

has a long way to go toward regional integration. But multilateralism has taken a deep root in Asia, with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) playing a leadership role. In fact, the Brexit type of internal strife is not found among ASEAN members. That Asian countries do not always speak with one voice does not mean that they do not share the common interest of promoting peace and development.

In the final chapter, Auslin offers some helpful policy suggestions. For example, even with budget cuts, the US should remain committed to Asia's defense and should form a set of "concentric triangles" in Asia (196), linking democratic allies and friends to better address challenges from China and Russia. The outer triangle links Japan, South Korea, India, and Australia; the inner one connects Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Singapore. Reducing Asia's security risks can happen only if these two triangles are brought together (199). This sounds reasonable but remains impractical given the various interests of these countries, and he is less convincing when he essentially argues that we can just ignore security concerns from China and North Korea and that they will have no choice but to adapt to reality (200–201).

Auslin's long-term, idealistic suggestion is to encourage democracy and liberalization in Asia. While he is right in asserting that "American-style democracy . . . still remains an inspiration for those dreaming of liberalization" and "creating an Asian future more firmly tied to liberal principles and rules is the best hope for a world in which every nation benefits" (11), he falls short of explaining why democracy has encountered challenges in Asia and elsewhere, and why, in particular, democratization in China remains so trying. He does suggest that the US should do more to "engage with ordinary Chinese" and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) (219), but it is unclear whether ordinary Chinese will necessarily become more prodemocracy through such engagement and how ordinary Chinese can help promote democratic reforms in China, given that the middle class, the presumed leader of democratization, is largely reluctant to push for changes.

While much of the existing literature on Asia's future might be misleadingly too rosy, as Auslin suggests, his portrayal of Asia and his risk analysis of its future might be unnecessarily too pessimistic. Auslin succeeds in highlighting major development issues facing many Asian countries, which will be very helpful as these countries move to the next stage of modernization. But most of the problems are arguably growing pains and are unlikely to fundamentally change the dynamic development of the region. For most people in Asia, it is not an issue whether or when the Asian century will come to an end; rather, it is how to leverage globalization and promote more equitable, inclusive, stable, and sustainable development.

For scholars and policymakers who have sufficient background knowledge about the Asia-Pacific, this book is a fantastic work that will help them have a deeper and more sophisticated understanding of the region, with all the real and potential problems awaiting. However, the book is not suitable as an introductory text for high school students, college undergraduates, or the general public who may need to read and benefit from a more rudimentary but more balanced survey of the region—both its achievements and challenges. Therefore, I do not recommend it as a backgrounder for high school teachers of history, government, and AP World Politics or lower-level undergraduate students at colleges, despite its scholarly and policy merits.

Predicting the future is a risky business. The so-called Asian century may or may not continue in the decades ahead, and one does not need to agree with Auslin in his judgment and analysis, but he lucidly highlights some key problems and challenges in Asia and offers a levelheaded look at this dynamic and potentially dangerous region. In this sense, Auslin's book

is significant and contributes to the lively debate about the future of Asia and US-Asia relations. ■

NOTES

1. "Japan Unemployment Rate: 1953–2017," *Trading Economics*, accessed September 7, 2017, <https://tinyurl.com/yceu7g2u>.

ZHIQUN ZHU, PhD, is Professor of Political Science and International Relations at Bucknell University. He was Bucknell's inaugural Director of the China Institute (2013–2017) and MacArthur Chair in East Asian politics (2008–2014). His teaching and research interests include Chinese politics and foreign policy, East Asian political economy, and US-China relations. He has authored and edited over ten books. He is a member of the National Committee on United States-China Relations and is frequently asked by international media to comment on Chinese and East Asian affairs.

Japanese Girl at the Siege of Changchun

How I Survived China's Wartime Atrocity

BY HOMARE ENDO

ALBANY, CA: STONE BRIDGE PRESS, 2016 (REPRINT)

304 PAGES, ISBN: 9781611720389, PAPERBACK

Reviewed by Anne Prescott



Manchuria, Changchun, Yangji, Tianjin. Most people will recognize that these are places in China; many could place them in or near the northeast of the country. Beyond that? The Japanese took over Manchuria and created a puppet state they named Manchukuo, and some bad things happened at Changchun, Yangji is close to the Korean peninsula, and Tianjin was a treaty port. That is about all that some of us know, and perhaps a few more of us are familiar with some of the historical details of these places. But for many, these names are just a part of the blur of mid-twentieth-century history. However, for Homare Endo, these are critical sites in her personal narrative and have further meaning as keys to understanding domestic Chinese history and greater global issues that continue to resonate today.

Japanese Girl at the Siege of Changchun is Endo's recollections of her childhood experiences in China in the above-named locations. Born in China in 1941, her narrative weaves together the strands of her life between 1945 and 1953 (with a brief look back to 1944) in China in a way that few others do. With the benefit of adult insight into the significance of the events she experienced, her story is an engrossing, sobering, and thoughtful examination of many historical events that are not well-known.

The story begins with a stable family living a relatively affluent life in Changchun. Endo's father was a successful businessman who held the patents for and manufactured Giftol, a medicine that was widely used in China to combat narcotic addiction. But over the span of a few short years, the family went from a comfortable life where they enjoyed good relations with both the Chinese and Korean residents of Changchun to great

personal loss, starvation, and abuse. They witnessed some of the worst atrocities imaginable before finally regaining a relatively stable existence. Many of the positive relationships formed in their Changchun years would serve them well in the ensuing chaos in China, but even those were not enough to protect them from some of the worst of human conditions. The story ends when the family is repatriated to Japan in September 1953.

