

We hope readers are enjoying the holiday season and may 2018 be a prosperous and happy year for all! This issue of *EAA* includes the special section “Demographics, Social Policy, and Asia (Part I)” as well as an ample amount of non-thematic articles, essays, and reviews. Most readers who have Asian studies backgrounds are aware that Wm. Theodore de Bary, an internationally famous scholar, former President of AAS, and a dedicated and effective proponent of integrating the study of Asia into survey-level courses intended for non-specialists, died last summer. Although it was too late to include a fitting tribute in our fall issue to his life and work on behalf of Asia-related pedagogy, we’ve taken the unprecedented step of reprinting an article by Professor de Bary that was previously published in the inaugural issue of *EAA* entitled “Asia in the Core Curriculum.” My hope is that every *EAA* subscriber will read the article. Professor de Bary’s essay is in no way dated and is perhaps even more relevant today than when it was originally published in 1996.

Han Li, in our second non-thematic related feature, “Another World Lies Beyond: Three Chinese Gardens in the US” introduces readers through both prose and images to three impressive gardens and, as important, those who are unfamiliar with what to see and ponder will learn basic philosophical and symbolic concepts embodied in many Chinese gardens.

Authors of the nine demography-related feature articles and teaching resources essays in this issue and its online supplements clearly depict some of the thorniest demographic challenges facing various Asian nations, and in several cases provide readers practical teaching suggestions. Economist Thomas Feldhoff in “Child Poverty in a Rich Country: Measuring and Influencing Policies in Contemporary Japan” describes and discusses a problem in Japan that has received too little attention outside the archipelago. National security in Japan for obvious reasons is more of a high profile issue than a decade ago and former Osaka University Professor and US Defense Department employee Robert D. Eldridge in “Japan’s Changing Demographics and the Impact on Its Military” discusses the difficulty filling the ranks with quality personnel and introduces possible choices for policymakers. Paige Tan in “Indonesia Doesn’t Want to Be Number Three” helps readers learn more about Indonesia in general through addressing the positive and negative ramifications of current national demographic trends. Chris Hudson in “Singapore: Immigration and Changing Public Policies” examines how a successful nation with low birth rates faces both increased opportunities and escalating social tensions due to government policies regarding recent newcomers. Prajakta Gupte in “‘The Emergency’ and the Politics of Mass Sterilization” tells the story of the effects in India of one of the most extensive sterilization campaigns of the twentieth century.

Phillip O’Brien’s and Byron Haast’s “Japan’s Declining Population: Beyond the Textbook” and Jayson’s Evaniuck’s “Aging Populations: A Comparison between Japan and Germany” include classroom activities and assignments that should be applicable to a wide range of high school and college-level survey



courses. Lisa Jane de Gara's "Asia's Missing Millions: How Policy and Social Pressure Made Millions of Women Disappear" is a succinct overview of a major problem that has been present in several Asian nations for a long time. The online supplements for this issue include Bonnie Tilland's "Dreaming, Making, and Breaking Family and Kinship in South Korea": a depiction of traditional family structure in the ROK and emerging challenges to customary ROK social norms, as well as digital pedagogical resources for the O'Brien and Haast article on Japan's declining population.

The spring 2018 special section is "Asian Politics." April 20th, 2018 is the deadline for initial receipt of manuscripts for the fall 2018 "Demographics, Social Policy, and Asia (Part II)" special section and August 1st, 2018 is the manuscript deadline for the winter 2018 special section "What Should We Know About Asia?" Further information about *EAA* is always available at [www.asian-studies.org/ea](http://www.asian-studies.org/ea). For even more current information on not only *EAA*, but other Asian studies educational resources and programs, register at our website for the short *EAA Digest* newsletter. Read the AAS blog #AsiaNow for regular posts on the best of the over 1,500 archived *EAA* articles available at our website, like us on Facebook, and follow *EAA* on Twitter.

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