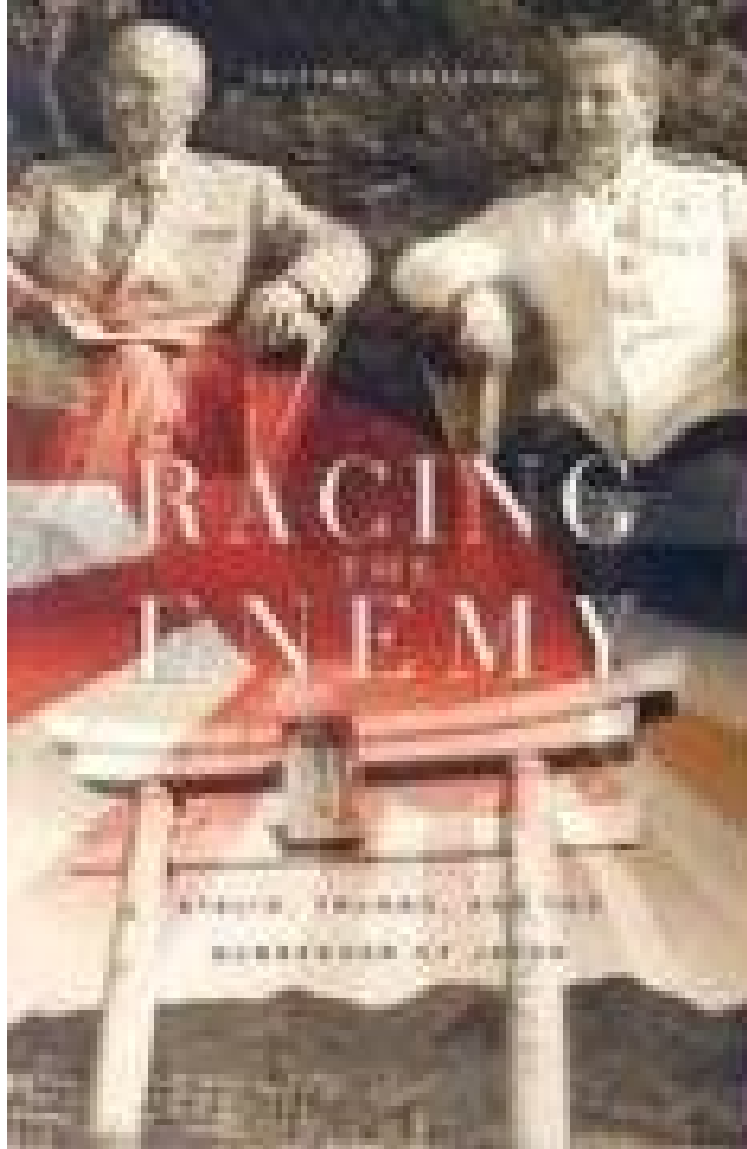


[Free pdf] Racing the Enemy: Stalin, Truman, and the Surrender of Japan

Racing the Enemy: Stalin, Truman, and the Surrender of Japan

Tsuyoshi Hasegawa

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Tsuyoshi Hasegawa : Racing the Enemy: Stalin, Truman, and the Surrender of Japan before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Racing the Enemy: Stalin, Truman, and the Surrender of Japan:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Different EndingBy DougSince my father fought in World War II, I have always taken a keen interest in that period of history. I have often wondered what he thought and felt during that time. Like most vets of that era, he hardly ever talked about what had happened. This book, "Racing the Enemy"

sheds some new light on that period of history. The battles are easy to document, but what drove people to fight is not always clear. This book shed new light on the intrigue during that very complicated time of almost a hundred years ago. 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Racing the Allies By Tom Munro By 1945 Japan seemed well and truly beaten. Its navy and merchant fleet were on the bottom of the Pacific. Its air force lacked fuel and was limited in what operations it could launch and its cities were being destroyed by Curtin LeMay's fire raids. One would have thought the unconditional surrender in 1945 unremarkable. The story was however more complex. Japan had only committed a small fragment of its army to the South East Asian and Pacific theatre. Most of its troops were in China and Manchuria. Even in 1945 it controlled a considerable empire including Malaya, Vietnam, what was to become Indonesia, Korea and a good deal of China. The Japanese Army had been transferring its army to the homeland. In addition it had some 9,000 aircraft which could be used as Kamikaze bombers. What the army hoped to do was to inflict a defeat on the American force that would invade Japan in 1945 and then obtain a favourable peace. In August the Japanese government tried to manoeuvre the Soviets into acting as intermediaries in a negotiated peace. The Soviets however had other intentions. Stalin wanted to grab large parts of what had been the Japanese Empire. He was keen to intervene in the war so that he could extend his empire. He however kept these aims from the Japanese till he was ready to move. The strength of this book is that it shows that rather than the surrender of Japan resulting from one cause such as the dropping of the Atom bomb it was a combination of that and the Soviet attacks. The Soviets attacked the Japanese army in Manchuria with one and a half million men thousands of tanks and aircraft. The Japanese forces collapsed with the Soviets taking over Manchuria and North Korea. With this attack the hope that the Japanese had of inflicting a defeat on the Americans and using the Soviets as intermediaries collapsed. While that was happening two bombs were dropped that killed 150,000 or so people. It was this that led to the decision of the Emperor to back those in his cabinet who favoured peace. The book is one of the fullest outlines of the last days of the Japanese Empire. It also explodes a number of myths. For instance it is clear that Truman did not make a decision to drop the bomb. What he did was not to prevent the military making the decision to drop it. It would appear that he was keen to do so for the reasons of avenging Pearl Harbour and demonstrating to the Soviets the power of the bomb. Truman also had hoped that the existence of the bomb might have led to the end of the war before the Soviets could intervene. Stalin however was keen to get into the action and to grab parts of the far east. Thus it was a race to get into the war before Japanese resistance collapsed. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Gary E. Good book for history buffs and students.

