

modern east asia a brief history

****Modern East Asia: A Brief History****

modern east asia a brief history offers a fascinating glimpse into one of the most dynamic and rapidly evolving regions of the world. From ancient civilizations to the bustling metropolises of today, East Asia's story is marked by cultural richness, political upheavals, economic transformations, and global influence. Understanding this history helps us appreciate how countries like China, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan have shaped—and been shaped by—the forces of modernization, colonialism, war, and economic development.

The Dawn of Modern East Asia

The transition to modernity in East Asia did not come overnight. For centuries, dynasties such as China's Qing, Japan's Tokugawa shogunate, and Korea's Joseon kingdom maintained traditional structures, often isolated from Western influence. However, the 19th century was a turning point.

The Impact of Western Imperialism

Western powers, driven by industrial expansion and colonial ambitions, forced open East Asian markets. The Opium Wars (1839-1842, 1856-1860) marked China's painful entry into global trade under duress, resulting in the "Century of Humiliation" that weakened the Qing dynasty. Meanwhile, Japan faced the arrival of Commodore Perry's Black Ships in 1853, which pressured it to end its two-century isolation.

This period saw the beginning of unequal treaties, territorial concessions, and internal strife. The forced opening of these economies challenged long-standing traditions and triggered social unrest, but also set the stage for rapid modernization.

Japan's Meiji Restoration: The Catalyst of Change

One of the most remarkable stories in modern East Asia is Japan's rapid transformation during the Meiji Restoration (1868-1912). Unlike China, which struggled to resist foreign domination, Japan embraced modernization as a national priority.

Reforms and Industrialization

The Meiji government abolished the feudal system, centralized political power, and actively sought to learn from the West. They revamped the military, adopted Western technology, and built infrastructure like railways and telegraph lines. Education reforms fostered a new generation skilled in science, engineering, and governance.

Japan's industrialization was swift, turning it into a regional power capable of competing with Western nations. This newfound strength was demonstrated in conflicts like the Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895) and Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905), where Japan emerged victorious, signaling a shift in regional power dynamics.

China's Turbulent Journey Through Modernization

While Japan surged ahead, China's path was more complicated and fraught with challenges. The Qing dynasty's inability to modernize effectively led to internal rebellions and external threats.

The Fall of the Qing and the Republican Era

The Taiping Rebellion (1850-1864) and other uprisings weakened imperial control. Efforts like the Self-Strengthening Movement aimed at industrial and military reform but lacked cohesion and suffered from conservative resistance.

Eventually, in 1911, the Qing dynasty collapsed, ending over two millennia of imperial rule. The Republic of China was established, but it faced fragmentation under warlords and struggled to unify the country.

The Rise of Nationalism and Communism

The early 20th century saw the rise of competing ideologies. The Nationalist Party (Kuomintang) under Chiang Kai-shek sought to modernize and unify China, while the Communist Party, founded in 1921, aimed for a revolutionary transformation.

This ideological rivalry culminated in a prolonged civil war, interrupted by the Japanese invasion during the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945), itself a brutal chapter in East Asian history. After World War II, the Communists triumphed, establishing the People's Republic of China in 1949, while the Nationalists retreated to Taiwan.

Korea and Taiwan: Colonization and Postwar Reconstruction

East Asia's modern history is incomplete without considering Korea and Taiwan, whose experiences highlight the region's colonial past and rapid postwar changes.

Korea Under Japanese Rule

From 1910 to 1945, Korea was under Japanese colonial rule, a period marked by harsh control,

cultural suppression, and economic exploitation. Resistance movements persisted, but the peninsula remained divided after World War II into North and South Korea, setting the stage for future conflict.

Taiwan's Transformation

Taiwan, ceded to Japan in 1895 after the First Sino-Japanese War, also experienced Japanese rule until 1945. The island underwent modernization under Japan's administration, especially in infrastructure and education.

After World War II, Taiwan became the refuge of the Kuomintang government. The island then transformed into a vibrant democracy and economic powerhouse, often referred to as one of the "Four Asian Tigers."

