



B-29 Bomber (top); Firebombing of Tokyo (bottom)

Wartime Civilian Bombing

The University of Chicago 2009 Tetsuo Najita Distinguished Lecture
Dr. Yuki Tanaka, Hiroshima Peace Institute

Monday, February 2, 2009 11:00-1:00

Film Screening: *Ashita e no Yuigon* (Best Wishes for Tomorrow)

Directed by Takashi Koizumi, 2007. In Japanese with English subtitles.

Film Studies Center, Cobb Hall 306, 5811 S. Ellis Ave.

Based on the Shohei Ooka novel "Nagai Tabi," the film is a biographical portrait of Lieutenant General Okada Tasuku who ordered the execution of a B-29 bomber crew responsible for bombing Nagoya city during World War II. The film examines several issues of indiscriminate bombing that Dr. Tanaka will address in his lecture on Feb. 3rd.

Tuesday, February 3, 2009, 3:30pm

Dr. Yuki Tanaka, Hiroshima Peace Institute

"Crime and Responsibility: War, Indiscriminate Bombing, and Mass Killing"

Social Sciences Research 122, 1126 East 59th St.

Reception immediately following.

Dr. Tanaka examines the question of the criminality of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the responsibility of American political and military leaders who were closely involved in the decision-making and execution of the order to drop the bombs. Criminality is examined in accordance with international law effective at the time that the bombs were dropped and in the light of the Charter of the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal. The lecture also examines the history and present situation of indiscriminate aerial bombing of civilian populations. It examines how the use of this tactic started, what kind of military logic was used to justify it, and why it is still being widely sanctioned despite the fact that large numbers of civilians are repeatedly victimized in various war-torn regions of the world. It further explores how we should utilize the result of the International Peoples' Tribunal of Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to increase understanding of the fact that killing civilians is a crime against humanity, regardless of the asserted military justification.



Sponsored by the University of Chicago Committee on Japanese Studies

Persons requiring assistance to fully participate should call 773-702-2715.