Preface

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As is widely known, imperial Japan fought the most devastating and miserable war – the so-called Fifteen Year War (1930–45) – which had disastrous consequences and led to horrible losses. The Japanese troops' invasion of neighboring and "enemy" nations is reported to have resulted in approximately twenty million casualties, including invaders and victims, soldiers and civilians. Immediately after the defeat, the Japanese people's firm determination to avoid repeating the same folly of war-making produced several memorable deeds and institutions. Among them is the Japanese Constitution of 1947 called the "Peace Constitution". In the Japanese Constitution one can find the Japanese people's firm resolution for the renouncement of war and the renunciation of military force.

Another precious creation after the defeat was certainly the founding of International Christian University (ICU), Tokyo, Japan. This highly renowned and preeminent small liberal arts university is located in the western suburbs of Tokyo. In 1949 ICU was founded as the "university of tomorrow" and dedicated to bringing forth young men and women as makers of and workers for reconciliation and world peace. The founding of ICU can rightly be understood as a symbol of reconciliation between the United States and Japan, as many churches and individual Christians in the United States, together with a number of dedicated Japanese citizens, cooperated and donated in order to create this "university of tomorrow". Thus, the 21st Century Center of Excellence (COE) program in the field of multidisciplinary peace research has not only constituted the very core of education and research at ICU, but has been its *raison d'être* since the founding of the university.

The few years following the end of World War II on August 15, 1945 were a deeply agonized, and yet momentary and blessed period for the people of Japan. For as is widely known, the US policy toward East Asia drastically changed around 1950 due to the start of the Cold War in this region. The early post-war period constituted a unique and unprecedented epoch in which the people of Japan, the Japanese government, and the occupying

American and Allied forces alike keenly aspired to peace in the region. Small peace and scarce safety, as one might call them, as well as the minimum amount of daily provisions, were earnestly sought after by Japanese people of every rank. Under these circumstances, the Japanese Constitution was enacted in 1947 and ICU was founded in 1949 as precious symbols and institutions of reconciliation and world peace. The Japanese Constitution served as the “constitution of tomorrow” and ICU was established as the “university of tomorrow” and dedicated to world peace.

ICU’s 21st Century COE program has two major objectives. First, we are searching for the presentation of concrete policy proposals and handbooks in various fields for the further realization of peace, security, and *kyosei*. Second, we are seeking a grand theory in comprehensive peace studies. Toward spring in 2008 we started publishing a number of books and articles, both in English and in Japanese, in support of the program objectives.

With regard to the quest for a grand theory or a grand design for peace, we organized a number of conferences and symposia held between 2003 and 2007, and invited prominent scholars both from inside and outside Japan to present papers. The chapters in this volume are one of the finest outcomes of this multi-year endeavor in the search for a grand design for peace. The authors are a good mixture of established and renowned scholars and young, promising scholars in the fields of the history of science, political theory, philosophy and theology, peace research, international politics and law, and the history of East Asia.

The chapters in this volume can be understood as a stimulating joint effort of scholars of diverse disciplines who have searched earnestly for an intellectually appropriate, practically transformative and viable type of grand theory for peace at the threshold of the 21st century. Our sole hope resides in the expectation that this book will arouse new interest in, and facilitate fruitful discussion of, the theoretical and practical task of seeking a grand design for reconciliation and peace.