This chapter, by Sabine Frühstück, explores how children have been useful to militarism. During World War II, Japan's leaders used children to lend a moral authority to war and encouraged the dissemination of images of vulnerable and caring children interacting with soldiers. Children's early socialization into a military-centric culture was part of a campaign to both suppress and incite emotion in adults and children alike. Children were used as emotional capital because they were assumed to be politically innocent, pure, and endowed with authentic feelings, and adults were expected to respond with a set of specific, predictable emotions. After the war, the production of a victim culture turned the representation of the child into a symbol of suffering and the need for peace. Images of children placed them in the role of mediators with the American Occupation forces, and today the Self-Defense Forces put representations of children on recruitment posters.
How to cite this chapter


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Additional Information

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Perhaps more than during any other time, children became political actors and were exploited as such during Japan's modern wars. Drawing from her new book, Playing War: Children and the Paradoxes of Modern Militarism in Japan, Frühstück examines the “use value” of children—as well as the necessity and inevitability of such use—in the ideological reproduction of modern war. She asks how a large body of pictures and narratives that tie soldiers to children have reproduced a multi-sensory emotional register that has been attributed to children: the assumption that children were politically innocent.

Emotional War
By: black-ninga-kat

Every day is a war
Going into battle
So I can live in one peace
And not pieces
Their words
Like a serrated knife
Stabbing into my heart
This emotional abuse
Like fire it consumes
Burning me with my own beliefs
If I let myself go
They will win
If I fight on
I will lose.

I give credet to a fan of darknesses daughter and my older brother jesse and my sister in-law chauntel  ♥ those names will be on the ones they wrote except darknesses daughter's name...i will wright ddf for darknesses daughter fan kk :3.

Published April 24, 2012 · updated July 27, 2017. 12 pages · 487 reads.

Your beating heart and the screaming is the reaction of your body. While you are scared and your first intention might be to run away quickly, you also noticed that this was simply your friend playing a joke on you. We also invite children who struggle with emotion processing and regulation to see whether their brain structure and function looks any different from the children who do not have trouble with emotion processing. So far, there have been several small studies, suggesting that there are differences in brain function and structure in children with aggressive behavior [4]. But, as our MRI section describes, there are challenges when doing research studies with younger participants.