I hope, given the unusual times, that readers are persevering and prospering. The special section of this issue—“Teaching Asia’s Giants: China”—includes a wide variety of essays and reviews on the world’s most populous nation. In “Ten Things We Need to Know When Teaching about Early China,” the reflections of highly-experienced professor Dong Wang focus not only on China, but cross-cultural comparisons as well. Ann Ostendorf in “Using The Journey to the West to Teach Tang China History and Culture” draws on her successful work in integrating this classic novel into history courses. Maritime history, despite changing perceptions of instructors and students who focus upon it, is still a relatively neglected area in secondary and undergraduate institutions. Grant Rhode and company in “China, Global History, and the Sea: Pedagogical Perspectives and Applications” assembled what I nicknamed “the maritime history” package, replete with rich information on maritime topics and perspectives, and a case study that the oldest public school in the nation uses with students. See not only the print issue, but the EAA online supplements for the complete “package.”

Joseph Ho and Kristin Stapleton in: “Facing History: Strategies for Teaching Chinese and World History with Memoirs” take readers back to literature in a careful and balanced treatment of how memoirs can be best used in history courses.

The post-Mao period deserves serious attention in a variety of survey courses. Bernard Keo’s “Crossing the River by Feeling the Stones: Deng Xiaoping in the Making of Modern China” should be useful for a long time given how much, in some ways, Deng’s policies significantly altered China’s Maoist path. Mark Metcalf in “The National Humiliation Narrative: Dealing with the Present by Fixating on the Past” offers a clear and accurate analysis of how PRC leadership uses its “Century of Humiliation” as a domestic educational strategy and as a rationale for foreign policies that concern several countries. The “Facts About Asia” column this issue features an interview with Jeffrey Wasserstrom on his recent book Vigil: Hong Kong on the Brink. Wasserstrom also comments on the PRC’s crackdown regarding civil rights in Hong Kong through Beijing’s June 2020 National Security Law that abruptly tightened state controls on education, journalists, and social media.

The next four resources articles—“Eurasia and Teaching World History: A Short Conversation with Professor Xinru Liu,” Elizabeth Eder’s “Unearthing New Lessons from Ancient China,” Kenneth Hammond’s “Teaching China in a Global History Survey,” and Keith Knapp’s “Teaching the History of Violence in China at a Southern Military College”—enhance the teaching of China in various ways ranging from excellent digital lesson plans for middle and high school students to assisting world history instructors on useful resources and ideas to do intercultural comparisons. Book essay reviews of an excellent textbook on Taiwan, and on the story of Chinese immigrants who helped build the US Transcontinental Railroad complete the print issue.

It is always a good idea to check out the online supplements for every publication of EAA but in addition to maritime history, and resources for two teaching resources essays, readers should be aware of three special online supplements: Nathan D. Gardner and Bernard Z. Keo’s “Made in China or Born Abroad?: Creating Identity and Belonging in the Chinese Diaspora,”
David Kenley’s brief essay on the recently published second edition of his outstanding Key Issues in Asian Studies volume, Modern Chinese History, and a special collaboration with Asia Shorts series editor Bill Tsutsui. Readers can learn more about the most recently published Asia Shorts volume in a short interview with the authors of The Great Smog of China and as important, access a complete chapter on the Mao years from the volume which should be useful in several different survey courses. Watch for a further digital collaboration between EAA and Asia Shorts guest edited by David Kenley to be available online soon.

The winter 2020 special section is “Teaching Asia’s Giants: India.” The spring 2021 special section is “Asia’s Environments: National, Regional, and Global Perspectives” and the deadline for initial receipt of manuscripts is November 30, 2020. For information on three additional planned special sections, as well as author guidelines, please visit the EAA website: www.asianstudies.org/publications/eaa. Nonthematic manuscripts are also considered for each issue.

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Cordially,
Lucien Ellington
Editor: Education About Asia
Lucien-Ellington@utc.edu

Send formal EAA submissions to:
Jeffrey Melnik
Managing Editor, Education About Asia
305 Hunter Hall, Dept. 2222
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Chattanooga, TN 37403
Phone: (423) 425-2118
Fax: (423) 425-5441
Email: edast@utc.edu

(please also copy the editor at Lucien-Ellington@utc.edu)
Website: https://www.asianstudies.org/publications/eaa