

This thesis deals with the beginnings of the Japanese nationalism. It examines the role of the Sino-Japanese war of 1894-1895 in these beginnings in relation to other national consciousness forming factors. Governmental activities, such as education system and army reforms, and the effort to stress the emperor as a symbol of the Japanese people, and also activities of the intellectual strata, who influenced the society mainly through journalism, were especially prominent among them. It stresses the importance of the period media (newspapers, illustrated magazines, woodcut prints) and early modern theatre to the spread of the national consciousness among masses. It also shows how the way the war was conveyed in the media influenced the view the Japanese had of themselves and of the neighbouring countries.