

= Ikuhiko Hata =

Ikuhiko Hata (1932 , Hata Ikuhiko , born 12 December 1932) is a Japanese historian . He acquired his PhD at the University of Tokyo and has taught history at several universities . He is the author of a number of influential and well @-@ received scholarly works , particularly on topics related to Japan 's role in the Second Sino @-@ Japanese War and World War II .

Hata is variously regarded as being a " conservative " historian or a " centrist " . He has written extensively on such controversial subjects as the Nanking Massacre and the comfort women . Fellow historian Edward Drea has called him " the doyen of Japanese military historians " .

= = Education and career = =

Ikuhiko Hata was born on 12 December 1932 in the city of H?fu in Yamaguchi Prefecture . He graduated from the University of Tokyo in 1956 and received his PhD there in 1974 . He worked as chief historian of the Japanese Ministry of Finance between 1956 and 1976 and during this period from 1963 to 1965 he was also a research assistant at Harvard University . After resigning his post at the Finance Ministry Hata served as a visiting professor at Princeton University from 1977 to 1978 and then was a history professor at Takushoku University from 1980 to 1993 , at Chiba University from 1994 to 1997 , and at Nihon University from 1997 to 2002 .

= = Scholarship = =

Hata has been described by numerous historians as an important scholar on the history of modern Japan . Historian Edward Drea has called him " the doyen of Japanese military historians " , and has written that Hata 's " published works are models of scholarship , research , accuracy , and judicious interpretation " , and Joshua A. Fogel , a historian of China at York University , concurs that Hata " is an eminent scholar who has for over forty years been writing numerous excellent studies of Japan at war . " Masahiro Yamamoto called him " a leading Japanese scholar in the field of Japan 's modern history " .

Hata 's first published history book was Nicch? Sens?shi (" A History of the Second Sino @-@ Japanese War ") , released in 1961 , which he began researching while completing his bachelor 's degree at the University of Tokyo . The work was well @-@ received , described by Chalmers Johnson as " the most thorough study of Japanese policies in China during the 1930s " and by James T.C. Liu as " a welcome and pioneering contribution " . Fifty years after its publication Edward Drea and Tobe Ryoichi called it " a classic account " of the war . Hata 's second book , the 1962 work Gun fashizumu und? shi (" A History of the Military Fascist Movement ") , was promoted by the historian Shuhei Domon as " a first @-@ rate narrative interpretation based on extensive use of documentary evidence . "

The Japan Association of International Relations selected Hata for a part of what historian James William Morley described as a team of " young , objective diplomatic and military historians " to be given unprecedented access to primary source records to write the history of the origins of World War II in Asia . The result was Taiheiy? sens? e no michi (" The Road to the Pacific War ") , published between 1962 and 1963 and then translated into English in the 1970s and 1980s . Hata contributed three essays to the series . Roger Dingman described the first , " The Japanese @-@ Soviet Confrontation , 1935 ? 1939 " , as " a wealth of new data " , and praised the second , " The Army 's Move into Northern Indochina " , for demonstrating " brilliantly how peaceful passage through northern Indochina became forceful occupation " . Mark Peattie wrote that Hata 's third essay , " The Marco Polo Bridge Incident 1937 " , was " the best overview we now have in English " of the event , and Hata would later expand it into a full @-@ length book which Edward Drea and Tobe Ryoichi called " the single best source on the incident " .

Starting in 1968 Hata headed a team of scholars with a task from the Ministry of Education to analyze all available sources and documents on the workings of the wartime and prewar armed forces of Japan . The fruit of their research was Nihon Rikukaigun no Seido , Soshiki , Jinji ("

Institutions , Organization , and Personnel of the Japanese Army and Navy ") , released in 1971 , which Mark Peattie called " the authoritative reference work in the field " . Soon after Hata was tasked with coordinating another collaborative research project , this one for the Finance Ministry , on the subject of the occupation of Japan by the United States after World War II . John W. Dower , Sadao Asada , and Roger Dingman credited Hata for the key role he played in producing the multivolume project , which began to be published in 1975 , and deemed it the best work of scholarship on the occupation produced until that point .

In 1993 Hata wrote a two @-@ volume work on controversial incidents in modern Japanese history , entitled Sh?washi no nazo wo ou (" Chasing the Riddles of Showa History ") , which was awarded the Kikuchi Kan Prize .

Hata co @-@ wrote two books with Yasuho Izawa on Japanese fighter aces of World War II , both of which were described by historians as the definitive treatments of the subject .

A work Hata had written in 1984 , Hirohito Tenn? Itsutsu no Ketsudan (" Emperor Hirohito 's Five Decisions ") , attracted the attention of Marius Jansen , who arranged to have it translated into English as Hirohito : The Showa Emperor in War and Peace . According to Edward Drea , on the question of " whether the emperor was really Japan 's ruler and power @-@ holder or merely a puppet and robot ... [Hata] concludes that the answer to this complex question lies somewhere in between , although Hata credits Hirohito with considerable political savvy . " Apart from Drea the book also garnered highly positive reviews from Stephen S. Large and Hugh Cortazzi .

