

METH, RAPE, & STATE

Japan's Post-War Drug Epidemic

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A Nation in Crisis



“The *addict*... was a fitting symbol of a defeated country.” – Dr. Miriam Kingsberg

Question & Argument

How was the methamphetamine epidemic of the 1950s implicated in Japan's nation-rebuilding efforts in the post-war period?

The methamphetamine epidemic became a nation-building effort in itself, demonstrating the Japanese state's ability to address a major social issue. By implementing legal measures and using the media to mobilize public opinion, the state successfully united with the public to curb the crisis.

Beginnings

- Immediate Post-War
- Pharmaceutical Companies
 - Dai-Nippon Pharmaceuticals
 - *Hiropon*
- Initial Government Legislation
 - Pharmaceutical Affairs Law
 - Stimulant Control Act



Proliferation

- **Illicit Production & Drug use**

- The Needle

- **Crime Skyrockets**

- Kyoko-Chan incident

- **Media Frenzy**

- Asahi Shimbun
- Japan Times

- **Drug Panic**



Call to Action

- **Effective Government Action**

- Ammendements
- Police Reform
- Korean Discrimination

- **Public Initiatives**

- Public Education
- Mothers Associations
- Teacher & Student Organizations

- **Curbing the Epidemic**

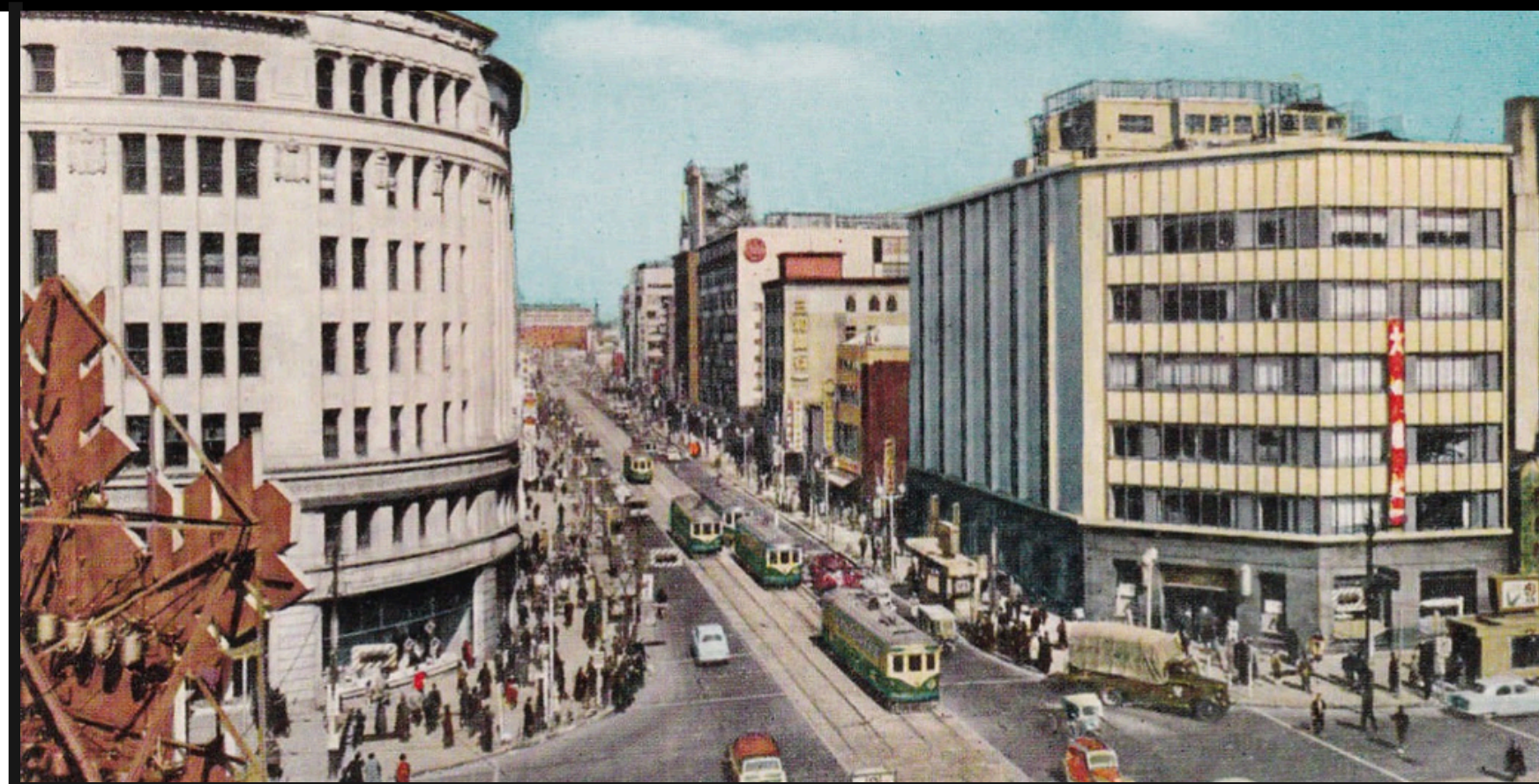
Number of arrests related
to methamphetamines



1953	38,263	38,514
1954	53,211	55,664
1955	30,672	32,145
1956	5,014	5,233
1957	779	803
1958	268	271

So what...?

- An important chapter in Japan's post-war period
- Lack of Discourse
- White-washing of Japanese history
- A case study to effectively combat drug epidemics



THANK YOU!

