

By Edgar A. Porter and Ran Ying Porter

## Japanese Reflections on World War II and the American Occupation

This book presents an unforgettable up-close account of the effects of World War II and the subsequent American occupation on Oita prefecture, through firsthand accounts from more than forty Japanese men and women who lived there. The interviewees include students, housewives, nurses, midwives, teachers, journalists, soldiers, sailors, Kamikaze pilots, and munitions factory workers. Their stories range from early, spirited support for the war through the devastating losses of friends and family members to air raids and into periods of hunger and fear of the American occupiers. The personal accounts are buttressed by archival materials; the result is an unprecedented picture of the war as experienced in a single region of Japan.

*"Pulling together the recollections of some 40 individuals from Oita and the larger narrative of Japan at war and in defeat thus provides an engaging, critically important, and nicely balanced account of a period in Japanese history often under-acknowledged in Japan itself. Also intriguing: the interplay between important incidents associated with the war and the related individualized remembrances that tie together local experiences and national events. Highly recommended."*

Choice Reviews

*"[The] Porters have woven together the memories of students and factory workers, nurses and midwives, teachers, sailors and kamikaze pilots to create a rare account of ordinary life during extraordinary times in the Japanese countryside ... "Japanese Reflections on World War II" is a clear picture of how the tragedy and suffering of war affects ordinary people and their perceptions."*

Kris Kosaka for The Japan Times



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