**The American Occupation and**

**Japanese War Brides**

[Questions for discussion after you see the trailer of the film “Fall Seven Times, Get Up Eight” and read a bit about its background at:

http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-33857059.]

View trailer at: http://www.fallsevengetupeight.com/.

1. The war fought against Japan was fueled by racist propaganda. [Do a Google image search of both Japanese anti-American propaganda posters and US anti-Japanese propaganda posters. Compare them.] Yet, tens of thousands of American soldiers sought to marry women whose race had been vilified in U.S. popular culture. Why?

2. Can you imagine relationships developing between an occupying force and the local population in any country on earth? What was it about the Americans and their role in Japan that made such relationships likely?

3. US government policy immediately after WWII was to ban "fraternization" between Americans and Japanese. Why do you think that was the case? Do you think that the same policy applied to U.S. soldiers in Europe?

4. Many U.S. states at that time criminalized marriages between whites and non-whites. What  was the philosophy and pseudo- science that drove these policies?

5. About 5,000 Japanese war brides trained in the domestic arts at so-called "Brides Schools" run by the Red Cross and sanctioned by the U.S. government. Why would the U.S. government get involved in giving housekeeping and beauty lessons to Japanese women? How did the shaping of ideal housewives fit the agenda of Cold War America?

6. What do you think the "Brides School" instruction said about American attitudes toward Japanese? Toward non-whites?

7. Do you think these war brides were able to assimilate into American society? Why or why not?

8. Do you think they and their families achieved "the American Dream”?