

East Asia in the World

This innovative volume provides an introduction to twelve seminal events in the international relations of East Asia prior to 1900: twelve events that everyone interested in the history of world politics should know. The East Asian historical experience provides a wealth of new and different cases, patterns, and findings that will expand horizons from the Western, Eurocentric experience. Written by an international team of historians and political scientists, this volume draws attention to the China-centered East Asian order — with its long history of dominance — and what this order might tell us about the current epoch.

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East Asia in the World

Twelve Events That Shaped the Modern International Order

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Acknowledgments

This volume was many years in the making. The original idea evolved over a decade, as David C. Kang grappled with ways to integrate East Asian history into the mainstream of the international relations discipline. Initial forays in this vein included his East Asia Before the West: Five Centuries of Trade and Tribute (2012), a special issue of the Journal of East Asian Studies — where Haggard was the Editor — entitled International Relations and East Asian History: Impact Meaning and Conceptualization (2013) and a number of articles that are cited where relevant. His goal was not to simply sit back and ask historians to enlighten scholars of international relations, but rather to initiate a dialogue and have both sides learn from each other. He decided on the format you have before you: a series of chapters focused on events of consequence from East Asian history, but that are largely overlooked or unknown to the standard Western international relations scholar.

Stephan Haggard came into the project as conferences were being held around early drafts of the papers. Most of the chapters were written by historians. As with the invitation extended to Andrew J. Coe and Scott Wolford to ponder a conclusion, Haggard's participation centered on thinking through the links between the underlying historical material and major themes in international relations theory. His interests in the evolution of the East Asian political economy were continually being pushed back from the postwar period to earlier antecedents as he began to teach survey courses on East Asian international relations at both the graduate and undergraduate level.

Above all, both Haggard and Kang were preoccupied with the myriad of ways China could be gotten wrong, and on both the liberal and realist ends of the international relations spectrum. History clearly played a crucial role in the politics of the region, particularly in Northeast Asia. The material was by no means of solely academic interest: events as distant as the Opium Wars and the Hideyoshi invasion of Korea continued to resonate deeply. What could a sober consideration of the long arc of East Asian international relations contribute to understanding not only the *discipline* of international relations but its current *practice*?

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Acknowledgments

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