

Three Recent Chinese Books on Sino-Japanese Relations

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Wang Xiaoqiao 王晓秋, *Jindai Zhong-Ri guanxi shi yanjiu* 近代中日关系史研究 (Studies in the History of Modern Sino-Japanese Relations) (Beijing: Zhongguo shehui kexue chubanshe, 1997). 377 pp. 22.50 yuan.

Huang Zijin (Huang Tzu-chin) 黄自进, *Jiye Zuozaos dui jindai Zhongguo de renshi yu pingjia (1906-1932)* 吉野作造对近代中国的认识与评价 (1906-1932) (Yoshino Sakuzô's Perceptions and Evaluation of Modern China, 1906-1932) (Taipei: Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica, 1995). 248 pp. 350 yuan (hardback), 300 yuan (paperback).

Zhong Shaohua 钟少华, *Renlei zhishi de xin gongju: Zhong-Ri jindai baikequanshu yanjiu* 人类知识的新工具：中日近代百科全书研究 (New Tools for Human Knowledge: Studies of Modern Chinese and Japanese Encyclopedias) (Beijing: Beijing tushuguan chubanshe, 1996). 216 pp. 15 yuan.

This brief review of three new books, two from the P.R.C. and one from Taiwan, has modest aims: to introduce the contents for interested readers of books that might otherwise escape their attention. More serious engagement with the many themes and arguments of these works will have to await longer reviews elsewhere.

The first work is a collection of essays by Wang Xiaoqiu of the Department of History, Peking University. Wang's name is well known to scholars of modern Sino-Japanese relations. He has penned a number of widely known books and numerous articles. One of his books has already appeared in Japanese translation and another is in preparation. The twenty essays collected here were all previously published in various and sundry journals and collections. They are divided into four sections:

- I. Sino-Japanese Mutual Perceptions in the Modern Era
 1. Changes in Modern Chinese Views of Japan
 2. A Tentative Investigation of Huang Zunxian's *Riben guo zhi*
 3. An Evaluation of Kang Youwei's *Riben bianzheng kao*
 4. Modern Chinese Travelogues, Studies, and Accounts of Japan
 5. How the Japanese Saw China in the Late Edo Period
 6. Late Qing Society in the Eyes of a Japanese [Oka Senjin]

II. Sino-Japanese Mutual Influences in the Modern Era

1. The Influence of the Opium War on Japan
2. The Influence of the Taiping Rebellion on Japan
3. The Relationship between the 1898 Reform Movement and Japan
4. Japan's Response to the Boxer Movement
5. The Influence of the 1911 Revolution on Japan

III. Sino-Japanese Cultural Interactions in the Modern Era

1. Modern Sino-Japanese Cultural Interactions
2. Luo Sen, Pioneer of Modern Sino-Japanese Cultural Interactions
3. Poetry Exchanges between Chinese and Japanese Scholars in the Late Qing
4. Sino-Japanese Cultural Interactions in the "May Fourth" Era
5. Huang Zunxian's Contributions to the Study of Sino-Japanese Folklore

IV. Comparative Studies in Modern Sino-Japanese History

1. A Comparison of the Sino-Japanese Closed and Open Doors
2. A Comparison of Modern Chinese and Japanese Politicians' Views on Eastern and Western Culture and Reform
3. A Comparison of the Reasons for the Successes and Failures of the 1898 Reform Movement and the Meiji Restoration
4. A Comparative Study of the Two Sino-Japanese Wars

Needless to say, these essays cover a great deal of ground. They are all wedded to a conception of "modern history" rigidly bracketed between the Opium War and the May Fourth Movement. In this sense they do not question received "wisdom" on the periodization issue in the least. Nonetheless, within these parameters, there is much of interest to readers here. This volume is number four in a new series entitled "Beijing Ribenxue yanjiu zhongxin xueshu zhuanzhu" 北京日本学研究中心学术专著 (Specialized scholarly works of the Center for the Study of Japanology of Beijing). Let us all encourage them to continue publishing works in this vein.

Huang Zijin of the Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica is rapidly becoming one of the most important historians of Japan and Sino-Japanese relations in Taiwan. With a doctorate from the Faculty of Law, Keiô University and many years residence in Japan, he brings extraordinary skills to bear on the subjects he has thus far worked on. Like Wang Xiaoqiu, he has as well had an article published in an earlier issue of *Sino-Japanese Studies*. This work on Yoshino Sakuzô is the first major Chinese study of this important thinker of the late Meiji, Taishô, and early Shôwa eras. It may be the only full-fledged study of Yoshino published outside of Japan to date.

