

Section #8

Legacies of U.S. post-war occupations

November 3, 2023

Monday, 11/6 @ 5pm

Assignment #2 via Canvas

“Crimes”

- *Crime against peace*: using military force against another state without a cause for self-defense
- *War crime*: breach of the laws of war (e.g., killing civilians or prisoners of war, use of child soldiers, intentional attacks against hospitals, etc.)
- *Crimes against humanity*: violent victimization (e.g., killing, torture, deportation, etc.) against civilians, directed by or on behalf of the state
- *Genocide*: violent victimization with the intent to destroy another group

More specific international legal components here:

<https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/war-crimes.shtml>

Tokyo Tribunal

May 1946-November 1948

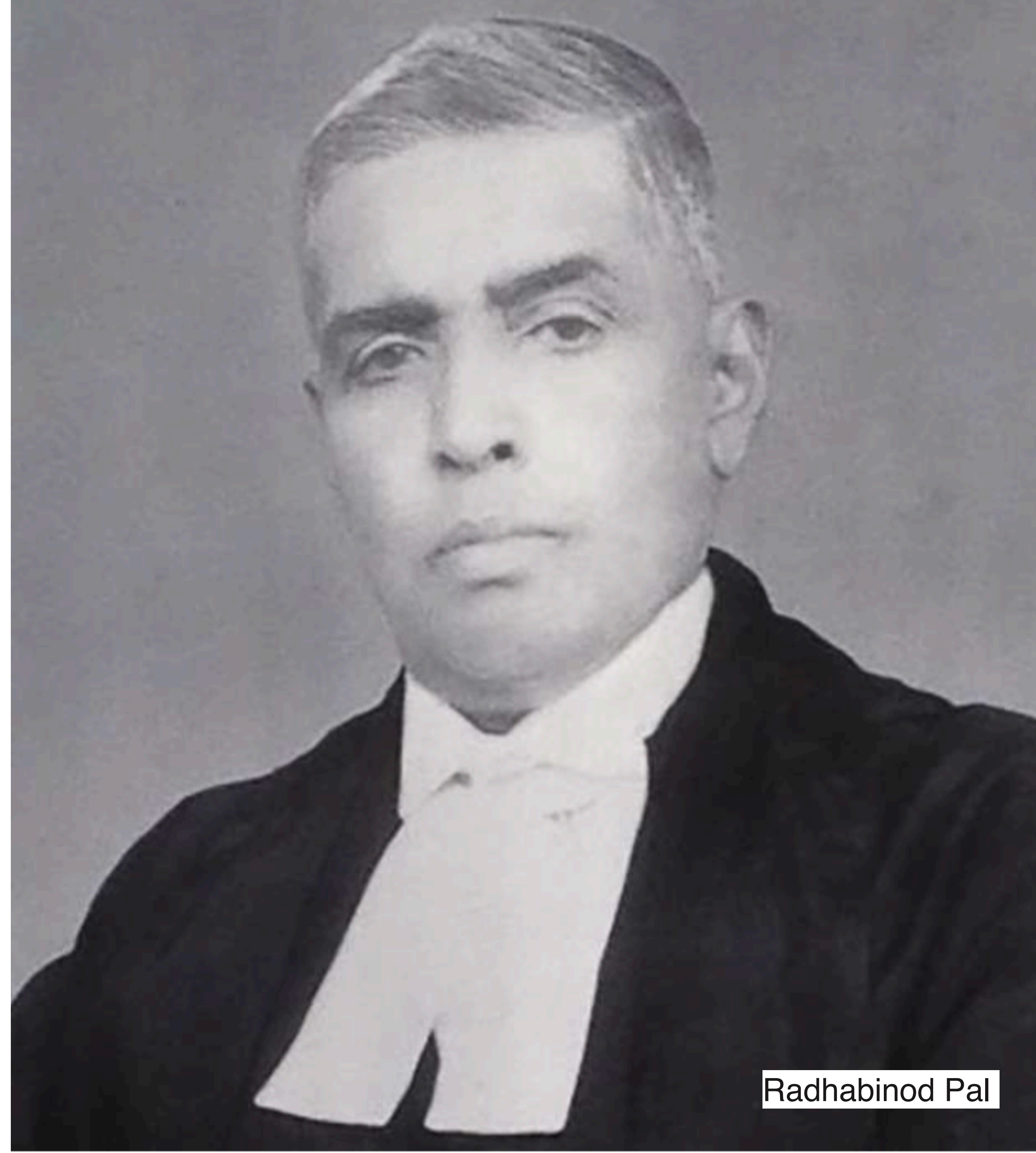
- Jurisdiction to try individuals for CAP, WCs, & CAH, from 1931 (invasion of Manchuria) to 1945
- 11 justices presided —> needed a simple majority to convict
- Outcome: 7 sent to gallows, 18 prison sentences



“This trial was the worst hypocrisy in recorded history” - General Charles Willoughby in conversation with Justice B.V.A. Röling (Dower, 451).

Discussion 1

Throughout the course, we have shed light on the contradictory nature of U.S. aims and policies during its military occupations abroad. How does this theme manifest itself in this week's readings? Specifically, consider John Dower's discussion of the Tokyo tribunal.



Radhabinod Pal

Discussion 2: Outcomes & legacies

Which of the authors' arguments persuades you, and why?

Forced to Be Free (Montgomery)

"The thesis of this book is that the Allied program for the occupation of Germany and Japan after World War II constituted the first halting effort to induce "artificial revolution" on behalf of democracy; that this effort was only partially successful; and that these experiences, whether successes or failures, may have both immediate and long-range implications for the conduct of America's present foreign policy."

Epilogue to Embracing Defeat (Dower)

"The anomaly of SCAP's neocolonial revolution from above was thus that it cut both ways—toward genuinely progressive change *and* toward a reaffirmation of authoritarian structures of governance."

"The lessons and legacies of defeat have been many and varied indeed; and their end is not yet in sight."

Foreign Affairs article (Ladejinsky 1959)

"The entire character of the Occupation was a singular demonstration of a conqueror binding the wounds of the conquered... In its effect upon Japan, and against the background of the general malaise which still finds large parts of the agrarian world restless and discontented, the United States acted with farsighted statesmanship."

Is “the best course for the future... greater self-restraint or a more intelligent proselytizing of our [American] political faith”?

Montgomery in *Forced to be Free*