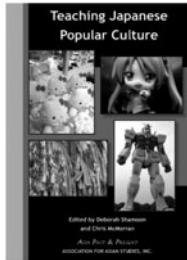


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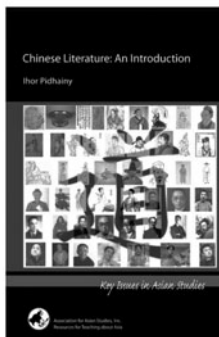
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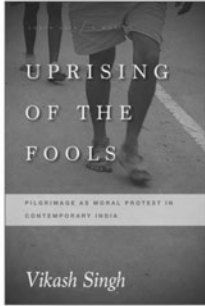
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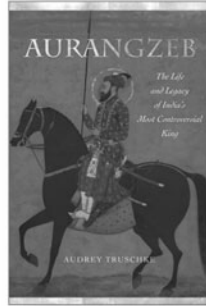
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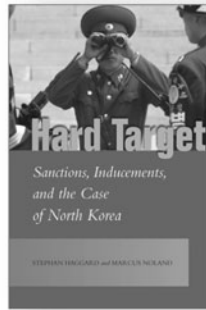
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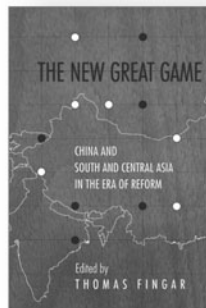
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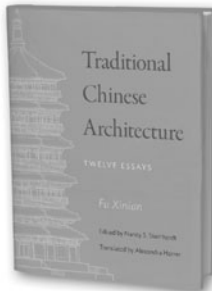
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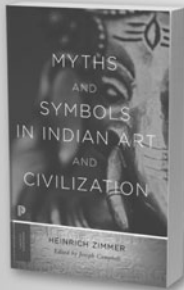


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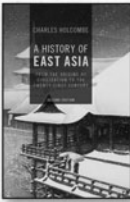
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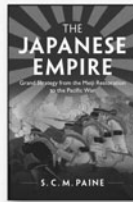
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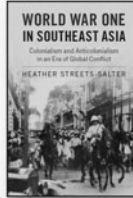
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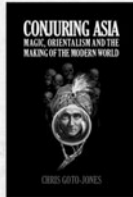
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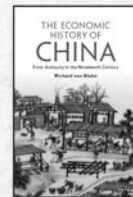
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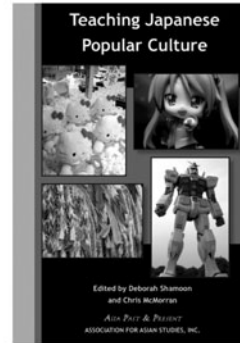
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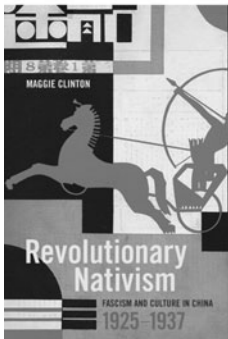


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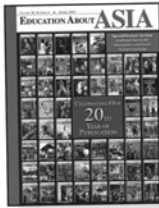
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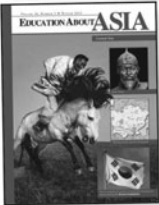


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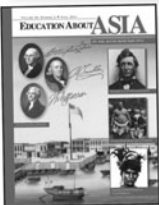


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Subscription Information: Annual subscription rates for Volume 76 (2017): Institutional subscription rates, print and online: US \$269.00 in the USA, Canada, and Mexico; UK £163.00 + VAT elsewhere. Institutional subscription rates, online only: US \$254.00 in the USA, Canada, and Mexico; UK £154.00 + VAT elsewhere. Individuals must be current members of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) to receive the journal. AAS has a graduated dues structure; membership fees are based on gross income. For further information please visit www.asian-studies.org or call the AAS Membership Manager at (734) 665-2490. Single part prices: US \$77.00 in the USA, Canada, and Mexico; UK £47.00 + VAT elsewhere. Institutional subscription correspondence should be sent to: Cambridge University Press, One Liberty Plaza, New York, NY 10006, USA, for customers in the USA, Canada, or Mexico. Customers elsewhere should contact: Cambridge University Press, University Printing House, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2, 8BS, UK.

Editorial Office: *The Journal of Asian Studies*, History Department, University of California, 200 Murray Krieger Hall, Irvine, CA, 92697-3275.

