

cal products. Therefore, another two continuous lines should be added in Figure 13.2: one shows the flow of raw materials from Africa to Europe and the other that of manufactured products and cowrie shells from Asia to Africa.

Riello presents a clear and convincing story that gives us an even-handed look at the process of globalization in which cotton and cotton textiles played a crucial role. One of the methodological features in this book is to observe the interactions represented by the long-distance trade between Asia and Europe in the long-term. Another is a plethora of valid comparison. These features make us aware that a global perspective works well in addressing one of the enigmas of human history: the origin and development of the British industrial revolution. Moreover, this book covers major debates of global history such as the origin of globalization, the British industrial revolution, de-industrialization in nineteenth-century India, and others. Therefore, readers will find this book serves as a good introduction to global history studies.

Igirisu Teikoku no Rekishi–Ajia kara kangaeru
[The History of the British Empire from Asian Perspectives]

By Shigeru AKITA
 Tokyo: Chuokoronshinsha, 2012. 288 pp.
 ISBN: 978-4121021670 (Paperback)

Reviewed by Woonok YEOM
 Korea University, Korea (Republic of)

doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.12773/arwh.2014.2.1.140>

Akita Shigeru's new book is a good summary of the history of the British Empire from the perspective of Asia. Akita is one of the lead-

ing historians in the field of British history and global/world history in Japan. He works at Osaka University, where he teaches courses in world history Courses. He not only introduced ‘Gentlemanly Capitalism’ of P. J. Cain and A. G. Hopkins as a translator, but also opened up new horizons of understanding the British Empire through empirical researches. He recently co-edited a book with Nicholas J. White, *The International Order of Asia in the 1930s and 1950s*. This book reconsiders the nature and formation of Asia’s economic order during the 1930s and 1950s in light of new historiographical developments in Britain and Japan.

The contents of *The History of the British Empire from Asian Perspectives* are as follows: Introduction-The Economic Revival of Contemporary Asia and the British Empire; chapter 1 The Atlantic World and East India: The Long 18th Century; chapter 2 Free Trade Empire and *Pax Britannica*; chapter 3 Decolonization and the Commonwealth; conclusion-Global History and the British Empire. Akita summarizes the main purpose of his book in three words, ‘the usage of the British Empire.’ The author would like to show the interactions within the empire through an analysis of how various peoples actually used the networks of the British Empire. He focuses not only on the relationship between Britain and other areas of the world, but also on the power of the British Empire as a hegemonic state. In his book, the history of the British Empire is understood as a ‘bridge’ to construct global history, including the history of India, China, Japan, and South Africa.

The first main virtue of the book is its global perspective. For Akita, the British Empire cannot be understood only by her colonies and dominions. Even though India was ‘the jewel in the crown,’ the industrial development of colonial India cannot be explained except in connection with other areas such as North America, the West Indies, and West Africa. Citing historian Joseph E. Inikori’s *Africans and the Industrial Revolution in England: A Study in International Trade and Economic Development*, Akita appropriately points out that East Indian cotton was an important commodity given in exchange for West African slaves during the long 18th century. Akita appreciates Eric Williams’ classic thesis which emphasized the con-

tribution of the transatlantic slave trade to the industrial revolution in England. The presence of 'enslaved Africans' was the important forces that pushed ahead the 'Atlantic economy' including Britain, East India, the West Indies, and West Africa.

The second strength of Akita's work is his analysis of the 'soft power' of merchant communities which possessed their own connection of people, money and information and worked within the hegemonic state of the British Empire. The British Empire established a free trade economic system at a global level and Indian merchants and Japanese manufacturers played an active part in that network. For example, Akita emphasized several Indian merchant communities such as the *Tata* group based in Bombay and the *Chettiar* in South India Tamil. The *Tata*, who were Bombay Parsis, were involved in exporting Indian cotton to Osaka, Japan and the *Chettiar* went into finance and plantation managements in the British Straits Settlements, Burma and Ceylon.

In sum, Akita's narrative in this book provides a new way to reconsider the history of the British Empire from global perspective. His exploration of the colonization and decolonization of the empire fully reflects the new historiography of that field. Addressing issues of trade, economy, nationalism, and imperialism, this book provides fresh insights into the development of the British Empire from the 18th century to the twentieth century. The book is recommended as an original contribution to rethinking British history and global history.

***Karl Haushofer und Japan. Die Rezeption seiner geopolitischen Theorien in der deutschen und japanischen Politik* [Karl Haushofer and Japan: The Reception of His Geopolitical Theories in German and Japanese Politics]**

By Christian W. SPANG

Munich: Iudicium, 2013. 288 pp.

ISBN: 978-3862050406 (Paperback)