

WEB EXHIBITION



Kyoto Museum for World Peace,
Ritsumeikan University

1 GREETING FROM MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Welcome to the Virtual Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University. In 1992, Ritsumeikan became the first (at that time) university in the world to open a peace museum.

Although it now serves as host to this peace museum, Ritsumeikan University did not always stand on the side of peace. During the last phase of World War II, the university actively cooperated with Japanese military in the Asia-Pacific region by making Ritsumeikan students lay down their pens to take up arms, and many young precious lives were lost.

When the years of conflict finally ended, Ritsumeikan reflected upon its past course of action and, deeply regretting the part it played in the war, adopted "Peace and Democracy" as the twin philosophical principles that would serve as the foundation of its education and research programs. Since then, the University has devoted its energies to the pursuit of peace, vowing never again to allow Ritsumeikan students to exchange pens for guns.

In 1953, the university erected the Wadatsumi-zo, a sculpture depicting the anger, grief and pain of the students who were conscripted into the armed forces after the Student Mobilization of October 1943. Every year since then, it has co-sponsored the Sensoten (War Exhibition) with a civil society group in August and held the "Fusen no Tsudoi" (Gathering for Renunciation of War) on December 8th, the Japanese anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the commencement of the Pacific War.

One of the peculiar characteristics of the Museum is the fact that it was established by a university, hence academic input can be felt everywhere, including the scientific and objective results of the history science, as well as a future-minded exhibition in what we call "Quest for Peace" room, which is a result of the studies in social science. This future-oriented and participatory part of the Museum will be strengthened in the renewal work, which is undergoing now to be finished in 2023. You can still see the difference even now.

Let me guide you through them today.



The Wadatsumi-zo



2 THE JAPANESE IMPERIAL ARMY

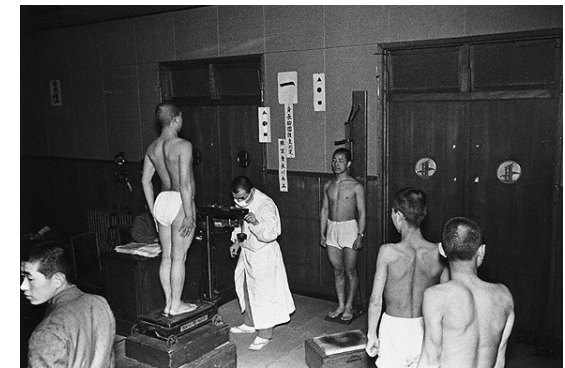
Military service was a duty for all Japanese male subjects. When a man turned twenty, he underwent a physical examination, if he passed, he was drafted into military service. The Constitution established the Emperor as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, and soldiers were trained to regard any order by a superior officer as a command from the Emperor himself. Disobedience of any kind was not tolerated.

In the early years of the Imperial Army, heads of households and all those able to pay a set sum of money were exempted from military service. Starting in 1889, however, those exemptions were eliminated and all males were required to serve in Japan's armed forces. Boys found that after they graduated from elementary school, military training waited for them in secondary schools. Special schools to groom men for careers in the armed forces were also established around this time.

Males who passed the examination and were drafted were sent to camps where they underwent harsh training. The first year was especially hard on recruits. After two years of military service, however, soldiers were discharged from duty and returned home as members of the reserve who could be called up in the event of war.



Battle lesson
"Senjinkun"



A physical examination



Native soldiers
instruction



Active military
certificate



3 ON THE BATTLEFIELD

In the early twentieth century, the Japanese army was called “The Emperor’s Army”, and soldiers pledged allegiance directly to the Emperor. Under the Japanese Constitution of the time, it was the Emperor who wielded absolute authority as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces and granted rights to the nation’s citizens.

It was under this system that Japan engineered the Manchurian Incident in 1931 to justify taking control of northeastern China. Then in 1937, Japan used the Marco Polo Bridge Incident as an excuse to launch an all-out war against China. Subsequently, Japan expanded the war into other parts of Asia and in 1941 attacked Pearl Harbor, provoking war with the United States.

