

Editor's Note

The Seoul Journal of Japanese Studies aims to connect the field of Japanese studies in Korea with the global academic discourse. Included within this volume is a fascinatingly diverse selection of recent research papers, which valuably reinterpret historical experiences in East Asia from a comparative perspective. The special topic of this edition concerns Japan and the Cold War in East Asia. Professor Han Jung-Sun at Korea University, together with other editorial members, took the lead to collect special contributors to this volume.

The special topic section deals with several unexplored or under-investigated topics related to Japan and the Cold War. CHUNG Jin Sung investigates how Japan's special procurement policy in Korea during and after the Korean War resulted in enormous economic gains for Japan, directly supporting the nation's emergence as an economic powerhouse in the postwar period. Also, he provocatively suggests that special procurement in the 1950s paved the way for Japan's long-term subjugation of the Korean economy. KIM Soongbae examines the influence of John Foster Dulles's ideological perspectives and personal beliefs on the birth of ROK-Japan relations in the 1950s. Here, Kim explores how, in the aftermath of the Chinese revolution in 1949, Dulles positioned Korea and Japan in unison as important bulwarks against communism in East Asia, but left the regional legacy of Japanese colonialism unchallenged. Lastly, LEE Kyunghee's article uncovers how Takeuchi Yoshimi's emphasis on the importance of the Meiji Restoration centennial was closely intertwined with the emergence of economic nationalism in the 1960s. Together, these three articles provoke us to reconsider Japanese involvement in the regional processes of Cold War development, through a diverse and revelatory range of critical lenses.

This volume also includes a further selection of articles looking at several new issues in the field of Japanese studies. KIM Heekyoung investigates the notion of being elderly in Japan. Looking at the case studies within Nagano prefecture, she delves into the issue of how the elderly formulate an ethics of dying in Japan's super-aged society. LEE Seok analyzes Ehime Prefecture's locale (*gotōchi*) idol group Hime Kyun Fruit Can, to show how locale idols self-

consciously reproduce the dominant trends in Tokyo, relative to the wider context of Japan becoming increasingly culturally homogenous. LEE Hyungoh, using statistical data from Korea and Japan, analyzes the historical characteristics of Japanese foreign direct investment into Korea. He shows that Japanese investments are still concentrated in the manufacturing industry, although overall Japanese outward FDI is focused on non-manufacturing industries. Looking at the context of 1920s colonial Korea, KI You-Jung's piece examines the phenomena of crowd riots. She finds that the Japanese colonial authorities and settlers during this period perceived a clear change in Korean society following the March First Movement. She refers this new form of collective uprising as an example of "crowd politics."

Finally, PARK Cheol Hee's special contribution to the volume is short piece, documenting the emergence of a regional East Asian concern to create a new inter-disciplinary, multi-regional, and mixed generational consortium of Japanese studies academics. Though titled as a "reminiscence," this piece offers a useful documentary account of the formation of the East Asian Consortium of Japanese Studies.

I feel confident this volume will contribute immensely to a greater in-depth understanding of the critical perspectives circulating within the field of Japanese studies in Korea, and introduce to global readers several diverse and less exposed arenas of Japanese studies from a most contemporary academic perspective.

PARK Cheol Hee

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