

gral elements in the continuous and often inter-dependent story of human development in relation to the world's waterways.

This nearly 750-page tome is densely packed with details, references, and action. One suspects that readers with some basic background in world history would have an easier time negotiating the plethora of information, and appreciating the mastery with which Paine manages this balance. Yet the author wears his decades of in-depth research and expertise relatively lightly, and this is to the reader's benefit. The narrative is eloquent and engaging. Substantial endnotes and references are tucked away but easily accessed towards the end of the book, and the inclusion of vivid illustrations and literary references throughout enliven the text. This text would appeal to academic and general audiences alike. The former may find a few small items with which to quibble: for example, maps at the beginning of the book somewhat oddly combine place names and terminology from different eras, such that the map for "Pre-Columbian South America and the Caribbean" includes Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. Also, scholars seeking a discussion of the most recent historiography will not find much of what they are looking for here. But these are minor issues that do not at all detract from this encyclopedic, enjoyable, and extremely well executed addition to maritime and world history.

***Shimin no tame no sekai-shi* [A World History for Citizens]**

By Shiro MOMOKI, Shigeru AKITA, Masaharu ARAKAWA, Asako KURIHARA, and Akihiro SAKAJIRI.

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There may be only one world, but there is more than one world history. In fact, there are as many world histories as there are countries and historians. The reason for this is that in order to see the world a person must have a specific perspective. Depending on the writer's point of view, the narrative of world history is bound to differ.

Many world histories to date have been written from a Eurocentric perspective. The division of eras into "ancient," "medieval," "modern," and "contemporary," for example, is itself a construct of European historians designed to explain in a rational way the history of the geographical area known as Europe. Over the last two centuries many historians have uncritically accepted this schema and applied it to Asian history as well. This becomes glaringly apparent when one casts a glance at world history textbooks.

Since the middle of the twentieth century, however, historians have begun to question the validity of this method, but no coherent challenge to the Eurocentric division of historical eras emerged until the end of the twentieth century. The volume under discussion, written by the five Japanese historians, is designed as a textbook for university students who wish to study world history in a way appropriate for someone with a Japanese perspective

This volume is the most recent textbook of world history written from a Japanese point of view. In order to see what kind of world history it offers, it is best to glance at the table of contents. Readers of this review ought to compare this to world histories written in their own countries, and thereby grasp the characteristics of the world history this Osaka group of Japanese historians proposes.

Introduction: Why Study World History ?

Chapter 1. Formation of Ancient Civilizations, Ancient Empires and the Regional Areas as "World."

Chapter 2. Reorganization of Regional Areas in the Eurasian Hemisphere and East Asia.

- Chapter 3. Long-distance Trade and Exchange Centering on the Mongol Empire.
- Chapter 4. The Beginning of the Early Modern World in Ming and Qing China, West and South Asia, and Western Europe.
- Chapter 5. The Age of Great Voyages, Formation of Modern World System, the Effect of Silver and Guns on East Asia, the General Crisis of the 17th Century.
- Chapter 6. Maturity of Traditional Asian Societies.
- Chapter 7. The European Miracle and British Industrialization.
- Chapter 8. The Spread of Modernization.
- Chapter 9. The Western Impact on Asia.
- Chapter 10. Imperialism and Asian Nationalisms
- Chapter 11. The Second World War and the Asia-Pacific Theatre.
- Chapter 12. The Cold War and the Period of Nation State Building.
- Chapter 13. The Contemporary World
- Conclusion. How to Study World History.

The most important characteristics of the authors' approach may be summarized in three points: 1. The Eurasian landmass is used as the main spatial axis for depicting world history. 2. The economic activities of trade and exchange are taken as the basis for world political and cultural activities and a long time-span is thus necessary to view world history. 3. To ground its perspective, the book takes as its foundation historical research from the latter half of the twentieth century regarding central Eurasian empires, inter-Asian trade, ideologies of fiscal-military states, debates on imperialism (including free trade imperialism), and colonial rule.

Because the authors take world history to center on Japan and East Asia, they devote a large proportion of their discussion to East Asia in comparison to the space allotted to Western Europe. As such, this book signals the birth of an East-Asia-centered historical perspective that contrasts with the more common West-European centered one. I view this as a positive development, because this is the first textbook that takes East Asia as its point of departure.

As noted above, writing history demands that the historian assume a point of view. It is impossible to devise a history that is objective, neutral, and completely decentered. The best we can hope to achieve is a Europe-centered world history, an Asia-

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-