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Glamorizing Shame: National Memories of War in the Transnational Cinema

Traditionally, historical drama has been a significant technology of memory that popularized the cultural politics of national identity and issues of regional supremacy. The growing interests in transnational film culture and cultural cooperation in recent years, however, forces us to reconsider national paradigms in representations of historical conflicts. This paper will discuss the cinematic representation of the Korean involvement in the 'Great East Asian War'. Japanese and Korean national cinemas have continued to deal with colonial history and war memories. The historical representations bring the different perspectives and positions within their countries to light. The films chosen for this study include a colonial film, *Volunteer* (An Seokyeong, 1941) a Japanese film, *Hotaru* (Huruhata Yasuo, 2001), and the Korean films, *Blue Swallow* (Yoon Jongchan, 2004) and *The Good, the Bad and the Weird* (Kim Jiwoon, 2008).