WAR AND MILITARISM IN MODERN JAPAN
ISSUES OF HISTORY AND IDENTITY
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Edited by
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In memory of my father Haggai
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This volume is a fruit of ‘The International Conference on Japan in Honour of Professor Ben-Ami Shillony’, which took place at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel, between 29 April and 2 May 2007. Initiated by the university’s Department of East Asian Studies, the aim of the event was to pay tribute to Professor Shillony’s significant contribution to the research and study of Japan, and it was held also in honour of his retirement and seventieth birthday. Bringing together scholars of Japan from all over the world to present their studies and discuss them in front of peers, interested scholars and the general public, the conference revolved around the three themes which have been at the heart of Ben-Ami Shillony’s life-long research and teaching: the Japanese Emperor, the Japanese and the Jews, and War and the Military in Twentieth-century Japan. With the exception of Chapter 14, all chapters appearing in this book are revisions of some of the papers presented under the latter two themes.

As I had the honour of being in charge of the conference, my thanks first go to both the contributors who have prepared their papers for publication as well as to the participants whose presentations do not appear here, for their contribution to what turned out to be a highly successful event. Furthermore, the conference could not have materialized without the generous support of the Hebrew University’s Department of East Asian Studies, the university’s Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies, the Japan Foundation and Mr Jim Blum. I also extend my gratitude to Ms Idit Avidan for her helpful advice during the preparatory stages of the conference, and to the students Inbal Vaknin, Yiftach Govrin and Gilad Bar-Noy for faithfully assisting me throughout the intense days of the event. Finally, I thank Ben-Ami Shillony who has initially inspired me as a teacher, later also as a scholar, and now as a colleague and friend as well.

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