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Scope

“Global Perspectives on Japan” focuses on developing a global perspective on the study of Japan and Asia. The journal promotes innovative, interdisciplinary, inter-regional and transnational approaches to Japanese Studies.

The journal aims to be a venue for scholarship in E.M.E.A. region with a special focus on Turkey and neighboring regions. It especially encourages scholars from the Middle East, Balkans, Central Asia and the Mediterranean but also welcomes scholars from other parts of the world.

GPJ invites papers in the fields of history, humanities, and social sciences including topics of the past and the present. In addition to articles, the journal publishes occasional article size translations, book reviews, and surveys of current trends in Japanese and Asian Studies.

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Editor's Note

Erdal Küçükyalçın

Dear Readers,

I am proud to be able to present you the fourth issue of GPJ which was made possible with the continued support and generous funding of Toshiba International Foundation (TIFO), and the collaboration of Japanese Studies Association of Turkey (JAD).

As far as the pandemic is concerned, not much has changed since our last issue. Humanity is still under stress, economies around the world have approached a total standstill, all sectors including transportation, tourism, education, entertainment etc. have taken their shares from the lockdowns. The situation reminds us of science-fiction movies in which humans try to find a way out of the dire conditions caused by a catastrophe. A new world seems to be in the making. Thanks to the efforts of energetic innovative leaders in many fields, we started seeing light at the end of this dark tunnel.

As vaccination proceeds, I believe it is time for us to begin thinking about the aftermath of the pandemic. The rise of A.I. as well as IoT, Industry 4.0 or Machine Learning is on the edge of changing the world we used to live, for good. Mass production of driverless vehicles will start within a few years. Many of the routine jobs traditionally done by humans will perish in the near future. We will need to cultivate new skills in order to adopt ourselves to this new World. This fact in turn, will change the very nature of education and schooling. We will have to think about novel ways to redesign our education systems in line with the changing needs of the “new normal” and raise creative leaders equipped with multi-skills. This is the new challenge of mankind...

With these in mind, I would like to introduce you the content we prepared for this issue. You can find the abstracts of the articles in the following section.

The first article “State, Political Parties, and the Nation: Triangular Political History without a Center of Gravity” by Prof. Yuichiro Shimizu, is a translation of “Kokka, Seitō, Kokumin: Rikken Seiji no 130 nen” published in 2019. In this important article, Prof. Shimizu is focusing on the relationship between the state, political parties and nation in Japan and is giving important insights on how Japanese democracy had evolved during the 130 years since the establishment of the Meiji imperial constitution.

The second article by Doruk Akyüz is titled “An Ottoman Staff Officer at the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905): General Pertev Bey’s Impressions and Evaluations”. The article introduces an Ottoman officer who was dispatched to the battlefields of Port Arthur as a military observer embedded to the Japanese side. Akyüz shows how deeply influenced Pertev Bey was by this experience and how he had tried to reform the military tactics of the Ottoman army in line with Japanese practices (albeit in vain). The article brings a fresh perspective to the eye-witness accounts of the Western military observers of Russo-Japanese War.

The third article is written by Semiha Karaoğlu and it takes up the subject of Russo-Japanese War from a different angle. In “Railroads of the Glorious Empires in the late 19th Century: From the Great Game to the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-5” Karaoğlu explains how important a role the railroads had played in grand strategies of rival powers in Asia, and how massive efforts for building railway lines across the continent during the Great Game had led to a pitched battle at Port Arthur, a confrontation that would leave a deep mark on global politics.

The fourth article by Jennifer Norris, “Tracing the Royal, Romantic and Demonic Roots of the Nio Warrior Guardian” concentrates on the Nio (or *Kongo Rikishi* 金剛力士) door guardian figure in Japanese culture and traces its roots in ancient India and even possible connections with Hercules cult brought by Alexander’s armies from the West. Her study reveals the cultural and historical significance of the sacred weapon vajra and vajrapani (The vajra bearer, guard/attendant of Shakyamuni) in the evolution of warrior god iconography. Norris’ article brings a unique perspective to the study of warrior cults across Asia and offers promising new frontiers for future

research in art history, symbolism, as well as history of martial arts.