However, the tide soon turned against the imperial forces. Starting with the Battle of Midway in 1942, Japan lost one battle after the next. More than two million soldiers lost their lives during the war, many of them through such reckless tactics as the infamous “kamikaze” suicide attacks.

In fact, Japanese soldiers perpetrated many atrocities during the war. In China, they employed what was known as the “strategy of three lights” — killing, burning and pillaging. Bacteriological weapons were also developed and used.

Women from the colonized countries were forced to serve Japanese soldiers as sex slaves, prisoners of war were abused and tortured, and many people in the occupied lands were abducted and maltreated while being forced to do heavy labor for Japanese companies, as illustrated by the displays in this section.

Although it is painful to acknowledge these atrocities, we must confront our past with integrity.



Helmet



Water Bottle



Gas Mask

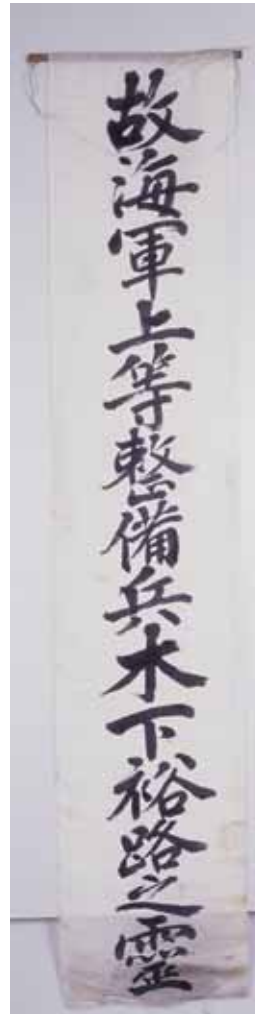
Heart Protection Plate



4 KYOTO AND THE WAR

During the War, Kyoto Prefecture served as home to an army division which was stationed in the Fushimi area in the southern part of the city of Kyoto. In addition, a naval contingent was stationed in the port city of Maizuru in the northern part of the Prefecture. Some of the thousands of soldiers and sailors sent from Kyoto to fight in China, the Philippines and other countries. Approximately 55,000 of them lost their lives during what is known in Japan as the "15-Year War". The 16th Division of the Imperial Army was originally Kyoto's only standing division; however, between the end of the Russo-Japanese War in 1905 and the Asia-Pacific Wars of the 1920s and 30s, many special divisions and reserve units were established in the prefecture.

The building that once housed the 16th Division Headquarters in the southern part of Kyoto city now serves as the main building of Seibo Jogakuin Junior College. Similarly, the former officers' assembly hall in the city of Fukuchiyama in northern Kyoto Prefecture is now a historical museum. In Maizuru, many naval buildings remain intact. Among these, the naval hospital has been converted into a national hospital and the army hospital into a Red Cross hospital.



Flag



Flag for Serving



Thousand Hands



5 GENERAL MOBILIZATION

At the beginning of the twentieth century, warfare increasingly tended to involve the entire population of belligerent nations, as countries drew on their total resources to promote all-out war. In Japan, civilians were forced to suffer great hardships to support the country's military campaigns, enduring rationing and other restrictions on their daily lives. Mobilized to work in munitions factories or in food production, they were expected to serve selflessly, believing resolutely in the ultimate victory of their nation.

To ensure that all citizens would cooperate with the war effort, the government pressured people to join new types of organizations such as the "National Spirit" General Mobilization Movement and the Imperial Rule Assistance Association. In the end, even neighborhood associations were co-opted into supporting the war effort.

Early on, women were organized into the Patriotic Women's Association, the Greater Japan National Defense Women's Association and the Greater Japan Allied Women's Association. Then in 1942, all women's groups were consolidated into the Greater Japan Women's Organization in order to pressure women throughout the country to cooperate with the war effort in everything they did in daily life.

