

History 2653
Fall semester, 2011
Tuesday, 2-4, S153

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Historiography of Modern Japan

Week One (9/6) **Introductory discussion**

Week Two (9/13) **Perspectives on Modernization and Modernity**

John Dower, "E.H. Norman and the Uses of History," in John Dower, ed. *Origins of the Modern Japanese State*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1975. pp. 3-102 (skim pp. 65-90 if pressed for time)

John Whitney Hall, "Changing Conceptions of the Modernization of Japan," in Marius Jansen, ed. *Changing Japanese Attitudes toward Modernization*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1965. pp. 7-42.

*Sheldon Garon, "Rethinking Modernization and Modernity in Japanese History: A Focus on State-Society Relations," *Journal of Asian Studies* 53:2 (May 1994), pp. 346-366.
[Available online: JSTOR]

Irokawa Daikichi, *The Culture of the Meiji Period*, prefaces and intro, pp. vii-18.

Carol Gluck, "The End of Elsewhere: Writing Modernity Now" *American Historical Review* (June 2011) pp. 676-87 (and intro to the roundtable, pp. 631-37).

Recommended: "Taking Japanese Studies Seriously," in Helen Hardacre ed., *The Postwar Developments of Japanese Studies in the United States*. Boston: Brill, 1998. pp. 387-405. Harry Harootunian, "Tracking the Dinosaur: Area Studies in a Time of 'Globalism,'" in *History's Disquiet: Modernity, Cultural Practice, and the Question of Everyday Life*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2000. pp. 25-58.

Week Three (9/20) **Perspectives on State and Nation in the Meiji Era**

Irokawa Daikichi, *The Culture of the Meiji Period*, chs. 3, 8

Carol Gluck, *Japan's Modern Myths*, chs. 1-4, 8-9

Greg Clancey, *Earthquake Nation: The Cultural Politics of Japanese Seismicity* (Chs 1-4)

Marnie S. Anderson, *A Public Place: Women's Rights in Meiji Japan* (Chs TBD)

Recommended: *George Akita, *Foundations of Constitutional Government in Japan*, Part I, pp. 1-65. T. Fujitani, *Splendid Monarchy*, chs. 1, 3, 6. Carol Gluck, "The People in History," in *JAS*, 38, No. 1 (Nov. 1978). Kenneth Pyle, *New Generation in Meiji Japan*. Earl Kinmoth, *The Self-Made Man in Meiji Japanese Thought*. *Kyu Hyun Kim, *Age of Visions and Arguments* Intro, chs 3, 9.

Section Two: Imperial Japan, State and Society

Week Four (9/27): **State, Parties, and Policy**

Peter Duus, *Party Rivalry and Political Change*, Intro, chs. 1-6.

*Sheldon Garon, *State and Labor in Modern Japan*, chs. 1-4.

Greg Clancey, *Earthquake Nation* (remainder)

Recommended: Tetsuo Najita, *Hara Kei and the Politics of Compromise*; Gordon Berger, *Parties out of Power in Japan*. Eiko Siniawer, *Ruffians, Yakuza, and Nationalists*, Intro, chs. 1-4. Frederick R. Dickinson, *War and National Reinvention: Japan in the Great War, 1914-1919*. Michael Lewis, *Becoming Apart: National Power and Local Politics in Toyama, 1868-1945*.

Week Five (10/4) **Subjects, Citizens and the State**

*Andrew Gordon, *Labor and Imperial Democracy in Prewar Japan*, chs 1-2, 5, 8-9.

Elyssa Faisson, *Managing Women: Disciplining Labor in Modern Japan* intro, chs 4-5.

Ken Kawashima, *The Proletarian Gamble: Korean Workers in Interwar Japan*, intro, chs 1, 4-5.

Recommended: Michael Lewis, *Rioters and Citizens: Mass Protest in Imperial Japan*, Intro, chs 1,3. Sabine Fruhstuck, *Colonizing Sex: Sexology and Social Control in Modern Japan*. David Ambaras, *Bad Youth* (intro, Chs 1, 5-6). Andrew Bernstein, *Modern Passings* Intro, Chs. 3-6.

Week Six (10/11) **Gender, Politics, Society**

*Sharon Nolte and Sally Hastings, "The Meiji State's Policy Toward Women, 1890-1910," in Gail Bernstein, ed., *Recreating Japanese Women*, pp. 151-174.

*Sheldon Garon, *Molding Japanese Minds* Part I.

Miriam Silverberg, *Erotic Grotesque Nonsense*, preface, intro, Part I, Part II chs. 1-2.

Recommended: Barbara Sato, *The New Japanese Woman: modernity, media, and women in interwar Japan*. Pflugfelder, *Cartographies of Desire*

Week Seven (10/18) **Agrarian Society, Economy and Politics**

Ann Waswo, "The Transformation of Rural Society, 1900-1950," *Cambridge History of Japan* (Vol 6, The 20th Century), ch. 11, pp. 541-605.

Kerry Smith, *A Time of Crisis: Japan, the Great Depression, and Rural Revitalization*, Chs 1-3, 6, 9-10.

*Mariko Tamanoi, "The City and the Countryside: Competing Taisho Modernities on Gender," in Minchiello, ed., *Japan's Competing Modernities*, pp. 91-113.

