After Defeat

Not being of the West; being behind the West; not being modern enough; not being developed or industrialized, secular, civilized, Christian, transparent, or democratic – these descriptions have all served to stigmatize certain states through history. Drawing on constructivism as well as the insights of social theorists and philosophers, *After Defeat* demonstrates that stigmatization in international relations can lead to a sense of national shame, as well as auto-Orientalism and inferior status. Ayşe Zarakol argues that stigmatized states become extra-sensitive to concerns about status, and shape their foreign policy accordingly. The theoretical argument is supported by a detailed historical overview of central examples of the established/outsider dichotomy throughout the evolution of the modern states system, and in-depth studies of Turkey after the First World War, Japan after the Second World War, and Russia after the Cold War.

AYSE ZARAKOL is an Assistant Professor of Politics at Washington & Lee University. She teaches courses on global politics, international security, and political theory and her research focuses on the social evolution of the international system and the integration of regions outside of the West into the modern international order.

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After Defeat

How the East Learned to Live with the West

AYŞE ZARAKOL



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For Michael Barnett and David Leheny

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You see, our whole life, from earliest childhood, has been geared to the European mentality. Is it possible that any of us could have prevailed against this influence, this appeal, this pressure? How is it that we have not been regenerated once and for all into Europeans? That we have not been so regenerated I think all will agree, some with joy, others, of course, with anger that *we have not grown up enough* for regeneration. But that is another matter. I am speaking only of the fact that we have not been regenerated even in the presence of such irresistible influences, and I cannot understand this fact.

Fyodor Dostoyevsky, From Winter Notes on Summer Impressions (1863)

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Acknowledgments

This book is about the insecurities created by the manner of incorporation of non-Western actors into the international system and how those insecurities continue to shape fundamental dynamics in world politics. In order to do that argument justice, I have at times traveled out of the more familiar confines of International Relations into social and political theory, comparative history, political sociology, and area studies. I read most of this literature without much guidance, and I sincerely hope specialists in each will forgive me for both omissions and unusual interpretations. While I am certain that in my attempt to paint a broad picture I have overlooked important details, this should not be construed in any way as intentional disrespect. I can only hope that the book's comprehensive vision compensates to some extent for its shortcomings.

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