

History 2653
Fall semester, 2016
Tuesday, 2-4
CGIS S153

Professor Andrew Gordon
CGIS s236
496-4729
agordon@fas.harvard.edu

Historiography of Modern Japan (updated 9/20 with discussion leaders)

Week One (9/6) Introductory discussion

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

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.

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

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)

*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]

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). [online: EBSCO]

Recommended: Andrew Gordon, "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 Late Meiji Era [Yung Hian Ng]

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

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

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

Daniel Botsman, "Freedom Without Slavery? 'Coolies', Prostitutes, and Outcastes in Meiji Japan's 'Emancipation Moment,'" *American Historical Review* (December, 2011) pp. 1323-1347. [available online: EBSCO]

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

Section Two: Imperial Japan, State and Society

Week Four (9/27): **State and (male) Subjects and Citizens, 1910s-30s** [Susan Taylor]

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

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

Frederick R. Dickinson, *World War I and the Triumph of a New Japan, 1919-1930* Introduction and chs. 1-2, 4, 7-8, Conclusion

Reto Hofman, *The Fascist Effect*, Introduction, chs. 1-2.

Recommended: Tetsuo Najita, *Hara Kei and the Politics of Compromise*. Peter Duus, *Party Rivalry and Political Change*. Gordon Berger, *Parties out of Power in Japan*. Eiko Siniawer, *Ruffians, Yakuza, and Nationalists*. Michael Lewis, *Becoming Apart: National Power and Local Politics in Toyama, 1868-1945*. Michael Lewis, *Rioters and Citizens: Mass Protest in Imperial Japan*. David Ambaras, *Bad Youth*.

Week Five (10/4) **State and (female) Subjects and Citizens , 1920a-1930s** [Sara Kang]

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

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

Miriam Silverberg, *Erotic Grotesque Nonsense*, preface, intro, Part I, Part II chs. 1-2, Pt 2, Ch 4.

Recommended: Barbara Sato, *The New Japanese Woman: modernity, media, and women in interwar Japan*. Ken Kawashima, *The Proletarian Gamble: Korean Workers in Interwar Japan*. Sabine Fruhstuck, *Colonizing Sex: Sexology and Social Control in Modern Japan*. Jeffrey Bayliss, *On the Margins of Empire: Korean Identity in Prewar and Wartime Japan*.

Week Six (10/11) **City Life, Middle Class and Modernity** [Susan Taylor]

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

Gordon, *Fabricating Consumers*, Intro, Chs 1-3.

Recommended: Elise Tipton and John Clark, *Being Modern in Japan: Culture and Society in the 1910s to the 1930s*, chs. 4, 5, 7, 10, 11. Mark Jones, *Children as Treasures: Childhood and the Middle Class in Early Twentieth Century Japan*. Kerry Ross, *Photography for Everyone: The Cultural Lives of Cameras and Consumers in Early Twentieth-Century Japan*.

Week Seven (10/18) **Agrarian Japan: Society, Economy, Environment, Politics** [John Hayashi]

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.

Philip C. Brown, "Constructing Nature" in Miller, Thomas, Walker, eds, *Japan at Nature's Edge*

Recommended: Ann Waswo, *Japanese Landlords*. 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). Waswo and Nishida Yoshiaki, eds., *Farmers and Village Life in 20th C. Japan*, Chs 1-3, 5-6 Simon Partner, *The Mayor of Aihara and Toshie: A Story of Village Life in 20th Century Japan*.

Section Three: Empire, War and Modernity

Week Eight (10/25) Expanding and Managing Empire: Korea [Sujin Han]

*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].

Jun Uchida, *Brokers of Empire*, Introduction, Chs. 1, 2, 6.

Todd Henry, *Assimilating Seoul*. Introduction, Chs. 2, 4,5.

Recommended: Duus, Meyers and Peattie, *The Japanese Wartime Empire, 1931-1945*. Mark Caprio, *Japanese Assimilation Policies in Colonial Korea, 1910-1945*. E. Taylor Atkins, *Primitive Selves: Koreans in the Japanese Colonial Empire*. Kim Brandt, *Kingdom of Beauty: Mingei and the Politics of Folk Art in Imperial Japan*.