Even children did not escape these efforts at organization. In 1941, the Boys' Groups, Youth Groups and Young Women's Groups were consolidated into the Greater Japan Youth Association to instill group consciousness in children and adolescents and indoctrinate them as a group to cooperate with the war effort.



Cabinet
Admonition



New Style of Life



Illustrated Teacup
Neighborhood Association



6 DAY-TO-DAY LIFE DURING THE WAR

Once all-out war had been launched in China, full cooperation with the war effort was demanded of every Japanese. The sale of goods was restricted, and such staples as miso, salt, vegetables, and fish were rationed. Moreover, since taxes alone were insufficient to finance the war, pressure was put on people to buy war bonds and to save as much money as possible so that it could be used for the war effort.

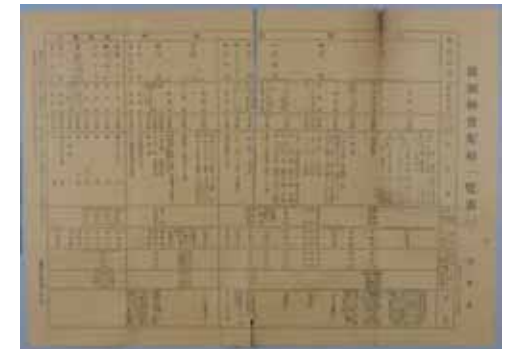
The government also desperately needed metal to make weapons, so it established a system called “kenno” for people to donate metal to send weapons to the troops.

Companies and laborers were also brought together in the Industrial Patriots Movement to ensure their support for the war. Labor unions were banned. Women were mobilized into the Women’s Volunteer Corps to work in munitions factories.

Later in the war, children’s lives were affected even more. As the danger of air raids increased, buildings were thinned out to minimize the spread of fire, and since it was thought that children would only hamper air defense measures, they were evacuated to the countryside.



Poster



List of controlled goods distribution, Kyoto



Marching youth corps in Tokyo (Sangyo-hokoku-Seinentai) Photo: Tadao Umemoto



7 IMPACT OF THE WAR ON HOUSING

A replica of a portion of a typical Japanese townhouse — known as a Machiya — as it might have looked during the war.

Constant air raids made it important for people to be very careful about their movements. Light seeping from windows at night could become a target for bombers, so a system of “light control” was developed. Lamps were covered with black cloth shades and windows, with blackout curtains. In addition, windowpanes were covered with paper to prevent glass from flying if the windows were broken in air raids.

Every house was also equipped with a stick with rope loops on the end to beat out flames caused by incendiary bombs.



A replica of a Portion of a Typical Japanese Townhouse



Ceramic Iron



8 RITSUMEIKAN UNIVERSITY AND THE “15-YEAR WAR”

The forerunner of the university was founded in 1900 as the Kyoto Private School of Law and Politics. It assumed the name Ritsumeikan University in 1913.

Starting in the 1920s, Japan’s military regime increasingly restricted freedom of speech and academic pursuits by universities. In 1933, for example, Takigawa Yukitoshi, a professor of Kyoto University, was forced to resign because of his liberal writings. In 1935, the theory that sovereignty lies not with the Emperor but rather with the state was also officially suppressed, and the writings of Minobe Tatsukichi, one of the writers who put forth this theory, were banned.

In the meantime, the universities themselves were being co-opted. As early as 1928, Ritsumeikan University established the Kin’eitai, a special armed unit of Ritsumeikan students who served as Imperial guards, in order to take part in the coronation ceremony of Emperor Hirohito. Later, the Kin’eitai guarded the Imperial Palace in Kyoto, since the Ritsumeikan campus was situated just outside the Imperial Palace grounds in central Kyoto at the time. The maroon-colored banner hanging here, emblazoned with the Chinese characters for Kin’eitai, was presented by the Emperor to commemorate the formation of the student guard unit.

