

HIGR211
Tuesday, 2:00-5:00
HSS4025

Stefan Tanaka
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office hours: Wed, 1-3:00 & Thur, 2-3:00
or by appointment

The Idea of Japan

The purpose of this colloquium is to open an inquiry into the role of history in the constitution of modern society. The topic is necessarily conceptual; history and nation are both historical and “real.” Both were foundational in transformin and organizing relations among ideas, people, and representations during the nineteenth century. Japan provides a fine case to examine different formulations of the international and the nation-state into the singular unit, ”Japan.”

The course will be roughly divided into two sections. First, the problem of history. We will explore History as a new linear mode of thought that has been the basis of our understanding of the international (as well as global) as well as its parts. Second, history as a knowledge form that transforms place. The synchronization of places, more accurately the encounters, with this international led to transformations where non-Western societies were forced (and felt the need) to transform, or modernize (often called Westernize), that is, to write a history of their place, now the nation. Finally, while this mode of thinking still dominates our understanding of the international, area studies, Japan, etc. we will examine different ways that that history has been naturalized and historicized.

Course Requirements:

Weekly reaction “papers” submitted to idea-japan.wetpaint.com blog, due by noon, before class.

Each student will moderate two discussions on the blog following the class session.

Readings are available from Reserves at the Geisel Library.

Introduction: Time-space

David Harvey, “Space: A Keyword,” *Spaces of Global Capitalism*

Michel de Certeau, “The Production of Places,” 19-113, *The Writing of History*

Nation and History

Christopher L. Hill, *National History and the World of Nations*

Manu Goswami, *Producing India*

History of History

de Certeau, *The Writing of History*

Constantin Fasolt, "A Dangerous Form of Knowledge," *The Limits of History*

Linearity: Chronology, Progress

Peter Osborne, "Modernity" 1-29, and "One Time," 30-68, *Politics of Time*
Stephen Kern, "The Nature of Time," 10-35, *The Culture of Time and Space*
Georg Simmel, "The Style of Life," 429-512 *The Philosophy of Money*
New Times in Modern Japan, chapters 1 and 2.

History as Agent

GW Hegel, "Introduction," 1-113, *Philosophy of History*
W.W. Rostow, *The Stages of Economic Growth*
John W. Hall, "Changing Conceptions," 7-42, Jansen, ed. *Changing Attitudes*
Harootunian, *The Empire's New Clothes*

"New"

Koselleck, "Neuzeit", in *Futures Past*, 230-66
Edgerton, "Invention," in *The Shock of the Old*
Meiji
Marius B. Jansen, "Changing Japanese Attitudes," in Jansen, *Changing Attitudes*.
Najita, "Japan's Industrial Revolution," in *Japan in the World*, 13-30.
Postwar Japan
Gordon, "Introduction" *Postwar Japan as History*
Dower, "Peace and Democracy," *Postwar Japan as History*
Marotti, "The New Emperor System," in mss, *Money, Trains, and Guillotines*"

Past I: Origins

Jonathan Hall, "Theory and Method," and "Question of Origins" in *Hellenicity*
Kojiki, translated by Donald Phillippi
Motoori Norinaga: *Kojikiden*, book 1, translated by Ann Wehmeyer
Harootunian, *Things Seen and Unseen*
Amino, "Deconstructing Japan"

Past II: Old

Charles Hedrick, "Chronology," *Ancient History*
Cathy Gere, *Knossos and the Prophets of Modernism*
New Times chapter 6

Evil

Susan Neiman, *Evil in Modern Thought*

Past III: Folk

Harootunian, "Figuring the Folk," 144-59, in Vlastos, *Mirror of Modernity*
Gerald Figal, *Civilization and Monsters*
Kim Brandt, *Kingdom of Beauty*