

昭和20年8月15日正午、ポツダム宣言を受諾した昭和天皇からの詔勅が全日本国民に向けて放送された。この瞬間、それまでラジオから響き渡っていた軍歌は突如として静まり、終戦を告げる玉音が響き渡ったのだ。難解な漢語と雑音に包まれた放送に続くアナウンサーの解説により、日本国民は敗戦の現実をラジオから知ることとなった。こうして、第二次世界大戦の幕が下りた。

まもなく戦後80年を迎える今日、未だ漂うきな臭さを一掃し、当時勝利を疑わず高揚したすべての人々の感情へレクイエムを捧げる。

At noon on August 15, 1945, Japan accepted the Potsdam Declaration, and a proclamation from Emperor Hirohito was broadcast over the radio to people throughout the country. At this moment, the martial music that radio stations had long blared out suddenly disappeared, replaced by the voice of the emperor proclaiming the end of the war. The message per se was hard for listeners to understand due to its use of many obscure expressions and the intrusion of static. It was consequently from the succeeding commentary by an announcer that the people learned the fact of Japan's defeat. In this way, the curtain came down on World War II.

Today, with the approach of the 80th anniversary of the war's end, I would like to dispel the smell of war still floating in the air and offer a requiem for the feelings of all those people whose spirits were whipped up during the war and who never doubted Japan's victory in it.

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Reference:

- “Potsdam Declaration”, <https://www.ndl.go.jp/constitution/e/etc/glossary.html>
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