

関東大震災

The Great Kantō Earthquake of 1923

- Tokyo on the Eve of Calamity
- The Earthquake and Fires
- The Aftermath
- The Dead

Reflections and Interpretations

Reconstruction and Readjustment

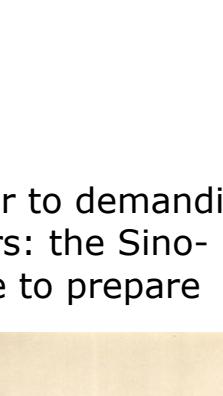
Remembering and Commemorating

About this Project

Image Archive

Map Archive

Multimedia Archive



The Aftermath

General Yamanashi Hanzō, the individual appointed to direct Japan's Martial Law Headquarters on 20 September 1923, was no stranger to demanding administrative or military tasks. Yamanashi was a seasoned soldier who had served in active combat during Japan's previous three wars: the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-95, the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05, and the First World War, 1914-1918. His previous experiences did little to prepare him for the tasks he faced in post-disaster Tokyo.

Overseeing restoration of political order, relief, and recovery in eastern Japan following disaster was more challenging than anyone, including Yamanashi, anticipated. Sufferers in eastern Japan were in want of everything imaginable including food, water, medical assistance, shelter, clothing, and lavatories. Most troubling to Yamanashi, however, was the fact that parts of Tokyo had descended into anarchy within hours of the disaster helping to transform a natural disaster into a human catastrophe.

