



Never Forget History

Commemorating the 70th Anniversary
of Victory in the World Anti-Fascist War



Class A War Criminals

Enshrined at Yasukuni Shrine

Compiled by Modern History Institute of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Translated by Shao Da



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图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

靖国神社中的甲级战犯 : 英文 / 中国社会科学院近代史研究所编 ; 邵达译 . -- 2 版 . -- 北京 : 五洲传播出版社 , 2014.10

ISBN 978-7-5085-2942-4

I . ①靖… II . ①中… ②邵… III . ①第二次世界大战 - 战犯 - 史料 - 日本 - 英文 IV . ① K833.135.2

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2014) 第 253100 号

“历史不容忘记——纪念世界反法西斯战争胜利 70 周年”系列

监制 国务院新闻办公室

出版人 荆孝敏

统筹 付平

翻译 邵达

责任编辑 张美景

封面设计 魏向东

版式设计 王伟峰 申真真

靖国神社中的甲级战犯

出版发行：五洲传播出版社

地 址：北京市海淀区北三环中路 31 号生产力大楼 B 座 7 层

邮 编：100088

电 话：010-82005972 010-82007837

网 址：www.cicc.org.cn

承 印 者：浙江云广印业股份有限公司

开 本：710mm × 1000mm 1/16

印 张：8

版 次：2015 年 6 月第 2 版第 1 次印刷

书 号：ISBN 978-7-5085-2942-4

定 价：59.00

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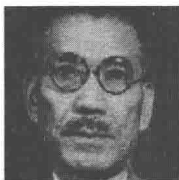
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Foreword

In recent years, Japanese leaders repeatedly paid homage to the Yasukuni Shrine, arguing that they couldn't see any reason why they cannot visit the shrine, and other countries should not meddle in Japan's mourning for the war dead. In fact, shrine visits have adversely affected the healthy growth of Sino-Japanese relations. It's well known that in the Shinto shrine are enshrined 14 Class A war criminals who had committed towering war crimes during World War II. With their hands stained with the blood of the people from China and many other Asian countries, they were prime culprits for and chief plotters of Japan's aggression wars. Japanese leaders' visits to the shrine are a fundamental question of right and wrong that has a direct bearing on how the country looks upon its aggressive past.

In our view, adopting a correct attitude toward history is the only way to develop Sino-Japanese ties, and maintain peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and the world at large. Past experiences since the two countries normalized their diplomatic ties over 40 years ago demonstrate that, a correct understanding of history led to healthy development of bilateral relations; otherwise difficulties and setbacks would stand in the way.

Taking history as a mirror, looking to the future, and maintaining and developing a stable Sino-Japanese relationship—it's conducive to the common interests of the two peoples.

The purpose of compiling this book is to let know the war crimes committed by the 14 Class A war criminals enshrined in the Yasukuni Shrine, and the reason why China firmly opposes the shrine visits.



The Yasukuni Shrine



The former site of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East

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After World War II, Douglas MacArthur, the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP), issued on January 19, 1946 a special proclamation ordering the establishment of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East (IMTFE) in Tokyo. On April 29 the Tribunal convened to try 28 class A Japanese war criminals. The trials were held in the building of the former Army Ministry, popularly known as the War Ministry. All the defendants brought to trial were charged with crimes against peace, conventional war crimes, and crimes against humanity. According to the IMTFE Charter, the above acts, or any of them, "are crimes coming within the jurisdiction of the Tribunal for which there shall be individual responsibility." The court trial lasted over two years. By November 1948 the Tribunal affirmed the formulation or execution by 25 of the accused of "a common plan or conspiracy" to wage wars of aggression, for the purpose of securing the military, political and economic domination of China (including its northeastern provinces), East Asia as well as the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Seven were sentenced to death, including Seishiro Itagaki, Hideki Tojo, Koki Hirota, Heitaro Kimura, Iwane Matsui, Kenji Doihara, and Akira Muto; sixteen were sentenced to life imprisonment, including

