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978-0-521-88763-2 - Pacific Worlds: A History of Seas, Peoples, and Cultures

Matt K. Matsuda

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Pacific Worlds

Asia, the Pacific islands, and the coasts of the Americas have long been studied separately. This essential single-volume history of the Pacific traces the global interactions and remarkable peoples that have connected these regions with each other, and with Europe and the Indian Ocean, for millennia. From ancient canoe navigators, monumental civilizations, pirates, and seaborne empires, to the rise of nuclear testing and global warming, Matt Matsuda ranges across the frontiers of colonial history, anthropology, and Pacific Rim economics and politics, piecing together a history of the region. The book identifies and draws together the defining threads and extraordinary personal narratives which have contributed to this history, showing how localized contacts and contests have often blossomed into global struggles over colonialism, tourism, and the rise of Asian economies. Drawing on Asian, Oceanian, European, American, ancient and modern narratives, the author assembles a fascinating Pacific region from a truly global perspective.

Matt K. Matsuda is Professor of History at Rutgers University, where he teaches Modern European and Asia–Pacific comparative histories. His previous publications include *Empire of Love: Histories of France and the Pacific* (2003).

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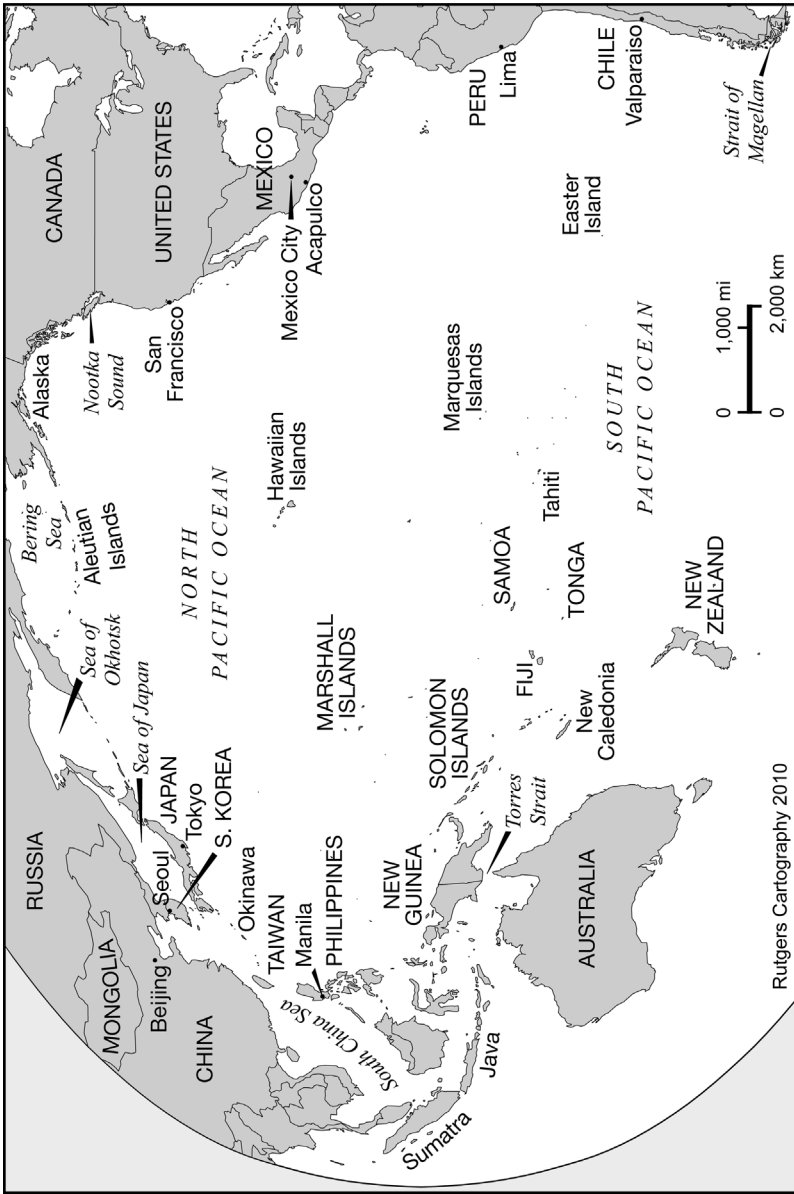
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Map I Islands and continents: general view of the Pacific Basin, attention to key ports and island groups.