



Review: [Untitled]

Reviewed Work(s):

The Asia-Pacific in the New Millennium: Geopolitics, Security, and Foreign Policy by
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away from specific Buddhist practices or rituals again make it a somewhat jarring intrusion. Finally, chapter 15, a description of Zen chanting written by an influential American convert to Buddhism, takes on an explicitly confessional voice that places it out of step with the remainder of the volume. Nevertheless, the weaker pieces are few and far between, and in general, the editors have chosen their selections wisely.

Finally, the brief introductions preceding each piece perhaps deserve special commendation. I found these introductions to be particularly useful in connecting the rich ethnographic detail of each piece to a wider Buddhist context and in understanding its relevance for the study of Buddhism as a whole. To cite just one example, in chapter 2, Donald Swearer's detailed description of one particular Buddha-image consecration ritual in northern Thailand is preceded by a brief discussion of the significance of Buddhist images in general and the supernatural power and efficacy they are often felt to convey. While the introductions are necessarily brief and cannot contain much substantive discussion in the space allotted, nevertheless the overall effect of the pieces and introductions taken together is one of rich and specific detail set within a wider context of issues relevant in the contemporary academic study of Buddhism.

The Life of Buddhism will be useful to anyone who teaches Buddhism at the college or university level, as well as to beginning graduate students.

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The Asia-Pacific in the New Millennium: Geopolitics, Security, and Foreign Policy.
Edited by SHALENDRA D. SHARMA. Berkeley: University of California,
Institute of East Asian Studies, 2000. ix, 396 pp. \$20.00 (cloth).

This volume is a collection of papers presented at a conference on "Asia in the New Millennium: Geopolitics, Security, and Foreign Policy" at the University of San Francisco in September 1997. Its purpose, as the editor claims, is to critically examine "the dramatic changes taking place in the Asia-Pacific region, their implications for regional and global security and stability, and the challenges such changes will present in the new millennium" (p. 1). The volume contains an introduction by the editor and seventeen articles by preeminent Asia specialists in North America and Britain as well as leading scholars from Asia. The articles are organized under geographic sub-regions (China, Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, and India), and substantial issues (the Asian Financial Crisis and its regional implications). While the end of the Cold War and its impact on the global geopolitical structure has increased the strategic importance of the Asia-Pacific region in world politics, the challenges facing the region are enormous and complex. Although there are many studies on these issues, no other single book can claim to have both comprehensive and in-depth coverage. This volume nicely combines breadth and depth through a survey of regional trends and examination of country and sub-regional cases.

In conceptualizing the Asia-Pacific's future direction (in part 1), Robert A. Scalapino provides a powerful overview of the Asia-Pacific as a region and the challenges it will face. According to Scalapino, speaking of Asia as a single entity is profoundly misleading. There are many Asias because of vast economic, cultural, and political diversities among Asian societies. Using socio-economic criteria, he identifies five types of Asian societies—advanced modern societies; states on the threshold of advanced modernization; rapidly developing societies; reforming Leninist states; and

failing or failed states. These different types of states will both pose and face different challenges in their trajectories of development. At the regional level, Scalapino argues the region needs to empower regional cooperation and institutions to maintain prosperity and regional stability. Regional institutions, together with the continued U.S. involvement in regional affairs, are the only effective way to counterbalance the rising nationalism and ethnic tensions.

In part 2, four authors discuss the role of an emerging China in regional affairs, a phenomenon that has tremendous impact on regional balance of power and stability. David Bachman's essay presents an excellent analysis of the domestic sources of China's foreign policy in the post-Deng era. Ni Shixiong's article on Sino-U.S. relations provides the Chinese perspective on major issues and problems in the relationship. Quansheng Zhao aptly discusses China's role in the Korean Peninsula. Allen Whiting, noting different forces at play in Chinese foreign policy-making, argues that economic development and territorial integrity will receive top priority from Chinese foreign-policy-making elites.

Turning to the Northeast Asian country cases in part 3, Uldis Krūze does a superb job reviewing Sino-Japanese relations over the last three decades. He suggests China and Japan should continue to accommodate one another's interests and build a stable bilateral relationship in Asia. Looking from the Japanese perspective, David Arase carefully examines and documents how Tokyo has adjusted its policy toward regional environment changes and the rise of China in recent years. Lowell Dittmer's essay is an in-depth assessment of emerging relations among China, Russia, and the former Soviet republics in Central Asia in the post-normalization period. By focusing in his essay on the North Korean famine, Bruce Cumings makes a stimulating argument that a humanitarian crisis in the North and a democratic transition in the South can be preludes to settling the long-lasting stalemate in the Korean Peninsula.