In 1941, the university established the National Defense Studies Institute with Lieutenant-General Ishihara Kanji as its first director. Then in 1943, with the Student Mobilization order, many of the university’s students were drafted and sent to the battlefield before they had a chance to graduate. Many subsequently lost their lives. Others were mobilized and sent to munitions factories, where they became victims of air raids.

After the war, Ritsumeikan University reflected on the anguish caused by its policies during the war and vowed to make a new start.



“Kin’eitai” Banner



Comment of
Joining Army



Provisional
Certificate



9 WAR-TIME MOBILIZATION IN JAPANESE COLONIES AND OCCUPIED AREAS

Although the Manchurian Incident in 1931 launched the “15-Year War” and Japan’s major push for expansion, even before this drive began, Japan had colonized Korea, Taiwan and southern Sakhalin

When the “15-Year War” began, many people from the occupied countries were mobilized as soldiers and laborers or were brought to Japan against their will to work for Japanese companies. The Japanese word romusha is still used in Southeast Asia to mean laborer — a clear vestige of that time. Many of the forced laborers were pressed into work on railway and road construction projects. Many lost their lives. Women were often raped or forced into sexual slavery as “comfort women” for Japanese soldiers.

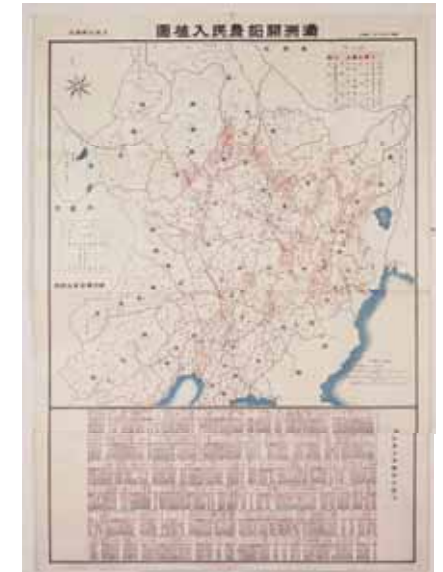
Naturally, there was resistance to the Japanese military, but the deep-rooted local opposition in the colonies and territories was crushed by force, and local governments were replaced by puppet regimes through which the Japanese army could exert control. The peoples of the nations invaded by Japan in Asia still harbor deep hostility over the savage acts of the Japanese army.



Fetters



Sugoroku



Manchurian
Reclamation
Peasant Settlement
Map



10 ANTI-JAPANESE ACTIVITIES

Many of the people of the occupied areas of Asia actively resisted Japan's aggression and occupational rule. The Japanese army, in turn, tried to suppress resistance by force and to find people who would cooperate with the occupying forces, but they failed to win the hearts and minds of the local populations.

In the northeastern part of China, which was known as Manchuria at the time, the resistance movement was deeply rooted, and from around 1933 it became more organized under communist leadership. In Korea, laborers and farmers arose to join the movement, and some participated in armed resistance along the border with Manchuria. Resistance against the Japanese invasion awoke national consciousness within the Chinese people, and the Nationalist and Communist forces united in the common cause of fighting the Japanese invasion. Anti-Japanese activities in China took many forms, including literature, art, drama and songs.

The resistance movement also took various forms in Southeast Asia. Even the Burmese army, which had been established by the Japanese, rose up in arms against them in Burma.

These resistance movements, coupled with the offensive of the Allied forces, finally brought Japanese rule in Asia to an end.



Chest Badge



Serial Painting
Japanese Soldier Hanging



Overview of China's
Post-release zone”



11 AIR RAIDS ON JAPAN

In July 1944, the Allied Forces occupied Saipan in the Marianna Islands and established an air base from which they launched direct air strikes against Japan. Starting in November 1944, U.S. forces intensified their bombing of the Japanese mainland. In the beginning, only military targets such as bases and munitions factories were bombed. Yet as we have already seen, civilians had been mobilized to work in munitions production, so many were killed during air strikes against munitions factories.

