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The Second World War and the Controlled Economy

Chapter

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The Japanese Iron and Steel Industry, 1850–1990

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capacity and began to change its industrial structure. In 1937, when the China War broke out, Japan moved into a war economy, and the iron and steel industry, as the most important sector for the production of munitions, came under government control. This chapter will examine how heavy industrialisation and rapid economic growth in the early 1930s increased the production capacity of the industry and how the industrial policy of the government changed. It will also explore how the controlled economy worked, how it affected the iron and steel industry, and what the government and the industry learned from the controlled economy.

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Seiichiro Yonekura (Associate Professor of Business History)

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