

**Sven Saaler: Politics, Memory and Public Opinion. The History Textbook Controversy and Japanese Society. München: Iudicium, 2005.**

Besprochen von Jeff Kingston in *The Japan Times*, 18.12.2005, S. 11.

This is a great book because it exposes the fallacies of conservative historians who are trying to foist collective amnesia on an unwilling public. Sven Saaler, a professor at the University of Tokyo, succinctly limns the controversies of war memory that persist in 21st-century Japan. He takes on the revisionist Dr. Feelgoods of Japanese history, carefully eviscerating their attempts to assert a valorous and vindicating narrative. He explores the gap between the conservative political elite and a sensible Japanese public that has not warmed to their whitewashing of history. I am happy to have such a cogently argued book to assign my students.