Postwar Recovery and Economic Miracles

The aftermath of World War II and the Korean War left East Asia devastated. Yet, the second half of the 20th century witnessed some of the most spectacular economic recoveries and growth in modern history.

Japan's Economic Miracle

Thanks to U.S. support, industrial policy, and innovation, Japan rebuilt quickly. By the 1960s and 70s, it became the world's second-largest economy, renowned for its automotive and electronics industries.

South Korea and Taiwan's Rapid Growth

South Korea and Taiwan followed similar trajectories in the 1960s and beyond, transitioning from agrarian economies to industrial exporters. Government-led initiatives, education, and export-oriented strategies fueled their "economic miracles," turning them into global players.

China's Reform and Opening Up

Beginning in 1978, China's economic reforms under Deng Xiaoping marked another chapter in modern East Asia's history. Moving away from strict central planning, China embraced market mechanisms, foreign investment, and export-led growth.

This shift sparked unprecedented development, lifting hundreds of millions out of poverty and positioning China as a global economic powerhouse by the 21st century.

Contemporary East Asia: Challenges and Opportunities

Today, modern East Asia stands as a vital hub of innovation, culture, and geopolitical complexity. The historical trajectory from imperial isolation to global integration continues to influence regional dynamics.

Geopolitical Tensions and Cooperation

The legacy of history shapes current relations. Issues such as territorial disputes in the South China Sea, the Korean Peninsula's division, and historical grievances occasionally strain ties among East Asian countries and their neighbors.

At the same time, economic interdependence and multilateral forums foster cooperation. East Asia's role in global supply chains, technology development, and cultural exchange highlights its enduring significance.

Looking Ahead: The Future of Modern East Asia

Understanding modern East Asia's brief history provides insights into its resilience and adaptability. As these nations navigate challenges like aging populations, environmental concerns, and shifting global power balances, their historical experiences offer lessons in innovation, diplomacy, and cultural vitality.

Whether it's through the lens of economic policy, social transformation, or international relations, the story of modern East Asia continues to unfold—rich, complex, and deeply influential on the world stage.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main focus of 'Modern East Asia: A Brief History'?

The book focuses on the historical developments in East Asia from the 19th century to the present, covering key events, cultural changes, and political transformations in China, Japan, Korea, and neighboring regions.

Who are the primary countries covered in 'Modern East Asia: A Brief History'?

The primary countries covered are China, Japan, and Korea, with discussions also including Taiwan, Mongolia, and other parts of East Asia.

How does 'Modern East Asia: A Brief History' address the impact of Western imperialism?

The book examines the effects of Western imperialism on East Asia, including the Opium Wars, unequal treaties, and the resulting political and social changes in the region.

What role does the Meiji Restoration play in the history presented in the book?

The Meiji Restoration is highlighted as a pivotal moment in Japan's modernization and emergence as a global power, influencing political, economic, and social reforms.

How are the Korean Peninsula's historical experiences portrayed in 'Modern East Asia: A Brief History'?

The book covers Korea's struggle with Japanese colonization, division after World War II, and the development of North and South Korea in the modern era.

Does the book cover the rise of communist China?

Yes, it details the fall of the Qing dynasty, the Chinese Civil War, and the establishment of the People's Republic of China under communist rule.

How does the book approach the topic of modernization and industrialization in East Asia?

It explores how East Asian countries adopted and adapted modernization and industrialization, with Japan's early industrialization and China's later reforms being key examples.

Is 'Modern East Asia: A Brief History' suitable for beginners studying East Asian history?

Yes, the book is designed to provide a concise and accessible overview of East Asian history, making it suitable for students and general readers new to the subject.

Additional Resources

****Modern East Asia: A Brief History****

Modern East Asia a brief history reveals a region shaped by rapid transformations, complex geopolitical shifts, and dynamic economic developments that continue to influence global affairs. Comprising key countries such as China, Japan, South Korea, North Korea, and Taiwan, East Asia's modern narrative is a tapestry woven from colonial legacies, wars, revolutions, and unprecedented industrial growth. Understanding this history is crucial for grasping the region's contemporary political landscape and economic prowess.