With startling revelations, Tsuyoshi Hasegawa rewrites the standard history of the end of World War II in the Pacific. By fully integrating the three key actors in the story--the United States, the Soviet Union, and Japan--Hasegawa for the first time puts the last months of the war into international perspective. From April 1945, when Stalin broke the Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact and Harry Truman assumed the presidency, to the final Soviet military actions against Japan, Hasegawa brings to light the real reasons Japan surrendered. From Washington to Moscow to Tokyo and back again, he shows us a high-stakes diplomatic game as Truman and Stalin sought to outmaneuver each other in forcing Japan's surrender; as Stalin dangled mediation offers to Japan while secretly preparing to fight in the Pacific; as Tokyo peace advocates desperately tried to stave off a war party determined to mount a last-ditch defense; and as the Americans struggled to balance their competing interests of ending the war with Japan and preventing the Soviets from expanding into the Pacific. Authoritative and engrossing, *Racing the Enemy* puts the final days of World War II into a whole new light.

Racing the Enemy is a tour de force - a lucid, balanced, multi-archival, myth-shattering analysis of the turbulent end of World War II. Tsuyoshi Hasegawa sheds fascinating new light on fiercely debated issues including the U.S.-Soviet end game in Asia, the American decision to drop the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and Japan's frantic response to the double shock of nuclear devastation and the Soviet Union's abrupt declaration of war. (John W. Dower, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II*) With this book, Tsuyoshi Hasegawa will establish himself as the expert on the end of the war in the Pacific. This important work will attract a wide readership. (Ernest R. May, author of *Strange Victory: Hitler's Conquest of France*) In summer 1945 Truman and his advisers set a foreign policy course that demanded American use of doomsday weapons not only against Japan but, indirectly, against humanity itself. In this groundbreaking book, Hasegawa argues that the atomic bombs were not as decisive in bringing about Japan's unconditional surrender as Soviet entry into the Pacific War. His challenging study reveals the full significance of Truman's decision not to associate Stalin with the Potsdam Declaration and offers fresh evidence of how Japan's leaders viewed Stalin's entrance into the war as the decisive factor. Others have shown that Truman missed opportunities to secure Japan's unconditional surrender without an invasion or the nuclear destruction of Japanese cities. But few have so thoroughly documented the complex evasions and Machiavellism of Japanese, Russian, and, especially, American leaders in the process of war termination. (Herbert P. Bix, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Hirohito and the Making of Modern Japan*) In this landmark study, Tsuyoshi Hasegawa gives us the first truly international history of the critical final months leading to Japan's surrender. Absorbing and authoritative, provocative