Week Nine (11/1): Empire and Technocratic Imagination: Manchuria [Yung Hian Ng]

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

Aaron S. Moore, *Constructing East Asia: Technology, Ideology, and Empire in Japan's Wartime Era, 1931-1945*, Introduction, Chs. 1, 3, and epilogue.

Recommended: Andrew Barshay, *The State and Intellectual in Modern Japan* and *The Social Sciences in Modern Japan*. Tetsuo Najita and Harry Harootunian, "Japanese Revolt Against the West" in *Cambridge History of Japan*, Vol.6, ch. 14, pp. 711-74. Harootunian, *Overcome By Modernity* Chs, 1-3. Rana Mitter, *The Manchurian Myth*. Janis Mimura, *Planning for Empire: Reform Bureaucrats and the Japanese Wartime State*. Prasenjit Duara, *Sovereignty and authenticity : Manchukuo and the East Asian modern*

Week Ten (11/8) Fascism and War [Sujin Han]

Yoshimi Yoshiaki, *Grassroots Fascism*, Translator's Introduction, Chs. 1-2.

Reto Hoffman, *The Fascist Effect*, chs. 3-end.

Andrew Gordon, *Labor and Imperial Democracy in Japan*, ch. 11 and conclusion.

Ian J. Miller, *Nature of the Beasts* Introduction and ch. 4

Recommended: Mark Driscoll, *Absolute Erotic, Absolute Grotesque: The Living, Dead, and Undead in Japan's Imperialism, 1895-1945*. Prasenjit Duara, "Imperialism of Free Nations" in Stoler, Cooper, Perdue, eds., pp. 211-39. Lee Pennington, *Casualties of History*

Section Four: Transwar and Postwar History

Week Eleven (11/15) **World War II, US and Japan** [John Hayashi]

Akira Iriye, *Power and Culture: The Japanese-American War, 1941-1945*, preface, chs 1-3.
T. Fujitani, *Racism for Empire: Koreans as Japanese and Japanese as Koreans during World War II*, Introduction and Part I.

Recommended: 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** [Ye seul Byeon]

John W. Dower, *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II* chs 1-4, 6-8.
Andrew Barshay, *The Gods Left First*, Prologue, chs. 1,3 (pp. 1-45, 81-120)
Recommended: Sarah Kovner, *Occupying Power: Sex Workers and Servicemen in Postwar Japan*. Lori Watt, *When Empire Comes Home: Repatriation and Reintegration in Postwar Japan* Introduction, chs. 1-3.

Week Thirteen (11/29) **Postwar Politics, Policy and Culture** [Sara Kang]

*Sheldon Garon, *Molding Japanese Minds* Part II Chs. 5-6.
Simon Avenell, *Making Japanese Citizens* Introduction, chs. 1-2.
Franziska Seraphim, *War Memory and Social Politics in Japan: 1945-2005*. Intro, Chs 1-3.

Recommended: Chalmers Johnson, *MITI and the Japanese Miracle* chs. 1, 3-6. 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*. Jordan Sand, *Tokyo Vernacular: Common Spaces, Local Histories, Found Objects* Introduction, chs 1-2, conclusion.

Organization of the course

Discussion of the required readings will be the heart of the course. To facilitate discussion, each student on one occasion will be required to post to the course website two discussion questions raised by the required readings (by 7 pm on Monday) and will lead discussion of those questions in class during the first portion of the class. In addition, students will be responsible for writing a short (2-3 page) critique of one of the recommended readings two times during the semester, 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 new or used to the extent possible.

Reading Period assignment (due **Thursday, December 8**):

Write a review essay focused on three of the recommended readings (excluding those you have already reviewed). Approximately 3000 words. Firm maximum of 4000 words. Details of the assignment 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 and term time book reviews will count for 20 percent.