-- excerpted from “The End of the Pacific War in World War II,” by Gerhard L. Weinberg, as collected in Between War and Peace, How America Ends its Wars, edited by Col. Matthew Moten, published in 2011 by Free Press (Simon & Schuster, Inc.), New York

Many historians dispute the view that the United States was the legal occupier of Japan, and point out that ”The Allies occupied Japan.” However, Gerhard L. Weinberg (Ph.D., University of Chicago) clarifies the correct view in his essay “The End of the Pacific War in World War II.” He describes the historical situation in metropolitan Japan as follows:

The Japanese surrender and occupation meant that America’s key aim had been attained. The fact that an American was supreme commander and through his staff could provide direction to the country as a whole enormously simplified a process that would not be hampered by any need for unanimity -- or more likely conflicting plans and intentions -- of several occupying powers. There was an Allied Council that met regularly in Tokyo and included Soviet, British, and Chinese representatives, but it operated in practice as an advisory, not an executive or administrative body.

This essay is collected in Between War and Peace, How America Ends its Wars, edited by Col. Matthew Moten, published in 2011 by Free Press (Simon & Schuster, Inc.), New York