The fifth article “Yōkai as The Edge of The World” by Kōda Retsu, is a translation of the article with the same title published in Japanese in 2016. In this study, Prof. Kōda touches the very core of Yōkai Studies as a field of research set by Inoue Enryō in his Lectures on Yōkai Studies. Kōda guides us through the mysterious realm of the yōkai to reach the philosophical foundations of the field, offers us a brand new way of investigating fundamental concepts as well as a novel perspective to reconcile the fixated views of scholars and “carriers-of-cultural-memory” on the existence or non-existence of yōkai. This article is a powerful contribution to the field of Yōkai Studies.

Finally, we have two book reviews in this issue. The first is an evaluation by (Em.) Prof. Selçuk Esenbel of Japon Turancılığı (Japanese Turanism), a book published in Turkish by Sinan Levent in 2016. The second is Japan’s Contested Constitution by Glenn D. Hook and Gavan McCormack, published in 2001 and reviewed by Can Öçalan.

We have selected these articles because we think they offer new perspectives, novel approaches to global scholarship.

With the continued support of TIFO, we feel stronger than ever and we believe that Global Perspectives on Japan (GPJ) with its sustainable growth, is becoming one of the main outlets for new research in Japanese Studies, and has already established itself as an Open Access journal with valuable content. I want to express my gratitude to all parties involved and my team members who have shown perseverance during harsh times.

I invite all our readers to join our community by submitting articles for our fifth issue.

Greetings from a lovely spring night in Istanbul...

Abstracts

State, Political Parties, and the Nation: Triangular Political History without a Center of Gravity

Shimizu Yuichirō

Last year, Japan celebrated the one hundred and thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of the Meiji imperial constitution. As the first constitutional state in Asia, Japan's experience soon garnered the attention of the world. As in the post-war era where Japan's model of high-speed economic growth proffered a model for developing countries, in the pre-war imperial world, Japan's experience with constitutionalism provided encouragement to those nations, then colonies of the European powers. Yet this history of constitutionalism was by no means a story of unalloyed successes. Rapid modernization and economic growth in no short order destabilized Japan's traditional order, giving birth to an unstable social structure.

How to design the relationship between the state, political parties and nation has remained a major question which has continued up to the present. Clarifying how the three parts of the triangle (state, parties, nation) have evolved over the last one hundred and thirty years provides important insights into how the development of Japanese 'democracy' has differed from the experience of the Western democracies.

Keywords: Modernization, democracy, constitutionalism, state, political parties



An Ottoman Staff Officer at the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905): General Pertev Bey's Impressions and Evaluations

Doruk Akyüz

In this paper, I discuss the influence of Japan's military westernization on Ottoman conceptions of East-West relations, Westernization, and military reform, from the perspective of an Ottoman staff officer. Colonel (later General) Pertev (Demirhan) Bey visited Japan and the battlefields of the Russo-Japanese War as a military observer between 1904-1905. His experience on the battlefield dramatically influenced his way of thinking. In the successful Japanese example of military modernization, as he saw it in action against Russia, and found the answers to the long debate among Ottomans about the path for modernization in the face of threats from Western powers. He saw the Ottoman Empire and Japan as sharing many commonalities. Both faced

a threat from Western modern states and their militaries. In reaction, elites and decision makers in both nations had sought to adopt Western practices, doctrines, institutions, science, knowledge, and cultural elements in order to reach the level of their threatening contemporaries. The Japanese military victory validated in the eyes of Pertev Bey, and many of his Ottoman contemporaries, the Japanese method of modernization. Japan replaced the West as the model of modernization for him. This led him to pen a report and unsuccessfully champion the Japanese example of military reform to Sultan Abdülhamid II. When he was given decision making power during the First Balkan War, tasked with planning the war against the Balkan allies, his experience in Japan played a central role in the war plan he presented, which in turn determined the contours of the Ottoman experience in the war.

