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978-0-521-85934-9 - Japanese Society at War: Death, Memory and the Russo-Japanese War

Naoko Shimazu

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Japanese Society at War

As the first international conflict of the twentieth century, the Russo-Japanese War attracted much contemporary global interest. This is the first full-length study to examine the war from the perspective of its impact on Japanese society, and sheds new light on its implications for modern Japan. What did the war mean to the Japanese people and how did they respond to it? Naoko Shimazu presents a fascinating and highly innovative account of the attitudes of ordinary Japanese people towards the war through a wide range of sources including personal diaries, letters and contemporary images. She deals with themes such as conscripts and battlefield death, war commemoration, heroic myths and war in popular culture. Challenging the orthodox view of Meiji Japan as monolithic, she shows that there existed a complex and ambivalent relationship between the Japanese state and society.

NAOKO SHIMAZU is Senior Lecturer in Japanese History in the School of History, Classics and Archaeology, Birkbeck College, University of London. Her previous publications include *Japan, Race and Equality: The Racial Equality Proposal of 1919* (1998) and *Nationalisms in Japan* (as editor, 2006).

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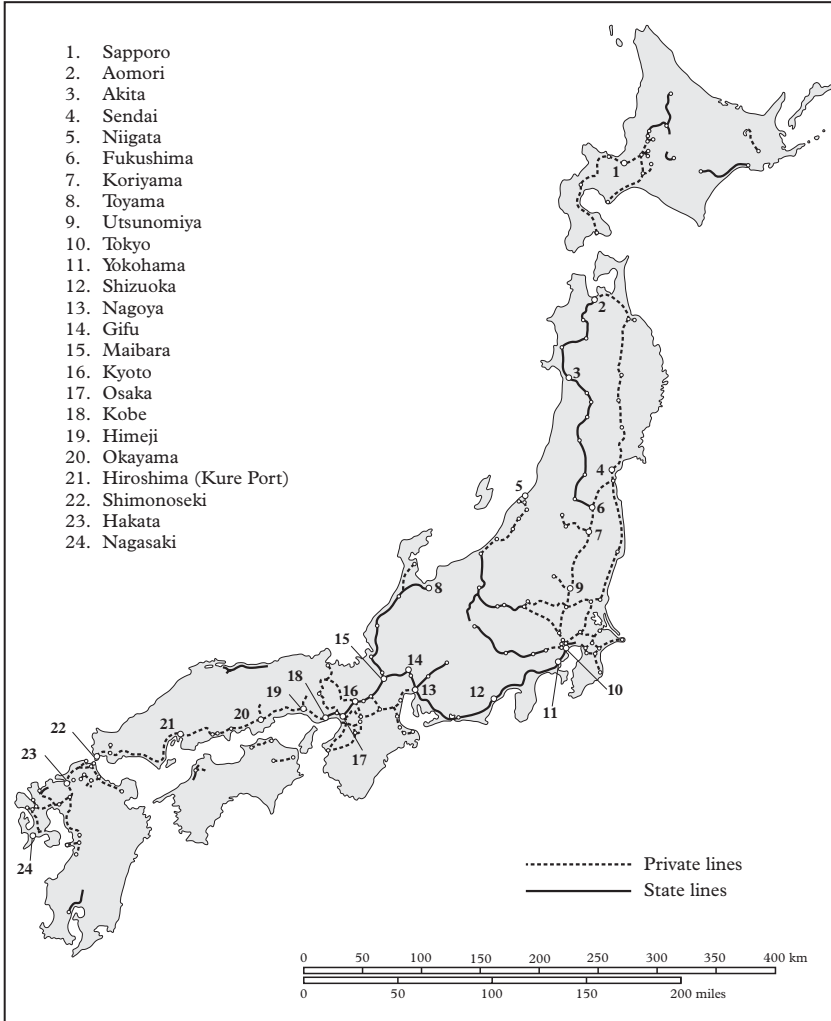
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In accordance with the normal regional practice, East Asian names have been rendered with the family name preceding the given name. For place names, apart from well-known contemporary place names, namely Port Arthur and Mukden, I have used local appellations rather than Japanese or Russian appellations.