Historical Context of Modern East Asia

The story of modern East Asia begins in the late 19th century, a period marked by the decline of imperial powers and the incursion of Western influence. This era set the stage for the dramatic changes that would unfold through the 20th century, influencing the cultural, political, and economic trajectories of the region's nations.

The Decline of Traditional Empires and Western Encroachment

In the late 1800s, the Qing Dynasty in China was in decline, weakened by internal strife and external pressures from Western powers and Japan. The Opium Wars and subsequent "Unequal Treaties" had left China fragmented and vulnerable. Meanwhile, Japan's Meiji Restoration in 1868 marked a decisive turning point, as it embarked on a rapid modernization and industrialization process to avoid Western domination.

The Korean Peninsula, long a tributary state to China, found itself caught between the competing interests of China, Japan, and Russia. This culminated in the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905), a conflict that signaled Japan's emergence as a major regional power.

Colonialism and Imperial Expansion

A defining feature of modern East Asia's history is the era of colonialism and imperial expansion. Japan's victory over China in the First Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895) resulted in the acquisition of Taiwan and Korea, eventually leading to Japan's formal annexation of Korea in 1910. Japan's imperial ambitions extended further with the occupation of Manchuria in 1931 and the invasion of China in 1937, events that precipitated wider conflict in the Pacific.

European powers, particularly Britain, France, and Russia, also maintained colonial footholds in the region, influencing trade, politics, and cultural exchanges. This colonial backdrop deeply affected national identities and post-colonial state-building efforts.

Transformations in the 20th Century

The 20th century was a period of upheaval and transformation for East Asia, marked by war, revolution, and the redefinition of state power.

World War II and Its Aftermath

World War II left an indelible mark on East Asia. Japan's militaristic expansion culminated in devastating consequences for the region, including the occupation of large parts of China and Southeast Asia. The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 brought Japan's imperial

ambitions to a sudden end.

Post-war, East Asia was divided into spheres of influence shaped by the emerging Cold War rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union. Korea was split into North and South, setting the stage for the Korean War (1950–1953), which entrenched ideological divides and militarized tensions that persist today.

The Rise of Communist China and Economic Reforms

In 1949, the Chinese Communist Party, led by Mao Zedong, established the People's Republic of China, marking a radical ideological and political shift. The subsequent decades saw tumultuous reforms such as the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution, which had profound social and economic impacts.

However, the late 20th century witnessed a remarkable pivot under Deng Xiaoping's leadership, with economic liberalization policies transforming China into an emerging global economic powerhouse. This transition from a centrally planned economy to a market-oriented one has been one of the most significant developments in modern East Asia history.

Economic Miracle and Technological Advancement

Japan's Post-War Economic Recovery

Japan's post-World War II recovery is often cited as a model of rapid industrialization and technological innovation. Benefiting from U.S. support through the Marshall Plan and a focus on export-driven growth, Japan evolved into the world's second-largest economy by the 1980s. Key industries such as automotive manufacturing, electronics, and robotics became global leaders, underpinning Japan's "economic miracle."

The Emergence of the "Four Asian Tigers"

South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore, collectively known as the "Four Asian Tigers," experienced rapid industrialization and high growth rates from the 1960s through the 1990s. These economies emphasized export-led growth, investments in education, and technological advancement, moving from agrarian societies to advanced industrial economies in a few decades.

South Korea's transformation is particularly notable, evolving from a war-torn country in the 1950s to a global leader in technology and manufacturing. Companies like Samsung and Hyundai symbolize this success and contribute to South Korea's significant cultural influence worldwide.

North Korea's Divergent Path

In contrast, North Korea's post-war development followed a different trajectory. The country adopted a rigidly centralized economy under the Juche ideology, emphasizing self-reliance. North Korea's isolationist policies, combined with economic mismanagement and international sanctions, have led to chronic economic difficulties and humanitarian challenges.

