

Call for Sessions - WEHC 2015 [S20035]

Proposed title of the session

The Economic and Business History of Occupied Japan

Abstract

This panel focuses on the economic and business history in Japan under the Allied Occupation of 1945 to 1952. Despite great advances being made in recent years in relation to many aspects of the history of the Occupation of Japan, the economic and business history of this key era remains largely either dormant or unexplored. This situation is interesting as the period is argued by many to contain many of the seeds of the postwar flowering of what some term the 'postwar Japanese economic miracle'. This panel and the edited volume which it will produce aim to reinvigorate the study of this key period in Japan's postwar transformation and open up numerous previously neglected aspects of the business and economic history of Occupied Japan. The panel comprises of four papers which reflect a range of key topics within the economic and business history of the period:

Steven Ericson (Associate Professor, Dartmouth College), adopts a new approach to the study of the Zaibatsu dissolution program through focusing on the hitherto neglected role of Japanese business leaders in resisting Occupation policy, and their role in the eventual rollback of some of the same policies.

Tom French (Associate Professor, Ritsumeikan University) presents on the changing fortunes of the Japanese automotive industry in this era and the shifting influence of the Occupation authorities upon it, from initially hindering its development, to later encouraging its growth.

William M. Tsutsui (Dean, Dedman College, Professor, Southern Methodist University) examines the collapse, recovery and expansion to overcapacity of the Japanese fishing industry during the Occupation and the level of continuity this represented between pre-war and Occupation fisheries policies.

Juha Saunavaara (Post-Doc, University of Oulu) presents on the renewed Japanese focus on the economic potential of Hokkaido in this era as a result of the loss of key colonial markets and sources of raw materials, and the role the Occupation in this change of policy.

Note: An additional mini-conference on the same subject will be held at Ritsumeikan University on the day preceding the panel, to which other scholars of the Occupation and all participants of the WEHC will be invited.

I. Corresponding Session Organiser

Prof. Tom French (Ritsumeikan University [Japan])

II. Co-Organiser(s)

1. Corresponding Organiser.

III. Expected Participant(s)

1. same as correspondent.
2. William Tsutsui (Dedman College / Southern Methodist University [United States of America])
3. Steven Ericson (Dartmouth College [United States of America])
4. Juha Saunavaara (University of Oulu [Finland])