Teaching about Asia through Youth Culture

JAPAN

Anime
The Ghibli Studio and Hayao Miyazaki rank foremost in Japanese anime. The following sites contain interviews, movie clips, and discussions about Ghibli and Miyazaki:

Title: Ghibli—The Miyazaki Temple
URL: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZoXRf0h-3Lo
A review in six parts, most of them around eight to nine minutes long. This link is to the first section with links to the others on the sidebar.

Title: The Birth of Studio Ghibli
URL: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ds3adCHVxnQ
A documentary in English voiceover, in three parts, with interviews, clips, recreations.

Title: The Studio Ghibli Collection
URL: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQbjP3BY9w0
A five-minute review of some of the studio’s work beginning in 1985 with Nausicaä.

Title: Hayao Miyazaki Interview
URL: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZlJLBed.6M8I
Two ten-minute documentaries in English (or with English subtitles) including interviews with Miyazaki.

Title: Spirited Away – English Dub
URL: http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-6911768548239675116
For those who would like to see the entire movie Spirited Away, perhaps the best-known anime film in the US, this site is it, albeit in dubbed English.

Manga

Title: A History of Manga
URL: http://www.dnp.co.jp/museum/nmp/nmp_i/articles/manga/manga1.html
This site, although ten years old, provides a concise history of manga in Japan. The articles cover publishing houses, manga genres such as sports manga or romance manga, and the best-known manga artists.

Title: Manga
URL: http://manga.about.com/
One can learn a great deal about manga on this page. In the left frame there are links to a variety of articles, including an introduction to manga, reviews of manga, and an art and photo gallery. There are also interviews with manga authors and publishers.

INDIA

Title: India’s Youth: Business Week International Edition
URL: http://www.businessweek.com/1999/99_41/b3650015.htm
Although this story dates back almost a decade, it provides a lot of information about the changes in the youth culture of India. In addition to this cover story, there are links (in the right frame) to tables and photos.

CHINA

Title: Is It Only A Movie?: An Empirical Study of Globalization and Youth Materialism in China
URL: http://www.allacademic.com//meta/p_mla_apa_research_citation/0/9/3/2/2/pages93220/p93220-1.php
This paper was presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association. It looks at the patterns of materialism as demonstrated by consumption of media products; it also asks questions about the values that contribute to this materialism. The forty-page document can be seen in two formats on these pages.

Title: Letter from China: Angry Youth
URL: http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2008/07/28/080728fa_fact_osnos
This article appeared in The New Yorker during the summer of 2008 shortly before the Summer Olympics. It touches on clashes with Tibet, the legacy of Tiananmen Square, and young YouTube filmmakers, especially one whose film captivated many young Chinese.
SOUTH KOREA

Title: Contemporary Youth Culture in Korea
Although this is not a lengthy article, the perspective of mother-daughter insights is quite rare and is worth reading. The authors speak not just of their own relationship, but also of Korean youth in general.

Title: The New York Times: China’s Youth Look to Seoul for Inspiration
URL: http://www.nytimes.com/2006/01/02/international/asia/02korea.html
This is a fascinating view of the relationship between the youth of China and Korea. To many Chinese, Korea is seen to be in the vanguard of the lifestyles that Chinese young people covet.

Title: Socioeconomic differentials in cause-specific mortality among South Korean adolescents
URL: http://ije.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/full/36/1/50
While not the usual focus of our East Asian studies, this article in the International Journal of Epidemiology presents interesting results that show the relationship between socioeconomic status and youth mortality in South Korea. (The entire article is available in PDF format from the link on the right frame.)

INDONESIA

Title: Inside Indonesia: Youth Culture
URL: http://insideindonesia.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=630&Itemid=29
The January 2006, issue of this magazine is devoted to youth culture of Indonesia. Article topics include crime, language variations, and sexuality. The article on language, for example, focuses on accents, styles, loan words, and regionalisms used by young Indonesians.

THE PHILIPPINES

Title: Youth in the Philippines
URL: http://www.unescap.org/esid/hds/youth/youth_philippines.pdf
Queen’s University (Canada) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) published this monograph in 2000. It is 161 pages in PDF format and covers a wide range of topics including health policy, education, and political participation. Since much of the data is from the 1990s, the document acts as a historical framework for the study of the Philippine youth of today.

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Editor’s Note: Web Gleanings is now available online at http://www.asian-studies.org/EAA.