Contemporary Geopolitical Dynamics

The historical context of modern East Asia continues to shape the region's geopolitical landscape, characterized by inter-state rivalries, economic integration, and strategic alliances.

China's Growing Influence

China's rise as a global superpower is arguably the most significant development in recent decades. Its Belt and Road Initiative, military modernization, and assertive foreign policy in the South China Sea reflect ambitions to reshape regional and global power structures. These moves have generated both cooperation and tension with neighboring countries and Western powers.

Japan and South Korea: Partners and Rivals

Japan and South Korea maintain close economic ties and shared strategic interests, particularly in balancing China's influence. However, historical grievances stemming from Japan's colonial rule continue to affect diplomatic relations. Efforts at reconciliation are ongoing but remain sensitive and complex.

Cross-Strait Relations

Taiwan's status remains a critical issue in East Asia. The island's democratic governance contrasts with mainland China's one-party system, leading to ongoing political and military tensions. Internationally, Taiwan's role in global supply chains, especially in semiconductor manufacturing, underscores its strategic importance.

Modern East Asia's Global Impact

The economic vitality and geopolitical significance of East Asia cannot be overstated. The region accounts for a substantial share of global GDP, trade, and technological innovation. Its modern history, marked by resilience and adaptation amid adversity, offers valuable insights into development strategies and international relations.

- **Economic Growth:** East Asia's rapid industrialization is a case study in development economics.
- **Technological Innovation:** The region leads in fields such as electronics, automotive, and green technology.
- **Geopolitical Influence:** Power dynamics in East Asia shape broader international diplomacy and security policies.

Understanding modern East Asia a brief history provides context for these ongoing trends, highlighting how historical legacies continue to influence contemporary challenges and opportunities. The interplay between tradition and modernization, sovereignty and globalization, continues to define this dynamic region's place on the world stage.

Modern East Asia A Brief History

modern east asia a brief history: *Modern East Asia* Conrad Schirokauer, Donald N. Clark, 2008 Modern East Asia: A Brief History.

modern east asia a brief history: Modern East Asia Conrad Schirokauer, Donald N. Clark, 2003-04-01

modern east asia a brief history: Modern East Asia Mary Hanneman, Yi Li, Patterson Wayne, 2018-11-29 Modern East Asia: A History explores the history of China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam from the late eighteenth century to the present. The text presents information on each country individually and also demonstrates how historical trends within each nation are linked. The book begins with an introduction to cultural foundations and a brief history of East Asia in the seventeenth century. The volume progresses chronologically, beginning in 1830 with a discussion of th

modern east asia a brief history: *The 'Global' and the 'Local' in Early Modern and Modern East Asia* Benjamin A. Elman, Chao-Hui Jenny Liu, 2017-01-09 The "Global" and the "Local" in Early Modern and Modern East Asia presents a unique set of historical perspectives by scholars from two important universities in the East Asian region—The University of Tokyo (Tōdai) and Fudan University, along with East Asian Studies scholars from Princeton University. Two of the essays address the international leanings in the histories of their respective departments in Todai and Fudan. The rest of the essays showcase how such thinking about the global and local histories have borne fruit, as the scholars of the three institutions contributed essays, arguing about the philosophies, methodologies, and/or perspectives of global history and how it relates to local stories. Authors include Benjamin Elman, Haneda Masashi, and Ge Zhaoguang.

modern east asia a brief history: Race and Racism in Modern East Asia , 2012-11-01 Race and Racism in Modern East Asia juxtaposes Western racial constructions of East Asians with constructions of race and their outcomes in modern East Asia. It is the first endeavor to explicitly and coherently link constructions of race and racism in both regions. These constructions have not only played a decisive role in shaping the relations between the West and East Asia since the mid nineteenth century, but also exert substantial influence on current relations and mutual images in both the East-West nexus and East Asia. Written by some of the field's leading authorities, this groundbreaking 21-chapter volume offers an analysis of these constructions, their evolution and their interrelations.