Then in March of the following year, U.S. forces began indiscriminate bombing of population centers in a strategic attempt to destroy the Japanese people's way of life and turn popular sentiment against the war. Casualties were no longer limited to combatants, but also came to include women, children and other civilians.

On March 10, 1945, more than 100,000 people died in a single night during the fire bombing of Tokyo. Thereafter, U.S. forces conducted daily air raids not only on Tokyo, but also on Osaka, Nagoya, Kobe and many other major cities. As a result, the total number of casualties reached approximately 700,000. Kyoto escaped major attacks, partly because it had been selected as a potential A-bomb target, yet, even so, over 300 residents died in air raids.



Uma-machi air-raid bomb



A Document with Bullet Hole



Damaged by Bombing Guardian Dog
"Koma-Inu"



12 JAPAN'S CONSTITUTION

After World War II ended, the nations of the world came together to establish the United Nations and stipulated in Article 2, Section 4, of the UN Charter that all members must “refrain... from the threat or use of force.” Today, the constitutions of many countries around the world explicitly renounce wars of aggression against other nations.

This trend in international law is also reflected in Japan's constitution. Article 9 renounces war as an instrument for settling international disputes. This beautiful knit is inscribed with Article 9. Section 2 of Article 9 stipulates that Japan will never again maintain “land, sea or air forces or other war potential” — a highly progressive clause that advances the international movement to abandon recourse to war in concrete and sweeping terms.

The Preamble to Japan's Constitution mentions the “right to live in peace” — essentially declaring peace to be a human right. This represents a great advance in human thinking — one that was later confirmed in a resolution by the United Nations General Assembly.



Knit
Japan's Constitution
Article 9



13 THE COLD WAR AND POSTWAR INDEPENDENCE OF FORMER COLONIES: THE EXAMPLE OF KOREA

After World War II, there was constant friction between the capitalist nations, led by the United States, and the communist bloc, which followed the Soviet Union. This power struggle, which came to be known as the Cold War, cast its shadow over the growing efforts of colonized territories to gain independence.

One example of the impact of the Cold War on independence movements can be seen in what happened on the Korean peninsula. At the end of World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union divided the peninsula along the 38th parallel, splitting it into North and South Korea. In June 1950, North Korea, supported by the Soviet Union, invaded the south, setting off the Korean War. China and the United States stepped in on either side, and the hostilities soon developed into a large-scale conflict that ultimately claimed millions of lives. Although a cease-fire agreement was signed at Panmunjeom in 1953, North and South Korea have yet to conclude a peace treaty. Although efforts to repair the rift between North and South Korea continue to this day, the two nations have yet to be reconciled.

This conflict also had a great impact on Japan. At the same time Japan signed the San Francisco Peace Treaty along with 48 other non-socialist nations, it also concluded the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security with the United States, permitting American forces to remain in Japan. The increase in demand for supplies and services for the American military helped re-energize the Japanese economy, which had been depressed since the nation's defeat in the War. However, as American occupation troops were withdrawn from Japan for duty in Korea, U.S. bases in Japan were left short-staffed. To protect them, the Japanese government hastily authorized the formation of the National Police Reserve, the forerunner of Japan's Self-Defense Forces, and thus set Japan off down the path towards rearmament.



The Uniform of a U.S.Pilot
And a Life Jacket



14 THE VIETNAM WAR

After World War II, Vietnam began fighting for independence from colonial rule, defeating the French in 1954. Victory was short-lived, however, as the United States, fearing a Communist takeover, established a puppet regime in Saigon in the south. In 1960, communist forces formed the National Liberation Front, which was also known as the Viet Cong, and plunged the country into a state of civil war. In 1965, American forces began bombing North Vietnam.

During the peak of hostilities, more than 560,000 American soldiers were deployed in Vietnam. 58,200 of them were killed in guerrilla attacks and open combat. In 1969, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam was established, but by 1973, the United States, under intense criticism at home and abroad, was forced to sign the Paris Peace Accords, agreeing to the complete withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam. Even in Japan, which served as a base for American military operations, opposition to the war had been intense, with laborers, intellectuals and ordinary citizens taking part in large-scale protests against the war. The war finally came to an end in 1975 with the liberation of Saigon by the NLF.