As Huang admits, he was initially drawn to Yoshino because of the latter's support of the May Fourth Movement, not at all a common Japanese response to that series of events. Although Yoshino was early in his career a supporter of Japanese expansion onto the Chinese mainland, Huang notes that Yoshino's views changed as he became a strong advocate of Wilsonian democracy and self-determination. Indeed, he coined the byword at the core of his most productive and active years: "Taishô democracy."

The general structure of Huang's book breaks down as follows:

1. The Background to Yoshino Sakuzô's Understanding of China
 - A. The Temporal Significance of the Taishô Democracy Movement
 - B. Yoshino's Political Thought and His View of China
 - C. Wilsonianism and Yoshino's Rise and Fall in the Japanese Political Realm

2. Yoshino's Understanding of the Chinese Revolution
 - A. Early Views
 - B. From Denial to Identification
 1. Origins of His Change of Views on the Chinese Revolution
 2. Intellectual Background to His Complete Support of the Northern Expedition Policy
 - C. Yoshino on Sun Zhongshan
 1. Early Understanding
 2. From a Change of Views to Complete Support

3. Yoshino Sakuzô's View of Japan's Rights in China as Seen from the "Twenty-One Demands"
 - A. Background to the Emergence of the Twenty-One Demands
 - B. Yoshino's Complete Support of the Theoretical Foundations of the Twenty-One Demands
 - C. The Reasons for Yoshino's Concession on Japan's Rights in Shandong
 - D. The Intellectual Background to Yoshino's Complete Denial of the Twenty-One Demands

4. Yoshino Sakuzô's Perceptions and Evaluation of the May Fourth Movement
 - A. Japanese Views, Official and Unofficial, of the May Fourth Movement
 - B. Yoshino's Full Investigation of the May Fourth Movement
 - C. Yoshino's Encouragement of Sino-Japanese Cultural Interchange

Conclusion

Because this book is written in Chinese, it sadly will probably not reach the audience which most needs to read it, Japanese and Western scholars of Japanese history. We would strongly urge an English or Japanese translation to make Huang's important work known beyond the Chinese-reading world. He is presently working on a book-length study of Kita Ikki and the Chinese revolution.

Zhong Shaohua's work is one of the most interesting books in the field of Sino-Japanese studies to come out of China or anywhere else in many years. Zhong has examined in great detail numerous encyclopedias and dictionaries to see how Chinese and Japanese represented themselves and each other, how they organized and categorized knowledge, and how human beings came to undertake the operation of compiling such large-scale works. The "modern" in his title corresponds roughly to the late Qing in China and the late Meiji for Japan. A thorough review of this work by a specialist is a scholarly desideratum. Its organization runs as follows:

1. The Efflorescence of Human Knowledge
 - A. The Origins of Encyclopedias
 - B. The Meaning of the Modern Chinese Encyclopedia
 - C. A Powerful New Tool for Human Civilization

- D. The Importance of Studying Modern Chinese and Japanese Encyclopedias
2. Studies of Modern Chinese Encyclopedias
 - A. The Origins of Late Qing Encyclopedias
 - B. The Kinds and Organization of Late Qing Encyclopedias
 - C. Contents and Characteristics of Late Qing Encyclopedias
 - D. Compilers, Authors of Sections, Translators, and Authors of Introductions
 - E. Encyclopedias and the *Jingshi wenbian* (Essays on Statecraft)
 - F. Toward Chinese Evolution
 3. Studies of Modern Japanese Encyclopedias
 - A. Origins and Developments
 - B. Organization and Characteristics
 - C. Compilers and Authors of Introductions
 - D. Cultural Impacts
 4. The Cultural Qualities of Chinese and Japanese Encyclopedias
 - A. Common Chinese and Japanese Historical Traits
 - B. Different Chinese and Japanese Cultural Qualities
 5. Examination of Encyclopedia Thought and Methodology
 - A. A Look at Encyclopedia Thought
 - B. A Look at Encyclopedia Methodology
 6. An Aspiration
 - A. A New Instrument for Opening up the Human Search for Knowledge
 - B. The Illusion of an "Encyclopedia of Human Knowledge"

Appendices and Sources

In addition, Zhong provides some marvelous pictorial material, including color and black-and-white reproductions from many of the encyclopedias he has examined. For those interested in the production of knowledge in the late Qing and late Meiji, this book should be required reading.