modern east asia a brief history: *Modern East Asia* Jonathan Neaman Lipman, Barbara Molony, Michael Edson Robinson, 2012 *Modern East Asia* details the history of the region while recognizing the intellectual, religious, artistic, economic and scientific contributions East Asians have made to the contemporary world. The three national narratives of China, Japan and Korea are told separately within each chapter, and the text emphasizes connections among them as well as the unique evolution of each society, allowing readers to experience the individual countries' histories as well as the region's history as a whole. The text takes into consideration the radical changes in the field of history in the past 40 years, as the authors have incorporated scholarship in areas such as gender studies, social history and minority histories. While reading social, economic and personal histories, students will uncover the evolution of family structures, peripheral and outcast communities, the sociopolitical power of language and literature, the rise of nationalism and regional trading networks. Attention is also paid to environmental and diplomatic themes.

modern east asia a brief history: Historical Perspectives on Contemporary East Asia Merle Goldman, Andrew Gordon, 2000-08-15 In these original essays, distinguished scholars of modern East Asia distill from long years of research interpretive accounts of late nineteenth- and twentieth-century China, Japan, and Korea. All of the contributors describe particular features of the modern experience of East Asian countries, while also addressing common themes.

modern east asia a brief history: Modern East Asia: An Introductory History John H Miller, 2014-12-18 Written with rare mastery and a sure sense of the essential, this concise general history of modern East Asia offers students and general readers an understanding of this dynamic region from a global perspective. It is the ideal introductory text for college survey courses in Asian and international studies. Following an introductory discussion of the regional concept, the first two chapters lay the foundations. Chapter 1 describes East Asia's geographical, human, cultural, economic, social, and political setting as it has evolved over the past several millennia, and the three major belief systems - Confucianism, Buddhism, and Islam. Chapter 2 presents a panoramic view of the region ca. 1800. The chapter introduces the dramatis personae - the Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Vietnamese, Thai, Burmese, Indonesians, Filipinos, and others - and describes their interactions with each other and with Imperial China. The following three chapters deal with European expansionism and East Asians' responses to the civilizational challenge; the stirrings of nationalism in reaction to European colonial rule; and the remarkable rise of Imperial Japan. Chapters 6 and 7 trace Japan's bid to lead a pan-Asianist revolt against the twin threats of Western liberalism and Soviet communism, and the ensuing Pacific War. Chapters 8 and 9 span the cold war era, from postwar U.S. hopes for a Pax Americana to the division of East Asia into communist and anti-communist blocs. The Sino-Soviet split and the Sino-American rapprochement of the early 1970s open the way to the East Asian miracle and a resurgence of East Asian regionalism, surveyed in Chapter 10. A concluding chapter considers the prospects for continued economic dynamism and the balance of nationalism and pan-Asian trends in shaping the future.

modern east asia a brief history: Modern East Asia Conrad Schirokauer, Clark, 2007-02-01 Focusing on the civilizations--the art and religion as well as the political and social--this compelling history explores the four countries of modern East Asia: China, Japan, Korea and Vietnam. From their traditions and commonalities in 1600, through trends toward industrialization and state building, to each country's response to modernization in a global environment, authors Conrad Schirokauer and Donald N. Clark explore the complexity, severally and together, of countries that never fail to fascinate.

modern east asia a brief history: Sources in Modern East Asian History and Politics Theodore McNelly, 1967

modern east asia a brief history: Political Order in Modern East Asian States Xiaoming Huang, 2022-04-03 This text explains political change and the shaping of political order in modern East Asian states: China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan, and Vietnam. Examining the transformative role of power, authority, and political culture in the shaping of political order, this book: Describes the emergence of statist and pluralist political order in East Asia. Outlines the dual

process of state-building and nation-building, revealing the transformative role of the state. Highlights the causes and consequences of the reversion to centralized political order, describing the structure and institutions of Cold War regimes in East Asian states. Explores the structural and institutional consequences of industrial development on politics and state in East Asian states. Discusses the methods and outcomes of the democratization movements in the 1980s and 1990s and public sector reforms in the 1990s and 2010s. Utilizes survey data and newly developed indicators to measure and reveal the shaping of national political culture in each East Asian state. Features structural, institutional, and normative analysis of political change in modern East Asia. This will be an essential textbook for students of Political Science, International Relations, East Asian Politics and East Asian History, as well as policy analysts of East Asian states.

