Demon or Savior: Oda Nobunaga in the Historical Memory of Japan

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ABSTRACT

The historical memory of cultures plays a major role in how those cultures interact with the world around them. After a brief overview of previous work on the importance and uses of historical memory, this research effort looks at one of the most iconic and divisive figures in Japanese history to demonstrate further the impact of historical memory on contemporary cultures: the warlord Oda Nobunaga. Using evidence about Nobunaga that incorporates the historical record and his portrayal in various forms of media, this research suggests that understanding the historical memory of a culture is vital to interacting with that culture in depth and over time.