



Guest Lecture:
Prof. Dr. Tsuyoshi Hasegawa

„Did the Atomic Bomb End the Pacific War? Stalin, Truman and the Surrender of Japan“

This lecture challenges the prevailing view in the United States that the atomic bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the most decisive factor that led Japan to surrender. Analyzing the mutually beguiling negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union over the strategy to effect Japan's surrender in 1945, Hasegawa argues that the United States dropped the atomic bombs (1) to force Japan to surrender (2) before the Soviet Union entered the war. Having learned of Truman's intention, Stalin hastened to enter the war. Since Japan was clinging to its last hope to end the war through Soviet mediation, the Soviet entry into the war had more important impact on Japanese decision to surrender.

Tuesday, 19 March 2019, 17:00 s.t.
Institute of East European History, Seminar Room

Tsuyoshi Hasegawa taught at the University of California at Santa Barbara. He is the author of: *Racing the Enemy: Stalin, Truman, and the Surrender of Japan* (2005); *Crime and Punishment in the Russian Revolution* (2017), and *The February Revolution, Petrograd 1917* (2017).

Prof. Dr. Kerstin Susanne Jobst – Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Mueller – Prof. Dr. Oliver Rathkolb
In Kooperation mit dem Institut für Zeitgeschichte