modern east asia a brief history: *Epidemien und Pandemien in historischer Perspektive* Jörg Vögele, Stefanie Knöll, Thorsten Noack, 2016-07-07 Im Zentrum dieses Sammelbandes stehen neue Forschungsergebnisse interdisziplinärer Autorinnen und Autoren aus sieben Ländern zum Thema Seuchen. Seuchen verbreiten zunächst Unsicherheiten, so dass historische Beispiele und Denkweisen herangezogen werden, um Gefahren zu erkennen und Gegenmaßnahmen zu treffen. Solche Traditionen lassen sich über Jahrhunderte zurück verfolgen. So werden in diesem Band die Rekonstruktion von Fakten in Zeit und Raum (global vs. local) sowie die Einflüsse auf das Kulturleben (cultural impact) und die der Wissenschaftsgeschichte (Science studies) analysiert. Einführend und abschließend werden Forschungsstand und -perspektiven zur Sozialgeschichte der Medizin diskutiert.

modern east asia a brief history: **A History of Modern East Asia** Armstrong, 2014-09-12 Offers a comprehensive view of East Asia, including Southeast Asia as well as China, Korea and Japan Examines East Asia within the context of global history, building on scholarship in modern world history.

modern east asia a brief history: *The Cold War in East Asia* Xiaobing Li, 2017-09-13 This textbook provides a survey of East Asia during the Cold War from 1945 to 1991. Focusing on the persistence and flexibility of its culture and tradition when confronted by the West and the US, this book investigates how they intermesh to establish the nations that have entered the modern world. Through the use of newly declassified Communist sources, the narrative helps students form a better understanding of the origins and development of post-WWII East Asia. The analysis demonstrates how East Asia's position in the Cold War was not peripheral but, in many key senses, central. The active role that East Asia played, ultimately, turned this main Cold War battlefield into a buffer between the United States and the Soviet Union. Covering a range of countries, this textbook explores numerous events, which took place in East Asia during the Cold War, including: The occupation of Japan, Civil war in China and the establishment of Taiwan, The Korean War, The Vietnam War, China's Reforming Movement. Moving away from Euro-American centric approaches and illuminating the larger themes and patterns in the development of East Asian modernity, *The Cold War in East Asia* is an essential resource for students of Asian History, the Cold War and World History.

modern east asia a brief history: **Historical Studies in Japan (VII) 1983-1987** , 1990

modern east asia a brief history: *Revisiting Japan's Restoration* Timothy Amos, Akiko Ishii, 2021-11-29 This volume presents the reader with thirty-one short chapters that capture an exciting new moment in the study of the Meiji Restoration. The chapters offer a kaleidoscope of approaches and interpretations of the Restoration that showcase the strengths of the most recent interpretative trends in history writing on Japan while simultaneously offering new research pathways. On a scale probably never before seen in the study of the Restoration outside Japan, the short chapters in this volume reveal unique aspects of the transformative event and process not previously explored in previous research. They do this in three core ways: through selecting and deploying different time frames in their historical analysis; by creative experimentation with different spatial units through which to ascertain historical experience; and by innovative selection of unique and highly original topics for analysis. The volume offers students and teachers of Japanese history, modern history, and

East Asian studies an important resource for coming to grips with the multifaceted nature of Japan's nineteenth-century transformation. The volume will also have broader appeal to scholars working in fields such as early modern/modern world history, global history, Asian modernities, gender studies, economic history, and postcolonial studies.

