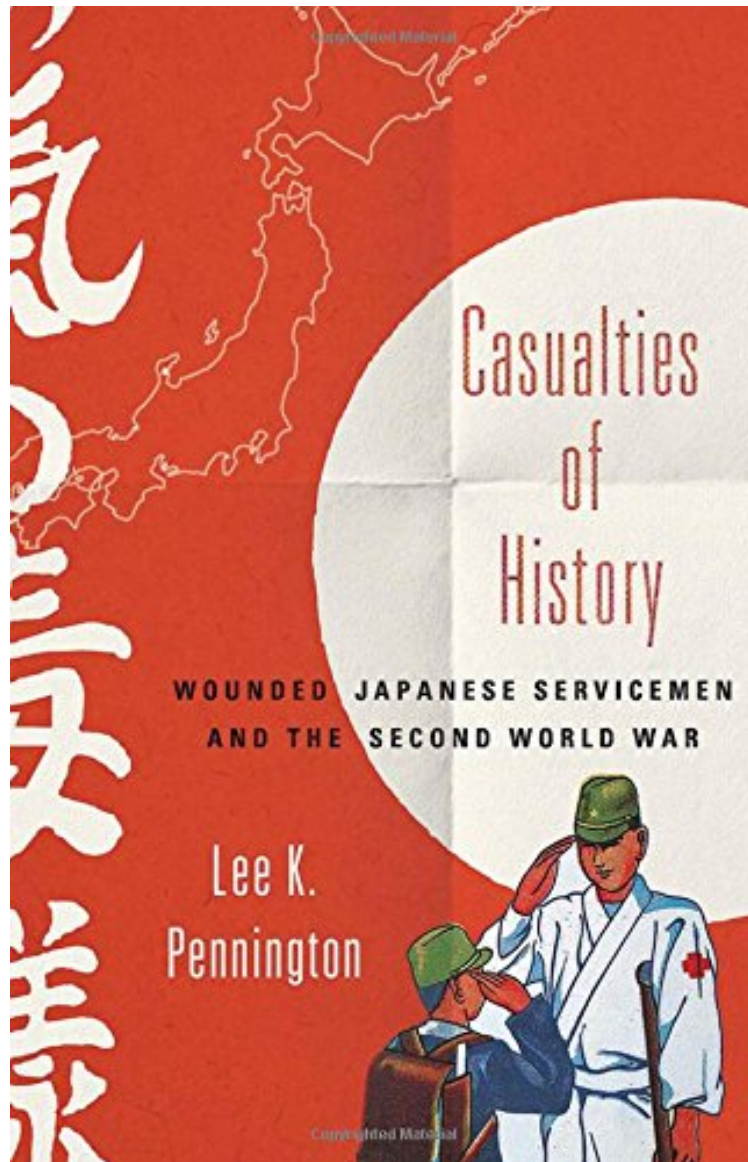


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(Studies of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University)

Casualties of History: Wounded Japanese Servicemen and the Second World War (Studies of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University)

Lee K. Pennington

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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Casualties of History: Wounded Japanese Servicemen and the Second World War* (Studies of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University):

Thousands of wounded servicemen returned to Japan following the escalation of Japanese military aggression in China in July 1937. Tens of thousands would return home after Japan widened its war effort in 1939. In *Casualties of History*, Lee K. Pennington relates for the first time in English the experiences of Japanese wounded soldiers and disabled veterans of Japan's "long" Second World War (from 1937 to 1945). He maps the terrain of Japanese military medicine and social welfare practices and establishes the similarities and differences that existed between Japanese and Western physical, occupational, and spiritual rehabilitation programs for war-wounded servicemen, notably amputees. To exemplify the experience of these wounded soldiers, Pennington draws on the memoir of a Japanese soldier who describes in gripping detail his medical evacuation from a casualty clearing station on the front lines and his medical convalescence at a military hospital. Moving from the hospital to the home front, Pennington documents the prominent roles adopted by disabled veterans in mobilization campaigns designed to rally popular support for the war effort. Following Japan's defeat in August 1945, U.S. Occupation forces dismantled the social welfare services designed specifically for disabled military personnel, which brought profound consequences for veterans and their dependents. Using a wide array of written and visual historical sources, Pennington tells a tale that until now has been neglected by English-language scholarship on Japanese society. He gives us a uniquely Japanese version of the all-too-familiar story of soldiers who return home to find their lives (and bodies) remade by combat.

