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### **Considering Historical Chasms in Stories of Hiroshima Peace Bridges**

There are two bridges near the southern entrance of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. Named as Peace Bridge and West Peace Bridge, both provide access to the Park through the so-called Peace Boulevard, a hundred-meter-wide, American-sized road. Yet, when these bridges were built under the U.S. Occupation as a symbol of the reconstruction of Hiroshima after the atomic bombing, they were highly unpopular among local residents, including the bridges' modernist design conceived by the Japanese American architect, Isamu Noguchi. The writer Yoko Ota, who experienced the nuclear apocalypse, vividly captured in her story how the presence of these bridges provoked anxieties about the possible occurrence of another warfare and cynical feelings for an idea of "peace" in 1953. However, when these bridges appeared in stories written by the *manga* comic artist Fumiyo Kono fifty years later in 2007, they were rather depicted as an evocation of positive and optimistic feelings about "peace" and a postwar historical path of Hiroshima. This paper explores what kinds of memories and sentiments of these bridges are mobilized, buried, forgotten, recreated and remembered in literary and visual forms by comparing these two pieces with each other. In so doing, it also considers how these bridges not only divide but also connect idiosyncratic responses to historical chasms that have always existed in postwar Hiroshima.