modern east asia a brief history: The Politics of Imagining Asia Hui Wang, 2011-03-31

One of China's most influential intellectuals questions the validity of thinking about Chinese history and its legacy from a Western conceptual framework. Wang Hui argues that we need to more fully understand China's past in order to imagine alternative ways of conceiving Asia and world order.

modern east asia a brief history: Rethinking Visual Narratives from Asia Alexandra Green,

2013-01-01 *Rethinking Visual Narratives* covers topics from the first millennium B.C.E. through the present day, testifying to the enduring significance of visual stories in shaping and affirming cultural practices in Asia. Contributors analyze how visual narratives function in different Asian cultures and reveal the multiplicity of ways that images can be narrated beyond temporal progression through a particular space. The study of local art forms advances our knowledge of regional iterations and theoretical boundaries, illustrating the enduring importance of pictorial stories to the cultural traditions of Asia. Contributors include Dominik Bonatz (Archaeologist Free University of Berlin), Sandra Cate (San Jose State University), Yonca Kösebay Erkan (Kadir Has University), Charlotte Galloway (Australian National University), Mary Beth Heston (College of Charleston), Yeewan Koon (The University of Hong Kong), Sonya S. Lee (University of Southern California), Leedom Lefferts (Drew University), Dore J. Levy (Brown University), Shane McCausland (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London), Julia K. Murray (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Catherine Stuer (Denison University), Greg M. Thomas (The University of Hong Kong), Sarah E. Thompson (Rochester Institute of Technology), and Mary-Louise Totton (Western Michigan University).

modern east asia a brief history: Imagined Neighbors Frank Feltens, 2024-07-30

Welches Bild von China hatten japanische Künstler vom späten 17. Jahrhundert, als ihr Land sich gegen die Welt abschottete, bis zur Öffnung im Zuge der Modernisierung ab der Mitte des 19. Jahrhunderts? Der Band untersucht vorrangig Darstellungen in der japanischen Malerei vom späten 17. bis zum 20. Jahrhundert, die China als realen Ort ebenso wie als imaginäres gelobtes Land zeigen. In drei Essays renommierter japanischer Kunsthistoriker*innen und über fünfzig Katalogeinträgen zu außergewöhnlichen Werken werden die komplexen Reaktionen der Kunst Japans auf die chinesische Kunst, Geschichte und Kultur offenbar. Eine Handvoll wissenschaftlicher Studien hinterfragt in jüngerer Zeit das etablierte Narrativ, das moderne Japan habe sich allein am Westen orientiert. Diese verbreitete Vorstellung von einem ausschließlich westlich inspirierten heutigen Japan thematisiert *Imagined Neighbors*. Mit einem nuancierteren Ansatz bemüht sich der Band, die schwierige Aussöhnung zwischen Alt und Neu im Zuge der Neuerfindung des modernen Nationalstaats Japan zu verstehen.

modern east asia a brief history: Asia after Versailles Urs Matthias Zachmann, 2017-05-22

Asia After Versailles addresses an important but neglected watershed for Asian nations - the response to the Paris Peace Conference of 1919. The Conference marked the end of a conflict which, although intrinsically European, had globalized the world on many levels, politically as well as economically, culturally and socially. It also stood at the beginning of a new order that saw the power centre shift towards the US and Asia. Asian countries and people played a significant but so far largely neglected role in this momentous development. Bringing together an international range of experts in the history of China, Japan, India and the Ottoman Empire/Turkey, this pioneering volume demonstrates the importance of Asia in the multifaceted global transformations that revolved around the Paris Peace Conference and its aftermath. Traditional historical analysis focuses almost exclusively on US and European responses to the Paris Peace Conference and the interwar order and often fails to take into account non-western, particularly Asian voices - this is the first book to demonstrate the far-reaching Asian dimensions of the impact of Versailles in an unprecedented way making this an invaluable and interdisciplinary resource for academics and researchers in the fields of politics, international relations, area studies and history

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