

東アジアにおける日本

Kuniyuki Terada

Actors of International Cooperation in Prewar Japan

The Discourse on International Migration
and the League of Nations Association of Japan



Nomos

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Editorial by Series Editor

The series “Japan in East Asia” publishes the latest research on the historical, social, and intellectual relations between Japan and Asia, in particular East Asia. As we know today, the Cold War has not yet ceased in that region. Regardless of intensified economic cooperation and despite the transnational impact of popular culture and exchange, the East Asian societies have not yet come to terms with their past. Taking a broader historical perspective, we see that the issue of realizing democracy in East Asian countries has remained on the agenda both in the fields of politics and culture, whereas in Western countries it has become an urgent task again. Unlike in Europe and the European Union, in East Asia nation states have not been integrated into supranational units. On the contrary, nation states continue to be dominant and exclusive forms of nationalism are highly virulent in East Asia today. To understand recent and historical developments in East Asia as a region, it is important to study not only individual countries there but to focus on the entire region in terms of its interconnections and interdependencies.

The title of this series is not meant to suggest a cumulative interest in the region in the additive sense of “Japan *and* China *and* Korea (*and* other countries)”. Rather, it proposes a relational perspective of Japan and East Asia in the sense of “Japan’s *relations to* its Asian neighbours”. While Japan today is generally perceived as a politically and economically Western country, it is culturally often seen as completely different from the West or even portrayed as the West’s Other. The publications in this series do not subscribe to those perceptions of contemporary East Asia that are based on an opposition of “West” versus “East”. Instead, Japan’s pioneering role in the integration of East Asian countries into international institutions and scientific networks deserves more attention. Mutual cultural influences between Europe and East Asia are not the focus of this series. Such research is particularly problematic if combined with an unspecific concept of “globalization”. This applies, for example, to research that does not distinguish between cultural contacts between Europe and East Asia during the European Middle Ages, on the one hand, and the power relations of a new quality between both regions since the 1830s, on the other.

Editorial by Series Editor

The main focus of this series is the historical interactions *within* Asia, particularly East Asia, in the modern and contemporary periods, including early modern history. These interactions belong to the areas we know least about in Europe. The adoption of this focus is based on the assumption of an historical East Asian connection that continues to influence East Asia politically, both positively and negatively. Combined with the specific focus of each volume in the series, the study of this connection may provide a better understanding of the region's present.

This series welcomes contributions that use different methodologies. An important precondition for research into interregional interactions, however, is the use of primary and secondary literature in Japanese and in other Asian languages. In addition, in order to pursue truly *international* research, it is not sufficient to rely on research results published in Western languages. Only the reception of international, in particular Japanese, research as well as an intensive study of their lines of argumentation facilitate the development of new approaches to the historiography of, and social scientific and humanistic research into regional connections. This includes, of course, contributions from Korean and Chinese perspectives. This means that the language barrier that seems insurmountably high must above all be overcome from the Western side. Put differently, we must first of all learn to read, in the literal sense. The aim of this series therefore is to demonstrate that sound analyses serve to deepen our understanding better than "travel accounts" produced by today's "science tourism".

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