The scope and diversity of weapons employed by American troops in the Vietnam War was so great that the war has been referred to as an arms expo.

U.S. forces also used Agent Orange to defoliate the jungles in which Viet Cong guerrillas hid. The dioxin from Agent Orange is highly toxic and led to many birth defects and other health problems in Vietnam.



Ball Bomb
Fragment



A Knife and Cigarette
Case made from
American Plane shot
down



Sandals made from
Tires



15 FROM THE GULF WAR TO THE IRAQ WAR

With the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, the United States became the world's sole superpower. This made it easier for America to go to war. Those countries the U.S. viewed as "dangerous" were branded "evil" and treated as enemies. This has been especially true in the Middle East. For example, America launched the Gulf War in 1991 in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. That war ended with the U.S.-led multinational coalition defeating the Iraqi forces, although the Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein, remained in power.

Then on September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked commercial airliners and used them to destroy the World Trade Center in New York. Al Qaeda, an Islamic terrorist organization, claimed responsibility for the attacks. When the Taliban regime in Afghanistan refused to turn over Osama bin Laden, the leader of Al Qaeda, the United States launched an offensive against the Taliban.

After it had ousted the Taliban from Afghanistan, the United States began claiming that Iraq was concealing weapons of mass destruction. Without waiting for a resolution by the United Nations Security Council to sanction action against that nation, America launched an invasion of Iraq in March 2003. This move sparked unprecedented worldwide anti-war protests. In the end, no weapons of mass destruction were found. Nonetheless, Japanese Self-Defense Forces were deployed to the region, ostensibly for "humanitarian aid and reconstruction work".



Kabul, the Capital of Afghanistan



Berlin Wall Stones



16 WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT

Technology advanced at a rapid pace during the 20th century. Thanks to this progress, our lives have become much more comfortable. At the same time, however, technology has also been used to develop arms, resulting in the creation of weapons of mass destruction that can annihilate large numbers of people in a split second.

Nuclear weapons are the best-known weapons of mass destruction. They annihilate people with a horrific blast, heat rays and radiation. Many people around the world have called for their abolition, but the nations possessing them, including the United States, remain deaf to their pleas.

Other types of weapons of mass destruction include chemical weapons that use toxic chemicals and biological weapons that employ germs and viruses to maim or kill people. Treaties banning the use of both types of weapons now exist, and the majority of countries have ratified them.

All the same, the performance of other weapons has been improved recently by developments in computer technology. Great leaps have been made in precision and accuracy in particular — a field in which the United States is particularly advanced. Despite this increased accuracy, however, civilians continue to fall victim to missiles that have missed their intended target, resulting in the need for the crutches and prosthetics on display in the last part of this section of the museum.



Simulated Nuclear Weapon



Pineapple Bomb



17 MODERN WARS AND CONFLICTS

Although the danger of large-scale nuclear war has been greatly reduced thanks to the end of the Cold War, there are still many parts of the world that are plagued by armed struggles.

One region that has experienced many conflicts in recent years is Africa. Clashes seem to arise one after the next due to a number of historical factors and conflicts of interest among both domestic and external forces. In South Africa, for example, the ruling regime perpetuated the racially discriminatory policy of Apartheid for many years - a policy that was overturned only after years of armed insurgency and international pressure. Then in 1994, strife between the Hutu and Tutsi peoples in Rwanda erupted in violence that resulted in the deaths of more than 500,000 people.

Europe is not immune to this kind of strife, even though many of the nations of Europe are working together to create a new international order in the form of the European Union. In the 1990s, Yugoslavia disintegrated into a bitter struggle between those who wished to maintain a federation of states and ethnic groups who sought independence.