= = = Nankin Jiken and Nanking Massacre death toll estimates = = =

Hata 's major contribution to Nanking Massacre studies is his book Nankin jiken (" The Nanking Incident ") , published in 1986 , which is a detailed study of the event based on Japanese , Chinese , and English sources that was later noted by historians such as Daqing Yang to be one of the few impartial works of scholarship written on the massacre during the period . The book is known for its relatively low estimate of the death toll , which Hata put at about 40 @,@ 000 partly because , unlike most historians of the time , he excluded Chinese soldiers killed in action from his definition of the massacre . Hata 's book is acknowledged as the first to discuss what might have caused the massacre , whereas previous books had focused only on the event itself . Hata argued that the Japanese Army 's lack of military police and facilities to detain POWs , its ignorance of international laws , its excessive mopping @-@ up operations , and the Chinese General Tang Shengzhi 's decision to flee the city without formally surrendering were among the factors which led to the slaughter .

Some contemporary researchers including the historian Tomio Hora and the journalist Katsuichi Honda expressed strong disagreement with Hata 's death toll estimate , though both expressed admiration for Hata 's scholarship and sincerity . Hata is today recognized as the major scholar of the so @-@ called " centrist " school of thought on the Nanking Massacre , which in terms of the death toll believes that tens of thousands were killed and thus stands between the " great massacre " school which believes that hundreds of thousands were killed , and the " illusion " school of Nanking Massacre deniers . By contrast , Takuji Kimura has criticized Hata as a " minimizer " of the atrocity , while still acknowledging that his book on the massacre was " an excellent study " and Herbert Bix has described him as " the most notorious " of the " partial deniers " of the Nanking Massacre . However , historians Haruo Tohmatsu and HP Willmott have stated that Hata 's estimate for the death toll is regarded in Japan as being " the most academically reliable estimate " .

Hata 's Nankin jiken has continued to receive plaudits from some scholars . In 2000 Marius Jansen endorsed it as " the most reasonable of many Japanese studies " on the massacre and in 2001 prominent Nanking Massacre scholar Yutaka Yoshida deemed it one of the top five books he recommends that people read on the Nanking Massacre , despite disagreeing with its death toll estimate . In 2003 Joshua Fogel called the book " still an authority in the field " , and Ritsumeikan University professor David Askew designated it " the best introductory work on the Nanjing Incident in any language " . By 1999 the book was in its nineteenth printing .

In November 1997 at a conference in Princeton University Hata was confronted by Iris Chang ,

author of the book *The Rape of Nanking*, who asked him why he doubted the testimony of Japanese POWs who had stated that hundreds of thousands of Chinese were killed in the atrocity. When Hata replied that torture and coercion of Japanese POWs made their testimony unreliable Chang walked out and the audience became unruly, shouting Hata down and yelling insults at him. The moderator Perry Link barely kept the situation under control. In the wake of this incident, similar disruptions by Chinese students who disagreed with his death toll estimate prevented Hata from speaking at a number of universities that he visited. Bob Wakabayashi of York University argues that Hata became more strident in his tone following these attacks, once calling it the "Nanking industry" in comparison with Norman Finkelstein's "Holocaust industry". In the 1980s Hata had stated that the death toll was 38 @, @ 000 to 42 @, @ 000 while holding out the possibility that it might have been as high as 60 @, @ 000, but when he wrote the second edition of *Nankin Jiken* in 2007 he indicated that 42 @, @ 000 massacred was the maximum possible and that the true number might have been lower.

= = Research on comfort women = =

Ikuhiko Hata is a leading historian on the subject of the comfort women who served alongside the Japanese Army in the 1930s and 1940s and is credited with being the first individual to expose as fraudulent the testimony of Seiji Yoshida, who claimed to have kidnapped Korean women for the Japanese military. Hata, who argues that the comfort women were not sex slaves but largely willing prostitutes with minority of them being sold by their parents and more crucially, no direct involvement by Japanese military except few incidents in South East Asia, summed up his views on the issue with,

" There were at most 20 @, @ 000 comfort women. None of them were forcibly recruited. Forty percent of them were from Japan, the most heavily represented nation. Many were sold to brokers by their parents. Some responded willingly to brokers' offers; others were deceived. I would add that, on the average, living conditions in the comfort stations were practically identical to those in brothels set up for American troops during the Vietnam War. "

Historian Chunghee Sarah Soh notes that Hata had put the total number of comfort women at 90 @, @ 000 in 1993 but he later revised the number downward because of " his political alignment with the conservative anti @-@ redress camp in Japan that emerged in the latter half of the 1990s " .