Recommended: Ann Waswo, *Japanese Landlords*. Penelope Franck, Technology and Agricultural Development in Prewar Japan. Ronald Dore and Ouchi Tsutomu, "The Rural Origins of Japanese Fascism," in *Dilemmas of Growth in Prewar Japan*. Richard Smethurst, Agricultural Development and Tenancy Disputes in Japan, 1870-1940 [Intro, 1, 4-6] (and review exchanges with Waswo and Nishida in MN and JJS).

Week Eight (10/25) **City Life, Middle Class and Modernity**

*Jordan Sand, *House and Home in Modern Japan: Architecture, Domestic Space, and Bourgeois Culture*, Intro, Chs. 1-2, 5-7, 10.

Silverberg, *Erotic Grotesque Nonsense*, Part 2 ch 4, pp. 143-74.

Mark Jones, *Children as Treasures: Childhood and the Middle Class in Early Twentieth Century Japan* (Chs tbd)

Section Three: Empire and Modernity

Week Nine (11/1) Expanding and Managing Empire

*Andre Schmid, "Colonialism and the Korea Problem in the Historiography of Modern Japan: A Review Article," in *JAS* (November, 2000) pp. 951-76 [in JSTOR].

Prasenjit Duara, "Imperialism of Free Nations" in Stoler, Cooper, Perdue, eds., pp. 211-39.

*Louise Young, *Japan's Total Empire* (Chs. 1-3, 6, 10).

Mark Caprio, *Japanese Assimilation Policies in Colonial Korea* (Chs tbd)

Recommended: Duus, Meyers and Peattie, *The Japanese Wartime Empire, 1931-1945*. Rana Mitter, *The Manchurian Myth*. Prasenjit Duara, *Sovereignty and authenticity : Manchukuo and the East Asian modern* (Chs 1,4). Driscoll, ?

Week Ten (11/8) Empire and War; Intellectuals and Technocrats

Harootunian, *Overcome By Modernity: History, Culture and Community in Interwar Japan* (Chs 1-3).

Janis Mimura, *Planning for Empire: Reform Bureaucrats and the Japanese Wartime State*

Recommended: Andrew Barshay, *The State and Intellectual in Modern Japan* and *The Social Sciences in Modern Japan*. Leslie Pincus, *Authenticating Culture in Imperial Japan: Kuki Shuzo and the Rise of National Aesthetics*. Kevin Doak, "Culture, Ethnicity and the State in Early 20th Century Japan," in Minichiello, *Competing Modernities*, pp. 181-205. Tetsuo Najita and Harry Harootunian, "Japanese Revolt Against the West" in *Cambridge History of Japan*, Vol.6, ch. 14, pp. 711-74.

Section Four: Wartime, Transwar, Postwar History

Week Eleven (11/15) World War II, US and Japan

Akira Iriye, *Power and Culture: The Japanese-American War, 1941-1945*, preface, chs 1-3.

*T. Fujitani, *Racism under Fire* (forthcoming), Introduction and Part I.

Recommended: James Crowley, *Japan's Quest for Autonomy*. John W. Dower, *Empire and Aftermath and War Without Mercy*. Herbert Bix, *Hirohito and the Making of Modern Japan*

Week Twelve (11/22): **Aftermath of Empire**

John W. Dower, *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II* [excerpts tbd]
Lori Watt, *When Empire Comes Home: Repatriation and Reintegration in Postwar Japan*

Recommended: Franziska Seraphim, *War Memory and Social Politics in Japan: 1945-2005*

Week Thirteen (11/29) **State and Society in War and Postwar**

Chalmers Johnson, *MITI and the Japanese Miracle* chs. 1, 3-6.

*Sheldon Garon, *Molding Japanese Minds Part II* (excerpts).

Simon Avenell, *Making Japanese Citizens* (excerpts tbd)

Recommended: Gordon, "Managing the Japanese Household," in Molony and Uno, eds., *Gendering Modern Japanese History*, or see longer version in journal *Social Politics*, Summer, 1997. Gordon, *The Evolution of Labor Relations in Japan* [Part III]. Kathleen Uno, "The Death of 'Good Wife, Wise Mother'" in *Postwar Japan as History*. Laura Hein, *Reasonable Men*. Scott O'Bryan, *The Growth Idea: Purpose and Prosperity in Postwar Japan*.

Organization of the course

Discussion of the required readings will be the heart of the course. To facilitate discussion, each student on two occasions will be required to post to the course website two or three discussion questions raised by the required readings (by 7 pm on Wednesday) and will lead discussion of those questions in class. In addition, students will be responsible for writing a short (2-3 page) critique of one of the recommended readings up to four times during the semester (depending on enrollment, to be posted to the "shared documents" section of the website and briefly introduced in class. We will allocate these assignments in the second class meeting.

Access to readings:

All readings are either on normal reserve or "e-reserve" at the Harvard Yenching Library. Those marked by asterisk (*) are on e-reserve. There should also be multiple copies of most all books available in various Harvard libraries—Widener, Lamont, Hilles, Japan Documentation Center. I encourage you to purchase these books to the extent possible.

Reading Period assignment (due December 12):

Write a "state of the field" essay on a sub-field in modern Japanese history, looking at both recent and older works (approx 10-15 pages). Details of these assignments will be discussed in class.

Grading:

Participation in weekly discussions, included class presentations, will count for 80 percent of the grade. The reading period assignment will count for 20 percent.