

Dr. Jeremy A. Yellen

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The Chinese University of Hong Kong Jeremy A. Yellen is a historian of modern Japan and an Assistant Professor of Japanese Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

All are welcome. No registration is required. For enquiries, please contact Dr Javier Cha at javierc@hku.hk.

This talk explores the exciting politics behind Japan's decision to surrender 70 years ago. It takes issue with the existing tendency among scholarship to focus on military affairs at the expense of a broader understanding of the domestic situation in Japan. I argue that domestic politics was a critical factor behind the decision to terminate the war in August 1945. A near-obsessive fear of social revolution, I argue, played an important role in prompting Japan's conservative ruling elites to make the decision to end the war.