"This book is rich in detail and sources, and places the wounded veteran in the greater context of Japanese culture and the militarization (and subsequent demilitarization) of Japanese society. . . . Pennington's work is a valuable addition to the expanding historiography on those survivors of war aptly described as the debris of battle." Steven Oreck, *H-War* (July 2015) "After Japan surrendered to the Allies in 1945, a segment of the population became effectively disenfranchised in the decades to come. 'In an era of memories and memoirs filled with the voices of failed kamikaze pilots, bereaved families, and atomic-bombing survivors, there was little room remaining for the tales of war-wounded, leftover servicemen,' writes Dr. Pennington, a U.S. Naval Academy professor. His book provides just that room." Lee K. Pennington, *GW Magazine* (Winter 2016) "Lee Pennington is most effective in blending analyses of government documents with accounts of boots-on-the-ground soldiers and veterans. His book is now the best investigation of Japanese wartime medicine, physical trauma, and social mobilization in support of rehabilitation. It deserves a place on the must-read list of every student of Japan in and after the Second World War." Aaron William Moore, *Michigan War Studies* (June 24, 2016) "In this pioneering book, Lee Pennington adds to the growing literature that places the history of the body squarely within the narrative of modern Japan and the history of the Asia-Pacific War. *Casualties of History* examines wounded servicemen, who, despite prominence as symbols of righteous sacrifice during World War II, became forgotten relics of a painful military debacle. *Casualties of History* is an innovative study that draws upon hitherto unexplored sources, including a variety of visual materials that are reproduced as colour plates in the mid-section of the book, and adds to a richer understanding of Japanese culture during the Asia-Pacific War." Alexander R. Bay, *Medical History* "Meticulously researched and thoughtfully conceived, *Casualties of History* is a premier work of disability history one that deserves to be read by students and teachers alike." John M. Kinder, *Disability Studies Quarterly* "Casualties of History is an innovative study that draws upon hitherto unexplored sources, including a variety of visual materials that are reproduced as color plates in the mid-section of the book, and adds to a richer understanding of Japanese culture during the Asia-Pacific War." Alexander R. Bay, *Medical History* (July 2016) "Meticulously researched and thoughtfully conceived, *Casualties of History* is a premier work of disability history one that deserves to be read by students and teachers alike." John M. Kinder, *Disability Studies Quarterly* (2016) "Casualties of History is a terrific book. Lee K. Pennington's wide-ranging social history of Japanese disabled veterans during World War II and its aftermath affords a fresh look at Japan in war and defeat. Pennington focuses his attention on those who were arguably the most immediate victims as well as benefactors of Japan's modern war machine and lived to tell the tale, as far as people cared to listen. With a sensitive, sure hand, Pennington locates Japan's war-injured men at the center of a web of social, political, and cultural relations that informed and were informed by innovative responses to war, especially on the home front." Franziska Seraphim, Boston College, author of *War Memory and Social Politics in Japan, 1945-2005* "Based on a deep immersion in Japanese-language sources and an impressive familiarity with Japanese culture, Lee K. Pennington's book about wounded soldiers and disabled veterans succeeds in bridging the analytical gap between the perspectives of disability studies and the new military history, and brings to life the sufferings of these neglected men and uses to which their sacrifices were put by the Japanese state. It evokes especially convincingly the problems that massive civilian casualties and military defeat caused in making sense of their service." David A. Gerber, University at Buffalo (SUNY), editor of *Disabled Veterans*

in HistoryAbout the Author Lee K. Pennington is Associate Professor of History at the United States Naval Academy.