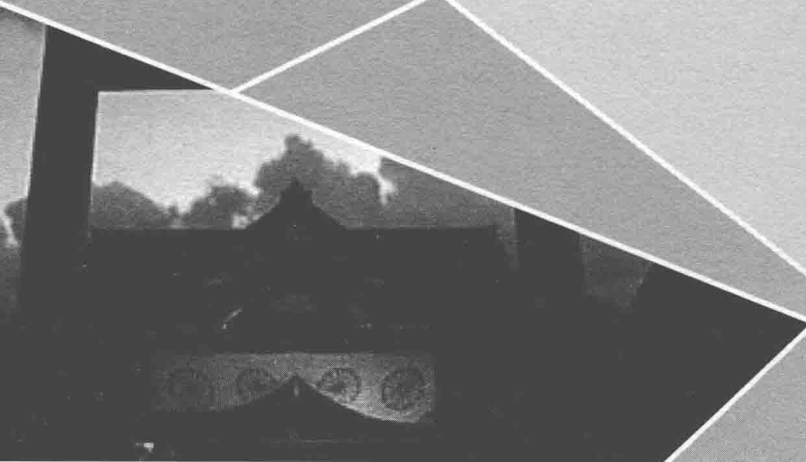
Toshio Shiratori, Hiroshi Oshima, Shigetaro Shimada, Takazumi Oka, Okinori Kaya, Sadao Araki, Teiichi Suzuki, Yoshijiro Umezu, Koichi Kido, Jiro Minami, Kiichiro Hiranuma, Kingoro Hashimoto, Shunroku Hata, Kuniaki Koiso, Naoki Hoshino, and Kenryo Sato; Shigenori Togo and Mamoru Shigemitsu were sentenced respectively to 20 and seven years imprisonment.

In 1965, the Japanese Ministry of Welfare forwarded information on 14 class A war criminals—including the seven who were executed and seven others who died either at Sugamo Prison in Ikebukuro or after being paroled—to the Tokyo-located Yasukuni Shrine, a Shinto shrine which was founded in 1869 and honors the country's war dead since the Meiji era. The shrine agreed to enshrine these individuals, but due to political reasons, the enshrinement ceremony was not held until the autumn of 1978. The details of the enshrinement eventually appeared in the paper on April 19, 1979. Among the enshrined are Hideki Tojo, Seishiro Itagaki, Kenji Doihara, Iwane Matsui, Heitaro Kimura, Akira Muto, Koki Hirota, Kiichiro Hiranuma, Kuniaki Koiso, Toshio Shiratori, Yoshijiro Umezu, Shigenori Togo, Yosuke Matsuoka, and Osami Nagano.



A Fanatic Militarist

HIDEKI TOJO



© By Bian Xiuyue

Hideki Tojo, Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini are known as the three Axis leaders during World War II. When Japan's number one war criminal Tojo assumed office as war minister and prime minister, he schemed, unleashed and further expanded a war of aggression, and viciously advocated establishing the "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere." During that time, Japanese forces invaded over 10 Asian countries and regions, launched a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor leading to the outbreak of the Pacific War, used biological weapons against both Chinese soldiers and civilians and maltreated large numbers of Allied POWs imprudently trampling on the norms of international law. The crimes of the Japanese militarists were far too numerous to record, and tens of millions of the common people had been plunged into misery and suffering.

A militarist coming from a warlord's family

Hideki Tojo was born to a warlord's family in Tokyo on December 30, 1884. His father Hidenori Tojo (1855-1913) was initially a lower-

ranking military officer. Having fought in both the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895⁽¹⁾ and the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905, he was promoted to lieutenant general in 1907, but immediately retired. Having once been chief editor of the *History of the Sino-Japanese War*, he was mainly engaged in writing books on the art of war in his old age.

Brought up in such a family, Hideki Tojo had been deeply influenced by the spirit of militarism and *bushido* since childhood. From 1899 to 1904 he had received very strict military training at Japanese Army's local and central cadet schools successively, winning the title of "fist-fighting champion" for himself. After graduating from the 17th class of the Imperial Japanese Army Academy in 1905, he was commissioned second lieutenant. At the graduation ceremony, together with more than 300 cadets Tojo pledged to die for the Tenno (Japanese Emperor) "on the soil of Manchuria." Shortly afterward he went to Northeast China and fought in the Russo-Japanese War which was already drawing to a close. In 1907 he was promoted to lieutenant, and in 1915 became a captain after graduating from the Army War College. During the following years, he successively held the posts of military attaché at the Japanese Embassy in Germany, instructor at the Army War College and head of the mobilization section of the War Ministry, and went all out to support the right-wing militarists to plan and stage the September 18 Incident in 1931.

An advocate of the 'Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere'

In March 1933 Tojo was promoted to major general and worked in the Army General Staff Office. In November he was appointed chief of the Personnel Bureau under the War Ministry. In September 1935