

realities will automatically continue uncontested into the future. Decline should not be seen as merely the fate of others. It can happen here" (p. 200).

Buckley is at his best in his analysis of economic history. His explication of Japan's trade surplus should be recommended not only to the beginning student of Japan, but also to the economic journalists who pontificate on CNN and in the *Wall Street Journal*. He shines also in his treatment of Japan's recent economic malaise, in which he takes both politicians and bankers to task for their self-interested and myopic policies.

As a long-time resident of Japan (at International Christian University in suburban Tokyo), he is a keen observer of Japan's foreign affairs as well as her domestic social history. His explication of Japan's foreign policy conundrum regarding the "Peace" Constitution of 1947 and its dreams of world involvement within the arena of the Security Council of the United Nations, is cogently and clearly written. He succinctly reminds us that "Hatred of war, often without regard to Japan's geographic or strategic position in East Asia, is a strong restraint on any Japanese governmental hopes of increasing its military spending or enlarging its off-shore defence responsibilities" (p. 96).

Indeed, Buckley has a flair for the epigrammatic turn of a phrase. For instance, in his characterization of Takeshita Noboru, whom he calls the "grey prime minister," Buckley notes that he "spoke so elliptically that even Japanese audiences required translators to explain afterwards what he had been trying and deliberately failing to say" (p. 52). He acerbically notes that "Japanese foreign policy initiatives since the war have been more noted for their absence than novelty or frequency" (p. 95). Similarly, anyone who has endured Tokyo's transportation system can appreciate Buckley's grumble: "Commuting depends equally on the efficiency of the train system and the tolerance of its passengers. The service is fast, punctual, and unpleasant" (p. 85).

I find few quibbles with this excellent revision, except that Buckley avoids Jenaga Saburo and the Textbook Controversy as well as other attempts by Japanese politicians to act as Spin Doctors for the nation's World War II atrocities. Also, his explanation of Japan's foreign policy reversal vis-à-vis Israel during the OPEC oil embargoes of the 1970s is a bit facile. But he is probably correct (if cynical) when he says, "The Japanese government's policies were probably no better or no worse than those of other industrialized nations facing the threat of energy and resource shortages" (p. 77).

Buckley has added some twenty pages of appendices to his new edition. Both security treaties (September 1951 and January 1960) are offered, as are several economic and political charts. The bibliography is rudimentary, as is the index.

At the end of the day, this is a very good social, political, and economic survey of the postwar era. It would serve any beginning student well and therefore should be added to any college or university library. I would venture to say that it should be read by every serious student of Japan simply because it is a literate and well-reasoned analysis of contemporary Japanese history.

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Shadows in the Forest: Japan and the Politics of Timber in Southeast Asia. By PETER DAUVERGNE. Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press, 1997. x, 308 pp. \$22.00 (paper).

In this volume Peter Dauvergne is addressing one of the two most basic issues facing twenty-first century humankind, the fate of the global forest biome (the other issue is the fate of the marine biome). The piece of the issue that he treats is the tropical forests of insular Southeast Asia, meaning Indonesia, Sabah/Sarawak, and the Philippines, ca. 1960–90. The book's cover is a lovely photo of giant trees casting their shadows over the understory below, truly "Shadows in the Forest."

Recognizing that the tragedy for these forests has been their extremely rapid harvesting during recent decades, Dauvergne focuses on the dynamics of that process. He frames his story in terms of two key players: the power elites of his three subject societies and the main foreign consumer of the harvest, Japan. The first two chapters discuss the character of Japan's role and the patron-client political structure of the three societies. Then he treats the three *seriatim* in successive chapters, with a concluding chapter recapitulating his findings. The work is based on English-language sources and a large number of interviews.

The great strengths of the study are these: Dauvergne recognizes that his is a complicated story and he treats its several interconnected aspects with care. The several elements in Japan's contribution to the story—in particular, the role of the large trading firms (*sōgō shōsha*)—are extensively examined, as are the complex connections that link indigenous elites to forests, forest harvesters, and the foreign purchasers. By treating the three cases *seriatim*, moreover, he can show the differences among them even as he highlights their similarities. And finally, his materials thus arranged enable him to tell a coherent and consistent story, the story of how greed, corruption, shortsightedness, and indifference, in which major players have "ignored environmental and social costs," has eventuated in the devastation of vast reaches of tropical forest with ramifications that seem destined to play out for decades to come.

