

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the eighteenth volume of the *Japan Studies Review* (JSR), an annual peer-reviewed journal sponsored by the joint efforts of the Asian Studies Program at Florida International University and the Southern Japan Seminar. *JSR* continues to be both an outlet for publications related to Southern Japan Seminar events and a journal that encourages submissions from a wide range of scholars in the field.

This year's journal features five original articles. Takehiko Kojima explores the correlation between Enlightenment ideals and Japanese folklore while offering an alternative analysis of Yanagita Kunio's thought. Kimiko Akita and Rick Kenney discuss the misuse of metaphors in Japanese war propaganda in relation to the history of Japanese State Shinto. Hideo Watanabe gives an account of the lives of James Curtis Hepburn and Guido Verbeck in terms of their contributions to the modernization of Meiji Japan. Gabriela Romeu sheds light on the heated debate over the Japanese history textbook controversy in relation to World War II. Subramaniam Ananthram, Richard Grainger, and Hideo Tominaga together present the results of a study on Japanese business managers engaged in globalized business affairs.

This issue also includes two featured essays. Kinko Ito presents her research on ethnographic characteristics of the Ainu, the indigenous peoples of Northern Japan. Daniel Métraux discusses the possible threat of war over the Senkaku Island dispute between Japan and China.

Additionally, a special section of translation is featured in this issue for the first time. S. Yumiko Hulvey has translated from Japanese into English selections from the *Path of Dreams* written by contemporary author Kurahashi Yumiko.

Included in this issue are three book reviews. Martha Chaiklin reviews the revisiting of the matter of isolation in Edo Japan in *Defining Engagement: Japan and Global Contexts, 1640-1868* by Robert Hellyer. Daniel Métraux discusses waves of new Japanese religions in his review of *Establishing the Revolutionary: An Introduction to New Religions in Japan* by Birgit Staemmler and Ulrich Dehn. Laura Sullivan highlights Alan Tansmann's idea of the power of aesthetics to transform a culture in her review of *The Aesthetics of Japanese Fascism*.

Steven Heine

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Re: Submissions, Subscriptions, and Comments

Submissions for publication, whether articles, essays, translations or book reviews, should be made in electronic formats, preferably Word for Windows via email attachment (please inquire about other formats). The editor and members of the editorial board will referee all submissions.

Annual subscriptions are \$35.00 (US). Please send a check or money order payable to *Florida International University* to:

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Visit our website at <http://asian.fiu.edu/jsr>. PDF versions of past volumes are available online.

All comments and feedback on the publications appearing in *Japan Studies Review* are welcome.

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