

Title: Weaponizing Science in the Name of the Land of the Rising Sun

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War obscures morality. During wartime, science becomes a weapon in the search for victory. Human experimentation is the manifestation of weaponizing science. Human experimentation during World War II tends to be synonymous to Germany. During this time, the Japanese were experimenting on humans. Unit 731 was a network where the experiments occurred. Unit 731 was located in Harbin, China and existed from 1936 to 1945. The experiments ranged from defensive to offensive approaches to give the Japanese advantages. The experiments included: frostbite, cholera, plague, anthrax, vivisection, and syphilis. Approximately 3,000 perished during the unit's existence. This facility was masterminded by Lieutenant General Shiro Ishii. Ishii's background--family and education--as well as political support helped in creating this unit. The main perpetrators were never held accountable. They went on to maintain important positions in Japanese society. This event remains controversial; the Japanese government does not acknowledge Unit 731 and what it embodies. This event is important to present because it demonstrates the fragile nature of science. Furthermore, this event remains obscure from the masses; therefore, it is detrimental to discuss it and its implications.

References

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