei Becomes History: Critical Reflections on a Period and Periodization

## 2020



### Person in Charge

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## Description of Research Events & Activities Accomplished

During the academic year of 2020-21, the final year of this collaborative research unit, we focused on completing the manuscript for the anthology of essays on Heisei to be published by Routledge in late 2021. We successfully completed in doing so. Essays by Burrett, Murai, Nakano, Saaler and Strecher will be appear in this forthcoming volume. The research budget was used for editing and proofreading, and the ICC's generous institutional supported will be acknowledged in the publication.

Tentative chapter titles below without section breakdowns. Highlighted in red are the chapters by the ICC research unit members, as well as by those who participated in this collaborative unit as guest speakers.

- The People's Imperial Couple (Kenneth J. Ruoff)
- **The Rightward Shift of Japanese Politics: Interest, Reform, and Identity (Koichi Nakano)**
- The Life and Death of a Heisei Religious Movement: What the Aum Shinrikyō Affair Revealed about Japanese Society (Mark R. Mullins)
- Shinto During the Heisei Era (Helen Hardacre)
- Civil Society and Neoliberalism: Heisei's Historic Convergence (Simon Avenell)
- Still Half Free: The Japanese Media in the Heisei Era (David McNeill & Tanaka Akira)
- The Fight for Open Government in the Heisei Era (Lawrence Repeta)
- **Prime Ministers, Power and Leadership in Heisei Japan (Tina Burrett)**
- Heisei Okinawa: What Changed? (Alexis Dudden)
- **Heisei Historiography: Academic History and Public Commemoration in Japan, 1990-2020 (Sven Saaler)**
- The Heisei Economy: Explaining the Lost Decades (Richard Katz)
- Women's Leadership and Gender Equality (Mari Miura)
- Keeping the Status Quo: Japan's Laws and Policies on Ethnic and Sexual Minorities (Tin Tin Htun)
- **From Tiramisù to #MeToo: Triangulations of Sex, Gender and Sexuality in Heisei Japan (Jennifer Robertson)**
- Japan's immigration in the Heisei Era: Population, Policy and the Ethno-nationalist Dilemma (Gracia Liu-Farrer)

- Precaritization of Work in Heisei Japan (Machiko Osawa and Jeff Kingston)
- **A False Peace: Literature in the Age of Heisei (Matthew C. Strecher)**
- The Loss of Nostalgia, not The Nostalgia of Loss: Or, What Happens in Heisei Stays in Heisei (David Leheny)
- Heisei High Architecture as Soft Power (Alice Y. Tseng)
- Cinema's Uneasy Social Critique: The Heisei Era Onscreen (Kyo-ko Hirano)
- **The Last Taboo: Photographic Unconscious Wartime Postmemory in the Heisei Era (Ayelet Zohar)**
- **The Genealogy of Kawaii (Noriko Murai)**
- **The Evangelion Boom: The Explosion of Fan Markets and Lifestyles in Heisei Japan (Patrick W. Galbraith)**
- Contemporary Goshin'ei: The Emperor, Art, and the Anus (Maki Kaneko)

Due to the disruption of the COVID19 pandemic, the unit was unable to host a culminating event. If an opportunity arises in 2021-22, we might consider hosting a book launch event.



To prepare for the sarin gas attack, police officers wore gas masks provided by the SDF when Japanese police raided Aum Shinrikyo facilities.  
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