

## *Preface*

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Can Philosophy constitute “resistance”?

Frankly speaking, I don’t know for sure. The answer would depend upon what the “resistance” is again.

I don’t know, therefore, whether my essays in this book are more or less the forms of philosophical “resistance.” I wonder if they contain certain elements of the “resistance” *to* philosophy, at least philosophy in its academic style. Resistance by philosophy and resistance *to* philosophy: Are they compatible?

At any rate, these essays don’t tend to think about pre-established “philosophical problems,” but about “contemporary history.” Endeavoring here to reflect upon historical events of our times and their meanings, I have a special concern for the “logic of sacrifice” which stirs in our society and our world.

In publishing this book, I’m indebted to many people. I wish to express my gratitude to all of them on this occasion.

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Tetsuya Takahashi



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1. « « Philosophie de l'histoire mondiale ». *Logique du nationalisme philosophique japonais* » was published in *Le passages des frontières : Autour du travail de Jacques Derrida*, Colloque de Cerisy, Galilée, 1994.
2. “Community and the Law of Return: Between Ethics and the Question of Being” was originally published in Tetsuya Takahashi, *Logos in Counterlight, Contexts of Contemporary Philosophy* (Miraisha, 1992), and published in *Review of Japanese Culture and Society*, vol. VII, December 1995. Translated by Yu Oba.
3. “Japanese Neo-Nationalism: A Critique of Katō Norihiro’s ‘After the Defeat’ Discourse” was originally given as a seminar on 19 March, 1999 in Paris at the Collège International de Philosophie, first published in Tetsuya Takahashi, *Problems of Postwar Responsibility* (Kodansha, 1999), and published in *Contemporary Japanese Thought*, ed. Richard F. Calichman, Columbia University Press, 2005. Translated by Richard F. Calichman.
4. “From the *Hinomaru* and *Kimigayo* to the Symbolic Emperor System” was originally published in *Ronza*, September 1999, revised in Tetsuya Takahashi, *Problems of Postwar Responsibility* (Kodansha, 1999) and published in *Contemporary Japanese Thought*, ed. Richard F. Calichman, Columbia University Press, 2005. Translated by Richard F. Calichman.
5. “History and Judgement: The Women’s International War Crimes Tribunal” was published in *Imagining the Past, Remembering the Future: War, Violence and Memory in Asia*, ed. Maria Serena I. Diokno, the University of Philippines Center for Integrative and Development Studies, 2001.
6. “The Emperor Shōwa Standing at Ground Zero: on the (re-)configuration of a National ‘Memory’ of the Japanese People” was published in *Japan Forum*, vol. 15., number 1, 2003.
7. “The national politics of Yasukuni Shrine” was published in *Nationalism in Japan*, ed. Naoko Shimazu, Routledge, 2006. Translated by Philip Seaton.
8. “Legacies of Empire: The Yasukuni Shrine controversy” was given as the summer seminar series of The Japanese Department, School of Languages, Linguistics and Culture, Birkbeck College, University of London, 26 June 2007 and published in *Yasukuni, the War Dead and the Struggle for Japan’s Past*, ed. John Breen, Hurst & Company, 2007.
9. “Nation and Sacrifice” was unpublished paper.
10. “Can Philosophy Constitute Resistance? : An Interview of Takahashi Tetsuya by Lee Hyo Duk” was a slightly revised version of an interview published in issues one (Autumn,

2004) and two (Winter, 2005) of Quarterly *Zen'ya*, reprinted in Takahashi Tetsuya, *In pursuit of "freedom of the spirit" in this country: can philosophy constitute resistance?*; *Zen'ya* Booklet no. 2, 2006. Translated by Norma Field for a session of the East Asia: Trans-regional Histories Workshop of the University of Chicago, March 7, 2007.