That's the good news. There is, unfortunately, some bad news. Most obviously, and through no fault of the author, this study has by its nature a short shelf life and should have been reviewed in 1997, not in 2000, when I received it. More pertinently, the book suffers from repetition because the points Dauvergne is making apply in varying degree to all his cases. As a result, they appear over and over again. More irksome is a small matter of terminology. He has appropriated a bit of jargon—"shadow ecology," "ecological shadows," and most awkwardly, "Japan's ecological shadow of tropical timber"—to refer to the overall effects on insular Southeast Asia of Japan's timber-related dealings there. The terms clarify nothing so it is fortunate that they largely disappear when the author gets into his subject, where his arguments emerge in a straightforward manner.

The big problem is that the author has not embedded his detailed analysis in a sufficient interpretive context. The tragedy of these forests, like that overtaking all the other great natural biomes of the world, is, after all, a byproduct of industrialization, which has enabled the world's human population to multiply, elevated dramatically its per-capita level of demand, and equipped it with technologies of harvest that dwarf anything ever seen before. Dauvergne excludes these factors from his discussion or only notes them in passing, which forces him to find other explanations for the tragedy. And what he settles on, in essence, is the malfeasance of those he studies, the people who are acting out this instance of the story line that industrialization has everywhere promoted. The result is a book that, insofar as it looks at the Japanese role, is pretty much an exercise in "Japan bashing," while it finds the Southeast Asian elites guilty of corruption, illegality, etc. "They" are unworthy, and "we" have the task of making that fact clear. Did Edward Said say something on this subject a few years ago?

The behavior that he excoriates, however, seems so ordinary. The political figures seem to behave as they do elsewhere, whether they be Tammany Hall, Mayor Curley, Helmut Kohl, or any of a batch of American presidential or congressional candidates. Dauvergne's challenge is to explain why ordinary venality and short-sightedness prove so destructive in this case, and that task drags in the issues of population, consumption, and technology that he wants to avoid.

Which means that it also drags in ideology. Take the case of the *sōgō shōsha*, key actors and arch villains in Dauvergne's story. By his account, they appear to be almost perfectly run businesses, accomplishing all the goals most dear to an MBA's heart. Although they are a small group of firms ideally placed to achieve oligopolistic control of the market, and hence to charge outrageous fees, they evidently compete so intensely that their fees are minimal. And that leads them to maximize business volume, the economies of scale bringing goods to their consumers at the lowest price. And in case that performance doesn't please the observant economist sufficiently, they also maintain policies that smooth out irregularities of supply and demand, and thereby assuring that prices are stable as well as low, an accomplishment devoutly sought by all who engage in primary production. Could a supermarket executive, a discount wholesaler, or any other large-scale commercial magnate hope to do more to earn his or her keep? Isn't Dauvergne's task to explain why devastation results from business behavior that seems to follow so perfectly the ideals of industrial-age merchant ideology?

Dauvergne, in short, has chosen a splendid topic, addressed it intelligently, but failed to develop the interpretational potential that it embodies.

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The Nanjing Massacre: A Japanese Journalist Confronts Japan's National Shame.
By HONDA KATSUICHI. Edited by Frank Gibney, translated by Karen Sandness. Armonk, N.Y.: M. E. Sharpe, 1999. xxvii, 367 pp. \$65.00 (cloth); \$24.95 (paper).

During her brief visit to Nanjing in 1955, Simone de Beauvoir wondered how the Chinese remembered the "sack of Nanjing." Her Chinese companion told her that they must learn to forget. As Honda Katsuichi shows in this devastating book, however, Chinese victims have not forgotten.

The Nanjing Massacre begins with a lucid introduction by Frank Gibney, president of the Pacific Basin Institute and veteran American observer of East Asian affairs. Gibney places the book's publication within the current context following Iris Chang's 1997 popular book, noting both her accomplishments and serious flaws. The main part of the book consists of eleven chapters, previously published in 1987 in Japan as *Nankin e no michi* (The Road to Nanjing). Arranged in chronological order—as the Imperial Japanese Army landed in the Hanzhou Bay and advanced toward Nanjing in the latter half of 1937—they are largely based on his lengthy interviews with Chinese survivors conducted in late 1983 but also draw extensively from selected Japanese records. Excerpts from his 1972 reportage *Chūgoku no tabi* (Journey to China), the book that made Nanjing Massacre a hotly debated subject in Japan ever since, and his 1997 *Nankin daigyakusatsu* (The Nanjing Massacre) make up the appendix.