Abstracting and Indexing Information: Articles in *The Journal of Asian Studies* are indexed or abstracted in ABC-CLIO; Arts and Humanities Citation Index®; Bibliography of Asian Studies; Current Contents®/Arts & Humanities, Current Contents®/Social and Behavioral Sciences, Journal Citation Reports/Social Sciences Edition; European Reference Index for the Humanities and Social Sciences (ERIH PLUS); IBZ and IBR; MLA Bibliography; Revue Bibliographique de Sinologie; Social Sciences Citation Index; Sociological Abstracts.

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THE ONE OVER RULE AND OTHER THOUGHTS ON SUBMITTING TO THE JOURNAL OF ASIAN STUDIES

Jeffrey Wasserstrom

Editing the JAS is an exciting job but also a daunting job. It is exciting because so many fascinating pieces get sent in for consideration, but it is daunting because so few of these can be published. There is no magic formula used to determine which 25 or so of the well over 300 submissions we get in any given year end up being accepted, but over the course of my four years as Editor, I have come up with some rules of thumb. Since the Journal's Managing Editor Jennifer Munger and I are often asked questions by authors trying to assess their chances of having their article accepted, it seems worth spelling out some of these:

- 1) There are more pieces that qualify as the very best articles on Asia than we have room to publish. Our goal, therefore, is to select articles that are of very high quality and that, when taken together, make for individual issues and yearly volumes that seem likely to strike our readers as interesting and attractively varied.
- 2) The One Over Rule. In an ideal world, every JAS article would be accessible and appealing to all members of the Association for Asian Studies, the group that remains our primary target readership. More realistically, I am determined that nothing run under my watch will only be of interest to scholars working in a single discipline and on a single period or locale, and that nothing will only make sense to a small segment of the AAS membership, due to the terminology or formulae used. A lot of excellent articles are highly specialized and intended simply for others who are expert in an area, but there are many good journals where such work can be published. The JAS, by contrast, is an interdisciplinary general journal. To work for us, an article has to, at the very least, be something that scholars in two or three different disciplines will be able to understand easily and that will have the potential at least to interest readers working on neighboring countries, related topics, and on adjacent periods. Articles do not need to be comparative or interdisciplinary. They do need to have a broad as opposed to narrow aspect to them. Hence, the "one over rule," which means an ability to speak to someone in a field close to the author's own. An article by, say, an anthropologist working on Laos need not have any obvious appeal to a literary critic specializing in the study of Korea, but if this piece would have no chance of drawing the interest of a sociologist whose focus is Cambodia, we have a problem. Similarly, while that imagined Korean literature specialist does not have to write a piece that is certain to draw in an economist primarily concerned with India, there's a problem if Japanese studies scholars working in cultural studies do not think it speaks in any way to them. The same kind of thinking applies to periods as to places and disciplines.

IN THIS ISSUE

Asia Beyond the Headlines

TYRELL HABERKORN

The Anniversary of a Massacre and the Death of a Monarch

Research Articles

RAY CHRISTENSEN AND JOEL SAWAT SELWAY

Pork-Barrel Politics and Electoral Reform: Explaining the Curious Differences
in the Experiences of Thailand and Japan

JAMES R. REICHERT

From *Yomihon* to *Gōkan*: Repetition and Difference in Late Edo Book Culture

MICHIKO SUZUKI

Reading and Writing Material: Kōda Aya's *Kimono* and Its Afterlife

SATADRU SEN

The Conservative Animal: Bhudeb Mukhopadhyay and Colonial Bengal

HARSHANA RAMBUKWELLA

Locations of Authenticity: S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka
and the Search for Indigeneity

Catastrophic Asia

TIM OAKES

Introduction

BRIDGET HANNA

Making Exposure In/Visible: Epidemiology, Legitimacy, and Authority after Bhopal

MAGDALENA E. STAWKOWSKI

Everyday Radioactive Goods? Economic Development at Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan

OWEN B. TOON, ALAN ROBOCK, MICHAEL MILLS, AND LILI XIA

Asia Treads the Nuclear Path, Unaware That Self-Assured Destruction Would Result
from Nuclear War

ALĀNA M. WILSON, SIERRA GLADFELTER, MARK W. WILLIAMS,

SONIKA SHAHI, PRASHANT BARAL, RICHARD ARMSTRONG,

AND ADINA RACOVITEANU

High Asia: The International Dynamics of Climate Change and Water Security

DONNA M. GOLDSTEIN

Commentary: Science, Politics, and Risk: Catastrophic Asia from the Perspective
of a Brazilianist Anthropologist

EMILY T. YEH

Commentary: On the Possibilities of Transdisciplinary Asian Studies

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