

centered world history, an Arab-centered world history, or an Africa-centered world history.

I hope that in the future many different textbooks of world history will appear, corresponding to the perspectives of their respective authors. What is most important for taking the first step toward a global understanding is to understand each other's differing views of world history.

It is my hope that the authors publish an English translation of this book, so that it becomes possible for many people around the world to read it. When that happens, readers will be able to comprehend how contemporary Japanese think about world history, which will be a major contribution to the study of world history in the larger context of historical education.

***Doctors of Empire: Medical and Cultural Encounters between Imperial Germany and Meiji Japan***

By Hoi-Eun KIM

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If the transformative story of Meiji Japan has long interested historians for its appeal as an East Asian case study that provides a powerful antidote to conventional accounts of modernity, its internal dynamics as both a regional and a transnational story continue to inspire further inquiry. If an earlier generation of scholarship, with the most prominent accounts including those of James Bartholomew and Tessa Morris-Suzuki, first established the baselines for a story of dramatic technical change and cul-

tural transition from the Tokugawa period, newer accounts such as that of Hoi-Eun Kim's *Doctors of Empire*, the work under review here, add a great deal by continuing to complicate the story of Japan's rise within a broader East Asia beginning in the mid- to late-nineteenth century. By focusing upon medicine specifically, Kim links the German scientific research tradition with Japan's enthusiastic embrace of biomedicine, and offers here a densely layered account of the estimated 1,200 Meiji doctors (1868-1914) who traveled to Germany for extended tours of study, and ultimately, transformative encounters, certainly at least in terms of the range of their diverse personal experiences and subsequent career choices.

The links between Germany and Japan have long been known in the form of close relationships with key advisors, such as the collaborative efforts of Kitasato Shibusaro and Robert Koch, but Kim offers here a far bigger picture in undertaking this work, examining in depth "medical and cultural encounters," as promised in his subtitle. Beginning with a graduation ceremony held at the University of Tokyo in the early part of the twentieth century (1907), he cites a famous line from the day, an observation to the effect that that "when it comes to medical science, our nation is a German colony" (p. 3). Kim provides a context to this curious observation by noting that Japan had just recently begun to flex its own imperial ambitions, and notes the critical role played in nation-building by key figures such as Goto Shinpei (Taiwan), and Mori Ogai (surgeon general of the Japanese Army). Even though the focus remains on the Meiji encounter, Kim maintains a strong hint of Japanese Empire in the background, as these individuals and their respective projects would later prove critical to Japanese ambitions abroad. In the meantime, his primary focus, the collective body of Japanese students who would travel to Germany, along with a comparable group of Germans making the corresponding trip to Japan, offers a fascinating account of nineteenth-century cultural exchange, one in which Japanese medical practice came to be largely dominated by German practice through the first half of the twentieth century.

Within this frame, this is anything but a static story of technology transfer, and Kim provides instead a wonderfully dynamic account of Japanese students venturing into German beer halls, while their German counterparts, admittedly far lesser in number, learn to accommodate to a very different culture during their periods of service as instructors and lecturers at nascent Japanese medical institutions. Moreover, Kim's point is not simply one of establishing this dynamic relationship, complicating a neat narrative of transfer, but also one of asking larger questions about the extended German-Japanese historical relationship of interaction and exchange. As two "latecomers" to the larger story of "modernity," imperial Germany and Meiji Japan have a great deal to tell us about the "so-called peculiarities of the German-Japanese path to modernity," (p. 5) thereby revising and deepening our understanding of recent European and East Asian history.

In addition, Kim's approach, while primarily shaped by a focus on medicine and the history of science, holds a healthy interest in anthropological tropes as well, especially the perceptions and personal experiences of both his German and Japanese sets of actors. These concerns take him into new and unexpected places, such as the beer halls mentioned previously, and shape a set of questions that place Japanese history firmly within the German tradition, just as it does for the reciprocal issue, the German role within Japan. In a work where both sets of actors "were unmistakably conscious of the newly emerging and concurrently consolidating nation states and empires," (p. 9) Kim has a great deal to say about this immediate network of elite actors, as well as the numerous places touched by members of these two groups in their travels, including colonial Taiwan, colonial Korea, and Republican China. Ultimately, Kim offers here a probing work that begins with a network story of transnational elites, and yet hints at far more possibilities in tracing the related paths and developments shaped by the combined forces of empire, nation, and biomedicine.