In Asia, too, where the effects of colonial rule and the Cold War persist, two million Cambodians were slaughtered under the Pol Pot regime in the 1970s, while many other people lost their lives in the long struggle for independence in East Timor which finally reached fruition in 2002.

Latin America has also experienced strife in the form of civil wars which have continued for many years. In a number of countries such as Grenada and Panama, the United States intervened in civil wars as part of its anti-communist policies. Meanwhile, in Mexico, the Indigenous Zapatista Army of National Liberation continues its struggle against government forces.



Zapatista
Doll, Hat and Bandana



18 THOUGHTS ON VIOLENCE AND PEACE

Here we examine the obstacles that hinder the peace process and explore pathways to peace.

Is peace merely the absence of war? We argue that peace involves an absence of all violence.

“Violence” as more than just physical conflict. Violence also includes all barriers to the full realization of human potential, such as hunger, poverty, discrimination, suppression of human rights, environmental destruction, and inadequate education and medicine — in other words, every aspect of society that prevents us from tapping true human capacity.

The central hanging screen illustrates how violence occurs on three different levels: international, regional, and local sites of conflict. The various forms of structural violence that exist around us are displayed in the photographs on the other hanging screens. Statistics on these forms of violence are shown on the big dice on the table in the center of the room. Roll them to get a better picture of how much violence exists in our world today.



Is Peace Merely the Absence of War?



Big Dice



19 PEACE ACTIVITIES BY ORDINARY CITIZENS

Many ordinary people around the world have arisen to eliminate the kinds of violence. Here is designed to give visitors ideas for possible peace initiatives by showing the activities of a number of NGOs directly involved in dealing with various types of violence and their after-effects.

There are as many kinds of NGO activities as there are forms of violence. And just like the violence they try to prevent or deal with, NGO activities may take place on the international level, the regional level, or at local sites of conflict. Some NGO activities require a high level of expertise, but there are many that can be supported in the course of daily life.

All of them, however, share an emphasis on thinking for oneself and taking personal action. We must not only recognize the forms violence takes in the world, but must also consider what we personally can do, and then translate our ideas into action. We hope that the NGO activities introduced here will be a valuable guide in this process and help you explore personal steps for peace that you can take in your daily life.



Peace Activities by Ordinary Citizens



20 INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S PEACE SCULPTURE

Here stands a sculpture created by children in Kyoto to symbolize their desire for world peace. It was made as part of an international movement to erect peace sculptures created and paid for by children. The movement began when some American children learned about the Children's Memorial, a sculpture in Hiroshima Peace Park erected by the classmates of Sasaki Sadako and dedicated to all children who were victims of the atomic bombing of Japan. Inspired, the American children decided to make their own sculpture for world peace.

This movement was taken up in Japan, and there is now an International Children's Peace Sculpture created by children in Tokyo in the Center of the Tokyo Air Raid and War Damages, as well as one made by the children of Hiroshima located in front of the Hiroshima City Baseball Stadium.

Like the children of Hiroshima and Tokyo, the children of Kyoto pooled their ideas to create a design for the sculpture. The idea for the work you see here was chosen at a series of seminars that included foreign students and foreign residents of Kyoto. On a wooden frame you see a globe topped by an origami crane and turtle and three children playing happily. The crane represents peace in Japan, while the turtle is a symbol of remembrance in North and South Korea.

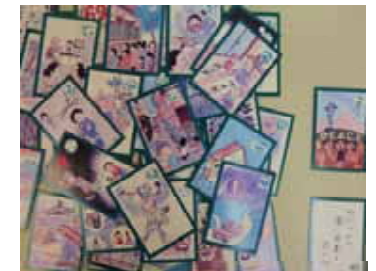
Be sure to take a look at the items, such as a folding screen using Japan's famous yuzen dyeing process, messages of peace written by the head priests of famous Buddhist temples in Kyoto and a set of karuta playing cards on an anti-nuclear war theme.



International Children's Peace Sculpture



Calligraphy



Karuta



THANK YOU FOR SEEING!



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