With Japan's surrender on August 15th, 1945, the Russians enter Changchun and the family's life begins a downward slope to instability. While many Japanese were repatriated to Japan, the production of Gifto! was necessary to the Chinese, and the family remains in Changchun under increasingly troubled conditions of the Chinese civil war. Endo's tales from these months reveal a fascinating push-and-pull between those who despise Japan's actions during the war and those who value the product produced by a Japanese man and his company.

During the Chinese civil war, including the siege of Changchun, the family suffers the loss of life, material goods, and, to some extent, their spirit. The chapters covering this time demonstrate the complicated relationships between the Communists and Nationalists, and how these impact Endo's family and other Japanese who had yet to be repatriated to their home country.

The family's situation worsens until they finally flee Changchun via the only escape route available, but they become trapped between the Eighth Route and Nationalist armies at Qiazi, the Chinese term for this military no-man's-land. Believing this escape route would lead them to the liberated zone, they are shocked to find themselves trapped in horrific inhumane conditions, living among piles of dead bodies and enduring starvation and disease. They shoulder the additional burden of having to abandon some fellow Japanese to escape from Qiazi and save themselves. The Chinese government today denies much of what happened in Changchun and Qiazi, so Endo's stories are important in focusing a spotlight on what happened to the innocent people who were caught up in the chaos of the civil war.

After making their way out of Qiazi, the family complete a long, arduous journey and finally resettles in Yangji. However, with the outbreak of the Korean War, they face new fears and dangers from the Korean majority living in the region. Korean anti-Japanese sentiment is strong, and the family endures intense verbal abuse from some Koreans in Yangji. It takes a chance encounter with a man who had known them in Changchun and vouches for their kindness to Koreans to alleviate some of their suffering. The family's experiences help us look beyond the situation on the Korean peninsula during the Korean War to see that conflict in a broader perspective that impacted both Koreans and Japanese in China during those years. In Yangji, the family also has their first confrontation with Communist indoctrination and anti-Japanese rhetoric in mandatory study groups.

When the family moves to Tianjin, their living conditions improve remarkably, but the anti-Japanese and Communist rhetoric to which they are subjected continues. Endo excels at school, in part because she embraces the challenge of memorizing all the required Communist propaganda. But her status as a Japanese becomes even more noticeable when she fails to be chosen to join the Youth Pioneers because of her nationality.

Endo's very personal and nuanced narrative of the family's experiences in Changchun, Yangqi, and Tianjin provide valuable lessons about political ambitions, armed conflict, and societal upheavals, and their effects on ordinary people. In the afterword, Endo draws on her adult knowledge of world events and comments on how the events she witnessed still impact Sino-Japanese relations today.

In summation, this book helps readers understand that there is no single view of history and that not every story fits the dominant narrative. The reader gains insight into the reasons why and the conditions under which

one Japanese family stays behind in Manchuria after the end of the war. In addition, the narrative contributes greatly to our understanding not only of individual historical events, but how they affect those who experience them. Teachers at all levels, as well as high school and college students, will benefit from reading about Endo's experiences and learning how people, places, and events, both then and now, are connected. ■

ANNE PRESCOTT has been studying Japan since she began playing the *koto* as a sophomore at Cornell College in Iowa. She spent eight years living and studying traditional Japanese music in Japan and received her PhD in ethnomusicology from Kent State University. In addition to her work as an East Asia Outreach Specialist, she has taught at Augustana College (Illinois), Indiana University, and the University of Illinois. She is currently the Director of the Five College Center for East Asian Studies, housed at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts.

The East India Company 1600–1858 *A Short History with Documents*

BY IAN BARROW

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Reviewed by Michelle Damian



Ian Barrow's slim volume uses the East India Company (or, as he refers to it throughout the book, simply the "Company") as a case study through which to examine Britain's colonial journey. From the Company's inception in 1600 to its formal dissolution in 1874, its trajectory reflects England's expanding global trade to obtaining a foothold in foreign lands to its problematic role as a colonizing country, through the growing challenges to and eventual collapse of that colonial authority. It is a concise history, but works well at bringing those multiple threads into one story.

One of the strengths of this volume is the way it treats the ripple effect of maritime trade, particularly as conducted on a global scale. In the first chapter, Barrow follows the various products that were of interest to the Company, beginning with spices and proceeding on to silver, textiles, and eventually tea and sugar. It is not a simple exchange, however; as one product became available on the market, it affected other aspects of seventeenth-century life. As the Company increased its trading capabilities in India and silver flooded the market, for example, it resulted in a population shift as weavers moved to the cities to take advantage of that increased trade. The resulting availability of cotton print textiles allowed merchants to sell them cheaply in England, causing domestic sales of woolen clothing to plummet. Parliament intervened by creating laws to force citizens to wear wool clothing and raised import duties on cotton. This engendered an initial backlash against the Company but eventually ended with a new industry developing in England: dyeing of the imported plain white cotton. Though that is just one example of the complexities of seventeenth-century global trade, it provides a more robust picture than simply noting that textiles were an important commodity for the Company.