Hata would expand his research into the 1999 book *Ianfu to senj? no sei* (" Comfort women and sex on the battlefield "), described by Sarah Soh as " a 444 @-@ page treatise on the comfort women issue " . *Ianfu to senj? no sei* was noted for its extensive compilation of information, being praised by historian Haruo Tohmatsu as " probably the most well documented study on the question " and by Mainichi Shimbun reporter Takao Yamada as " an encyclopedia @-@ like collection of facts on comfort women " . In *The International History Review*, A. Hamish Ion stated that with this work Hata has succeeded in creating " a measured evaluation in the face of sensational and supposedly ill @-@ researched studies by George Hicks and others. " The book was also favorably reviewed by political scientist Itaru Shimazu and the journalist Takaaki Ishii. By contrast, historian Hirofumi Hayashi criticized the work for faulty use of documents, such as where Hata cites a document listing 650 comfort women allocated in five prefectures, when in fact the document said 400 comfort women.

Hata, who supports the retraction of the Kono Statement on comfort women, was the only historian appointed to the committee established by the government of Shinzo Abe to re @-@ examine the statement. In 2015 Hata led of group of Japanese historians in requesting that the publisher McGraw @-@ Hill make corrections to what they believed were erroneous descriptions of the comfort women in a world history textbook published in the United States.

= = Ideological leanings = =

Hata's general ideological leanings have been described in a variety of manners. Some sources have referred to him as being a right @-@ leaning scholar, such as Thomas U. Berger who has

called him , " a highly respected conservative Japanese historian " . Others , however , find characterizing Hata in these terms to be inaccurate , such as military historian Masahiro Yamamoto who notes that in the historical debate on the Nanking Massacre Hata was a centrist who actually leaned closer to the " traditionalist " scholars than the conservative " revisionists " . Takao Yamada likewise points out that Hata has criticized all sides in historical controversies and he argues that Hata can be better described as a " positivist " .

Hata is known as a strong opponent of the attempts by some Japanese nationalists to revise Japan 's wartime history in a way that he deems ideologically biased . Hata , whom the Wall Street Journal described as an advocate of the " we @-@ did @-@ wrong view " of Japanese history , has expressed grave concern about the advent of new historical revisionists seeking to apologize for Japan 's wartime aggressions and absolve former Prime Minister Hideki Tojo . In 1995 Hata stepped down from a government commission on the construction of a new war museum near Yasukuni Shrine in fear that the project would be used to glorify Japan 's wartime actions . He favors the de @-@ enshrinement of war criminals from Yasukuni Shrine and is also a critic of Y?sh?kan , a museum near the shrine , for its nationalist @-@ inspired portrayal of Japanese history . While he has been strongly critical of efforts by Japanese nationalist groups to alter history textbooks , Hata also agreed to testify for the Ministry of Education against left @-@ wing historian Saburo Ienaga who believed that his textbook was being censored by the Japanese government . Hata has supported the work of the Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform , despite noting that the textbook which the Society had authored " was colored more strongly by nationalism than others " .

In 2007 Hata was vocal in his denunciation of an essay written by Toshio Tamogami , a former general in the Japanese Air Self @-@ Defense Force , which sought to justify Japanese imperialism . Hata found Tamogami 's essay to be " of extremely low quality " and full of " old conspiracy theories " . Because of his scholarship on the Nanking Massacre Hata has been attacked by Nanking Massacre deniers such as Masaaki Tanaka , who said that Hata was infected with " IMTFE syndrome " , and Sh?ichi Watanabe .

In 1990 Hata argued that the recently released monologue of Emperor Hirohito , the former Emperor 's recollection of wartime Japan which he recorded shortly after World War II , had likely been created to prove to the United States that he was not involved in war crimes and consequently Hata theorized that an English language translation must have also been drawn up at the same time , a theory which was mocked by right @-@ wing scholars who felt the monologue was created as a simple historical record without ulterior motives . In 1997 the English language draft was discovered .

= = Personal life = =

Hata has been married to Kazuko Matsumura since 9 September 1973 and has one daughter , Mineko . He lives in Meguro in Tokyo , Japan .

= = Awards = =

1993 - Kikuchi Kan Prize

2014 - Mainichi Publishing Cultural Awards

= = Works in English = =

= = Books = =

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Hirohito : The Showa Emperor in War and Peace . Honolulu : University of Hawaii Press , 2007 .

= = = Chapters of books = = =

" Japanese Historical Writing on the Origins of the Pacific War " (in Papers on Modern Japan . Canberra : Australian National University Press , 1968 .)

" The Battle of Midway " (in Purnell 's History of the 20th Century Volume Seven . New York : Purnell , 1971 .)

" The Japanese @-@ Soviet Confrontation , 1935 @-@ 1939 " (in Deterrent Diplomacy : Japan , Germany , and the USSR 1935 @-@ 1940 . New York : Columbia University Press , 1976 .)

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= = = Articles = = =

" A Japanese View of the Pacific War " , Orient / West , July 1962 .

" Japan Under the Occupation " , The Japan Interpreter , Winter 1976 .

" The Postwar Period in Retrospect " , Japan Echo , 1984 .

" When Ideologues Rewrite History " , Japan Echo , Winter 1986 .

" Going to War : Who Delayed the Final Note ? " , Journal of American @-@ East Asian Relations , Fall 1994 .