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HIGR 212-Historiographies of the State in Twentieth Century Japan

Class Meetings:

H&SS, 3086
 Tues., 12pm-2:50pm

Office Hours:

H&SS, 3073
 Tues., 11am-12pm

Introduction

To no small degree, debates in modern Japanese historiography have turned on the question of how to understand the state and its role in shaping Japan's twentieth century. But what exactly is the state? How does it change over time? Who controls and who participates in it? In this seminar, we will attempt to formulate our own answers to these questions and also consider why the role of the state in twentieth century Japan has consistently attracted the attention of its historians.

Course Requirements

- 1.) Lead discussions at least one seminar meeting. Discussion leaders should provide a brief interpretive overview of the book under discussion, followed by a set of discussion questions.
- 2.) Weekly email forum: Each seminar participant will submit an informal response to the reading for the week to an online email forum. Submissions should be around 300 words and be submitted by the Wednesday evening before seminar.
- 3.) A final paper of 12-15 pages that considers in detail one of the topics covered in seminar. Paper topics should be approved in advance by instructor.

Course Texts

Sheldon Garon, *The State and Labor in Modern Japan* (University of California Press, 1987)
 _____, *Molding Japanese Minds: The State in Everyday Life* (Princeton University Press, 1997)
 Andrew Gordon, *Labor and Imperial Democracy in Japan* (University of California Press, 1993)
 _____, ed. *Postwar Japan as History* (University of California Press, 1993)
 Harry Harootyan, *Overcome by Modernity* (Princeton University Press, 2001)
 Germaine Hoston, *Marxism and the Crisis of Prewar Development in Prewar Japan* (Princeton University Press, 1986)
 Mark Metzler, *Lever of Empire* (University of California Press, 2006)
 Tetsuo Najita, *Hara Kei in the Politics of Compromise* (Harvard University Press, 1969)

Kazuo Nimura, *The 1907 Ashio Riot: A Social History of Mining in Japan* (Duke University Press, 1997)

Jordan Sand, *House and Home in Modern Japan: Architecture, Domestic Space, and Bourgeois Culture* (Harvard University Press, 2006)

Mariko Tamanoi, *Memory Maps: The State and Manchuria in Postwar Japan* (University of Hawaii, 2009)

Louise Young, *Japan's Total Empire* (University of California Press, 1997)

Seminar Schedule

Week 1 (3/29): Course Introduction/Organizational Meeting

No Reading Assigned

Week 2 (04/05): The State and Twentieth Century Japan

Sheldon Garon, *Molding Japanese Minds*,
Chalmers Johnson, *MITI and the Japanese Miracle*

Week 3 (04/12): Labor and Democracy in Imperial Japan (1)

Nimura Kazuo, *The Ashio Riot of 1907: A Social History of Mining in Japan*
Andrew Gordon, *Labor and Imperial Democracy in Prewar Japan*

Week 4 (04/19): Labor and Democracy in Imperial Japan (2)

Tetsuo Najita, *Hara Kei in the Politics of Compromise*
Sheldon Garon, *The State and Labor in Modern Japan*

Week 5 (04/26): The Empire at Home/The Empire Comes Home

Louise Young, *Japan's Total Empire*
Mariko Tamanoi, *Memory Maps: The State and Manchuria in Postwar Japan*

Week 6 (05/03): Japanese Fascism

Harry Harootunian, *Overcome by Modernity*
Maruyama Masao, "The Ideology and Dynamics of Japanese Fascism" in *Thought and Behavior in Modern Japanese Politics* (Oxford University Press, 1969)
Peter Duus and Daniel Okimoto, "Fascism and the History of Prewar Japan: The Failure of a Concept," in *The Journal of Asian Studies*, vol. 39, no.1, November, 1979

Week 7 (05/10): Japanese Marxism

Germaine Hoston, *Marxism and the Crisis of Development in Prewar Japan*

Andrew Barshay, "Doubly Cruel: Marxism and the Presence of the Past in Japanese Capitalism" in *Mirror of Modernity* (University of California Press, 1998)

Week 8 (05/17): Levers of Imperial Management

Mark Metzler, *Lever of Empire*

Week 9 (05/24): State and Domesticity

Jordan Sand, *House and Home in Modern Japan*

Week 10 (05/31): Postwar Japan, Post-postwar Japan

Andrew Gordon, ed. *Postwar Japan as History*
Harry Harootunian and Tomiko Yoda eds., *Japan after Japan*