

Strzyczenie w języku angielskim

This dissertation aims to analyse the influence of the collective memory of the Pacific War on the contemporary Japanese national identity. Main research questions posed in this dissertation are: how collective memory of the Pacific War has been reconstructed after 1945; what has been the significance of this collective memory for the post-war Japanese national identity; can collective memory of the Pacific War be regarded as one of the indispensable elements of the contemporary Japanese culture.

The methodology applied in this dissertation borrows from the symbolic anthropology, and from the cultural sociology. Critical discourse analysis was the main analytical tool used for data analysis. It was supplemented by content analysis and functional grammar.

First chapter showcases the significance of the collective memory for contemporary national cultures. It also defines crucial theoretical concepts, such as culture, national identity, cultural syntagma, collective memory, myth, and invented tradition. Second chapter presents crucial post-war processes, which determined how collective memory of the Pacific War has been constantly constructed and reconstructed. Third chapter deals with clashes between hegemonic collective memory and numerous counter-memories, which since 1970s has become present in the public debate regarding the wartime past. It focuses on the processes that allowed certain elements of the counter-memories into the dominant narrative of the war. Last chapter analyses main factors that influence contemporary institutional collective memory, such as history textbooks and history museums.