and fair-minded, *Racing the Enemy* is required reading for anyone interested in World War II and in twentieth-century world affairs. A marvelously illuminating work. (Fredrik Logevall, author of *Choosing War: The Lost Chance for Peace and the Escalation of War in Vietnam*) The long debate among historians about American motives and Japanese efforts at ending World War II is finally resolved in *Racing the Enemy*, Tsuyoshi Hasegawa's brilliant and definitive study of American, Soviet and Japanese records of the last weeks of the war. (Richard Rhodes *New York Times Book* 2005-05-15) Without doubt the best-informed book in English on Japanese and Soviet manoeuvres in the summer of 1945... [Hasegawa] provides an international context sorely missing from most previous work. He has mined Japanese and Russian literature and documentation and, despite much that is based on surmise, provides fresh insight into the extraordinary inability of Japanese leaders to surrender, and into Stalin's machinations aimed at maximizing Soviet territorial gains in East Asia. (Warren I. Cohen *Times Literary Supplement* 2005-08-19) A landmark book that brilliantly examines a crucial moment in 20th-century history... [An] important, enlightening, and unsettling book. (Jonathan Rosenberg *Christian Science Monitor* 2005-08-02) The most comprehensive study yet undertaken of Japanese documentary sources. The highly praised study argues that the atomic bomb played only a secondary role in Japan's decision to surrender. By far the most important factor, Hasegawa finds, was the entry of the Soviet Union into the war against Japan on Aug. 8, 1945, two days after the Hiroshima bombing. (Gar Alperovitz *Philadelphia Inquirer* 2005-08-07) One of the first to make a detailed study of the political interplay among the Soviet Union, Japan, and the United States in 1945. (Alex Kingsbury *U.S. News and World Report* 2005-08-08) As Tsuyoshi Hasegawa has shown definitively in his new book, *Racing the Enemy*--and many other historians have long argued--it was the Soviet Union's entry into the Pacific war on Aug. 8, two days after the Hiroshima bombing, that provided the final 'shock' that led to Japan's capitulation. (Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin *Los Angeles Times* 2005-08-05) [*Racing the Enemy*] might be called the definitive analysis of the U.S. decision to use atomic bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. Professor Tsuyoshi Hasegawa of the University of California, Santa Barbara, has mined both Japanese and Soviet sources to produce the first truly international study of the Hiroshima decision. (Errol MacGregor *Clauss Winston-Salem Journal* 2005-08-07) Managing to convey the thought processes, assumptions and biases of the Imperial elite is Hasegawa's greatest achievement... Hasegawa's story is a weird, compelling one, and his case for revising our view of the leadup to VJ Day is overwhelming. (John Dolan *The Exile* 2006-06-29) Hasegawa's study provides the most comprehensive examination yet published on the international factors that shaped the decision-making processes and policies adopted in Washington, Moscow, Potsdam and Tokyo, and which ultimately contributed to Japan's surrender in 1945. *Racing the Enemy* provides a fresh and multi-faceted perspective on a well studied topic primarily because the author draws on information from Russian, Japanese and American archives and sources. While this study both complements and challenges the well-informed findings of Asada Sadao, Robert Butow, Richard Frank and Leon Sigal, the international framework in which Hasegawa places the surrender of Japan makes this book a compelling read for students and scholars alike. (J. Charles Schencking *Pacific Affairs*) Will we ever really know why Japan surrendered in World War II? In this judicious and meticulously researched study of the endgame of the conflict, [Hasegawa] internationalizes (by a thorough look at American, Japanese, and Soviet literature and archives) the diplomatic and political maneuvering that led to Japanese capitulation... No study has yet to bundle together the myriad works on the war's end in such a complete manner... This work should become standard reading for scholars of World War II and American diplomacy. (Thomas Zeiler *American Historical*) Tsuyoshi Hasegawa's *Racing the Enemy* is a splendid book--the first to examine the end of the Second World War in the Asia Pacific from a comprehensive, international perspective. Based on archival and published materials in Russian, English, and Japanese, it provides a gripping account of the complex diplomatic maneuvers and political battles that culminated in the tumultuous events of August 1945... Hasegawa has written the first truly international history of the end of the Pacific War. By bringing hitherto separate literatures together into a much-needed dialogue, he has recast the contours of the whole debate. *Racing the Enemy* will remain essential reading for students of foreign policy and international history for many years to come. (Anno Tadashi *Monumenta Nipponica*) This book is a well-researched and provocative analysis of a fascinating yet neglected aspect of World War II: the American public's conventional assumption is that Japan surrendered to the Allies because of American atomic bombs... Hasegawa's conclusion raises tempting hypothetical questions for further research of this topic, and he provides intriguing answers to them. (Sean Savage *Historian*) What ended World War II?... Tsuyoshi Hasegawa--a highly respected historian at the University of California, Santa Barbara--has marshaled compelling evidence that it was the Soviet entry into the Pacific conflict, not Hiroshima and Nagasaki, that forced Japan's surrender. His interpretation could force a new accounting of the moral meaning of the atomic attack. It also raises provocative questions about nuclear deterrence, a foundation stone of military strategy in the postwar period. And it suggests that we could be headed towards an utterly different understanding of how, and why, the Second World War came to its conclusion. (Gareth Cook *Boston Globe* 2011-08-07) *Racing the Enemy* is a tour de force -a lucid, balanced, multi-archival, myth-shattering analysis of the turbulent end of World War II. Tsuyoshi Hasegawa sheds fascinating new light on fiercely debated issues including the U.S.-Soviet end game in Asia, the American decision to drop the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and Japan's frantic response to the double shock of nuclear devastation and the Soviet Union's abrupt declaration of war. (John W. Dower, Pulitzer Prize-

winning author of *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II*) About the Author Tsuyoshi Hasegawa is Professor of History and Director of the Center for Cold War Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara.