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The Tokyo Tribunal: Perspectives on Law, History and Memory

edited by Viviane E. Dittrich, Kerstin von Lingen,
Philipp Osten and Jolana Makraiová

TOAEP

Torkel Opsahl
Academic Publisher

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The 'International Military Tribunal for the Far East' (IMTFE), held in Tokyo from May 1946 to November 1948, was a landmark event in the development of modern international criminal law. The trial in Tokyo was a complex undertaking and international effort to hold individuals accountable for core international crimes and delivering justice. The Tribunal consisted of 11 judges and respective national prosecution teams from 11 countries and a mixed Japanese-American team of defence lawyers. The IMTFE indicted 28 Japanese defendants, amongst them former prime ministers, cabinet ministers, military leaders and diplomats, based on a 55-count indictment pertaining to crimes against peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The judgment was not unanimous, with one majority judgment, two concurring opinions and three dissenting opinions. The trial and the outcome were the subject of significant controversy and the Tribunal's files were subsequently shelved in the archives. While its counterpart in Europe, the 'International Military Tribunal' (IMT) at Nuremberg, has been at the centre of public and scholarly interest, the Tokyo Tribunal has more recently gained international scholarly attention. This volume combines perspectives from law, history and the social sciences to discuss the legal, historical, political and cultural significance of the Tokyo Tribunal.

The collection is based on an international conference marking the 70th anniversary of the judgment of the IMTFE, which was held in Nuremberg in 2018. The volume features reflections by eminent scholars and experts on the establishment and functioning of the Tribunal, procedural and substantive issues as well as receptions and repercussions of the trial.

Note: The e-book version of the book can be downloaded on the Nuremberg Academy website and the print version of the book can be ordered directly via the TOAEP website.

