East Asia Seminar Series
At the University of Cambridge
Professor Sheldon Garon

On the Transnational Destruction of Cities: What Japan and the U.S. Learned from the Bombing of Britain and Germany in World War II

How did it become “normal” to bomb cities and civilians? Focusing on the aerial bombardment of Japan in 1945, Garon spotlights the role of transnational learning in the construction of the “home front” among all the belligerents. World War II was a global experience, yet histories of the home front remain confined to individual nations. In reality, not only did the warring states study each other’s strategies to destroy the enemy’s “civilian morale,” they also investigated others’ efforts to defend one’s own home front by means of “civilian defense.” In this transnational world of knowledge-gathering, Japan emerged as a central player. But it was Japan’s fate to suffer the war’s most lethal firebombing, based on what the Allies had learned from bombing European cities.


All are welcome // Monday 27 November 2017 // 5-7pm

Rooms 8/9
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