In part 4, although the connection between India and the Asia-Pacific region is not clearly established in the volume, we have three excellent articles on India's foreign policy. India has long sought international recognition of its role in world politics. Walter Anderson correctly observes that New Delhi has moved away from its traditional nonaligned stance toward a more *realpolitik* approach to international relations, and that the nuclear tests in 1998 highlighted such a shift. Along the same line, Sumit Ganguly's chapter analyzes why New Delhi wanted to join the nuclear club, and the strategic implications of the Indian nuclear tests for the South Asian subcontinent and international relations in general. Within a regional context, Leo Rose's essay on Sino-Indian relations examines the historical and geopolitical causes of troubled relations between India and China. He suggests that both governments should be more pragmatic in defining their regional and security policies in the twenty-first century.

The four articles in part 5 are devoted to the challenges the ASEAN states face in the new millennium. Diane K. Mauzy's essay focuses on the future development of the ASEAN as an organization for regional economic and political cooperation. The growing interdependence of member states and an increasing role in regional security engagement, she argues, will continue to assure its relevance in regional politics and provide the necessary glue to hold the organization together. On the same topic, however, Sheldon Simon cautions that the membership expansion risks political fragmentation and decision-making stalemate. Through a critical evaluation of China's policy toward the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Rosemary Foot discusses whether Beijing has behaved as a "responsible regional power" in the Asia Pacific in recent years. Kusuma Snitwongse's essay on Thai foreign policy provides an insightful review

of how Thailand responds to regional political, economic, and security changes in the post-Cold War era. At the end of the volume, Shalendra Sharma, the editor, provides a timely contribution on the origins and implications of the crisis on regional politics.

People may question the relevance of these essays written three years ago and how they stand against rapid developments in the Asia-Pacific region since then. It is true the conference that produced these papers took place in September 1997, before the severity and depth of the Asian Financial Crisis were apparent and before India conducted nuclear tests in May 1998. But careful readers may find most contributors have incorporated important developments into their revised essays for publication. Moreover, security, political, and economic issues in the Asia-Pacific are broad and complicated. It is difficult to find both comprehensive and in-depth treatments like this in one single book—this volume did the job nicely. It may not be a timely publication on latest developments in the Asia-Pacific region, but it is a fairly high-quality publication the like of which does not often appear in the field. One of its major strengths is that it exposes readers to a nuanced analysis of complex Asia-Pacific problems from a rich array of conceptual and methodological approaches.

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Japan and Singapore in the World Economy: Japan's Economic Advance into Singapore, 1870–1965. By HIROSHI SHIMIZU and HITOSHI HIRAKAWA.
London and New York: Routledge, 1999. xxxvii, 279 pp. \$95.00 (cloth).

The main title and subtitle of *Japan and Singapore in the World Economy: Japan's Economic Advance into Singapore, 1870–1965* might be switched to better reflect this work's actual subject. True, Shimizu Hiroshi and Hirakawa Hitoshi mention Immanuel Wallerstein, A. G. Frank, and world system theory. But their real aim is to correct basic misinterpretations about the long history of Japanese economic involvement in Singapore. From start to finish, the authors make clear that their intention is to debunk old ideas. The approach imparts a slightly mechanical feel to the work as targets are set up simply so they may be knocked down. Yet, despite the methodological heavy-handedness, the authors usually make a convincing case for revision in favor of their quite reasonable reinterpretations.

Shimizu and Hirakawa proceed by devoting a single chapter to righting a single major misconception (introduction and concluding summary chapters excepted). They first challenge the interpretation that Japan's economic advance into Singapore began with the *karayuki-san*, overseas Japanese prostitutes, and their profession's creation of an extensive economic multiplier effect. The author's commonsense correction argues that "the *karayuki*-led advance was merely one type of Japan's economic advance into Southeast Asia, and was by no means the only one" (p. 48).

Once the *karayuki-san* theory has been debunked, the question remains: if not the prostitutes, then who smoothed the way for early Japanese economic involvement in Singapore and surrounding regions? The answer is not obvious. One might suppose the distinction would go to the stalwart forefathers of Japanese entrepreneurs, legions of forerunners of the modern "salaryman," or perhaps to European colonizers who might have unintentionally helped the Japanese gain a leg up. Instead of these groups, the authors credit pre-World War I Japanese economic expansion to "the overseas Chinese merchants based at Kobe, Yokohama and other large Japanese port cities"