**BBC In Our Time – Second Sino-Japanese War**

Melvyn Bragg and his guests discuss the Sino-Japanese War of 1937-45.

After several years of rising tension, and the Japanese occupation of Manchuria, full-scale war between Japan and China broke out in the summer of 1937. The Japanese captured many major Chinese ports and cities, but met with fierce resistance, despite internal political divisions on the Chinese side. When the Americans entered the war, following the bombing of Pearl Harbour, the Japanese found themselves fighting on several fronts simultaneously, and finally capitulated in August 1945. This notoriously brutal conflict left millions dead and had far-reaching consequences for international relations in Asia.

With: **Rana Mitter,** Professor of the History and Politics of Modern China at the University of Oxford; **Barak Kushner,** Senior Lecturer in Japanese History at the University of Cambridge; **Tehyun Ma,** Lecturer in Chinese History at the University of Exeter.

Causes (0-18)

* 2SJW overview
* China LT
* Japan LT
* C-J relations LT
* C-J relations ST (1930s)

Conflict (18-36)

* J war aims t start
* C ability to fight at start
* MPB ’37 as a turning point – for C? – for J?
* Shanghai
* Nanjing
* Yellow river dikes
* Chongking
* J position ‘38
* CSK tactics
* Effect of PH
* Why PH?

End (36-41)

* J at end of war in C; in J
* Why surrender?
* Effects of SJW on C
* Effects of SJW (WWII) on J

Rana Mitter – book review of his book *‘China’s war with Japan’*

 <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2013/jun/30/chinas-war-with-japan-review>

Barak Kushner – book review of his *‘Men to Devils; Devils to Men’*

 <https://networks.h-net.org/node/28443/reviews/99993/guillemin-kushner-men-devils-devils-men-japanese-war-crimes-and-chinese>

Tehyun Ma – chapter 13 *‘Eclipse of Empire in China’* in edited book ‘*Oxford Handbook on Ends of Empire’*

<https://books.google.ch/books?id=pwN6DwAAQBAJ&pg=PA246&lpg=PA246&dq=Tehyun+Ma+review&source=bl&ots=YYLgcmDxB0&sig=ACfU3U06GTFrrfIFZH5q0zhw7xDRFgk73g&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwieisW_8eHlAhUTwsQBHRuhDsUQ6AEwCHoECAkQAQ#v=onepage&q=Tehyun%20Ma%20review&f=false>