

The Legacies of the Tokyo International Military Tribunal

Professor Robert Cryer
University of Birmingham

Tuesday October 16th, 2007 15.00 - 17.00 Lipsius building, LUF room (148)



Abstract

It is often thought that the Tokyo International Military Tribunal is a forgotten tribunal, and in the view of some, one that has rightly disappeared into the mists of time. This talk will seek to query these judgments. There are a number of reasons for a reassessment of the general (Western) view of the Tokyo IMT. First, it is Eurocentric; the Tokyo IMT is not forgotten in Japan. Second, such an approach tends to focus only on one or two aspects of the Tribunal, whilst analyses of the legacy of the trial need to recognise that the evaluation of multiple dimensions are required. These include the legal, historical, didactic and political functions/legacies, although they all overlap. Finally, even if all the critiques of the Tribunal are accurate, and as Cherif Bassiouni has said 'Tokyo...was a precedent that legal history can only consider with a view not to repeat it', it is necessary to know what is not to forget. Such an evaluation can provide useful lessons for the future, inter alia for other international criminal tribunals.



Robert Cryer is Professor of International and Criminal Law at the University of Birmingham. His current research includes writing a book on The Tokyo International Military Tribunal for Oxford University Press.

For more information, please visit our website: www.mearc.eu

Or contact us at: info@mearc.eu

