Abstract
Tokyo’s announcement of surrender in August 1945 signaled defeat but at the same time a rather ambivalent beginning to a transition from war to peace. China’s moves (KMT and CCP) to pursue Japanese war criminals offered one means to resolve upturned former imperial hierarchies. These moves demonstrated that the Chinese authorities were “just,” a crucial element to bolster domestic and international backing as China tried to access its new role as a major player in the shifting sands of a revamped world order. The legal restructuring of East Asia and Japan’s relations with its neighbors in East Asia played a vital function in redressing colonial and imperial power domains during the later years of the war and entry into the Cold War. These processes assist in how we form our understanding of the dissolution of the Japanese empire and how new leaders struggled with nascent nationalist forces.

Selected Publications by Dr. Kushner