Keywords: Pertev Bey, Russo-Japanese War, Japan, Japanese, Ottoman Empire, Ottomans, westernization, modernization, observers



Railroads of the Glorious Empires in the late 19th Century: From the Great Game to the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-5

Semiha Karaoğlu

Railroads have been an inevitable part of countries' expansionist and imperialist policies throughout history. Easing commodity distribution as well as human mobility, railroads also provided the transfer of knowledge and became a means of intelligence sharing. In this view, one can plausibly observe that nations are inclined to allocate budgets for railroad construction in order to extend their power. Moreover, they also followed expansionist policies by constructing 'transitive' railroads, connecting extensive regions, or even continents. Hence, investigating railroads sheds light on world history, for it enables one to comprehend the ultimate motives countries had before embarking upon such endeavors. The present research, therefore, analyzes railroad construction, focusing on the nineteenth century. It commences by introducing a brief history of the railroad construction around the globe. Then, it moves on to the Great Game theory and analyzes how the rivalry between the British and Russian Empires increased the speed of constructions with imperialist and expansionist policies behind them. This research also elucidates what impacts railroads built by the Russian Empire had on the Empire of Japan, and how it led to the escalation of the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-5. Moreover, it focuses on the conflicts taking place between the Russian Empire and the United States, in connection to their impacts on the British Empire. In conclusion, the paper demonstrates a trend of how railroads shaped world history, taking into account the

example of the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-5.

Keywords: Railroads, Great Game, Russo-Japanese War, Japan, imperialism, Lüshun, India, Britain



Tracing the Royal, Romantic and Demonic Roots of the Nio Warrior Guardian

Jennifer Norris

The *Nio* (or *Kongo Rikishi* 金剛力士) door guardian or *dvarapala* symbolic figures that guard the famed Todaiji Temple of Nara, trace an ancient history from primitive roots in the narrative figure of the *Vajrapani*, attendant of the Buddha Shakyamuni across Asia, and even further back. The origins of this figure remain relatively vaguely defined in comparison to the intrigue caused by contemporary and medieval applications of the figure, and this research clarifies some apparent historic connections evidenced through visual symbolism to connect the *vajrapani* to royalty through the *vajra*, through *dvarapala* positioning, associations with the *vajra* and other aesthetic traits. The study suggests a possible transformation from the *channavira*, a decorative chain associated with fertility, depicted in early versions of the *vajrapani*, with the evolved, inhuman musculature of the more modern *Nio* guardian figures. This study then branches from Grunwedel's association of the *vajrapani* with *Mara* by positing a possible aesthetic connection between early depictions of *Mara's* army (tempters through which the Buddha has to pass in order to achieve enlightenment) and the *Nio* through *channavira* symbolism, mudras, positioning and body postures of predominantly the Sanchi Stupa. The *Nio* figures, while seemingly outlying icons of Mahayana Buddhism, have found resounding significance in modern and historic martial societies and religious orders. Clarifying their branching ancestry from the earliest *vajra bearers*, along with their cultural and historic significance will inform a modern understanding of their symbolic value, and the cultural understandings of existential circumstances that they confer.

Keywords: Buddhist symbolism, Nio, Mythology, Vajrapani, Vajra, Kongo Rikishi, Mahayana



Yōkai as The Edge of The World

Kōda Retsu

Today in Japan, people continue to show considerable interest in *yōkai*. In the past, a *yōkai* craze centering on MIZUKI Shigeru's work *GeGeGe no kitarō*, had swept the country. However, more recently in 2014 the role-playing game *Yōkai Watch* (launched by Level-5 Inc. in 2013) was turned into a television anime and is boasting explosive popularity. In addition, while *kaidan* (*yōkai* stories) used to be transmitted orally, now they have appeared on the internet, and unique tales continue to be spun. In this way, by continuing to encounter *yōkai* in some form or another, fixed images of them have been formed amongst people today. In most cases, these images are of grotesque things with a specific appearance, for example, an 'umbrella-shaped ghost', a 'painted wall', or a 'haunting cat'. However, these popular images of *yōkai* are hindrances when engaging in academic research on the subject. Compared to those found at the popular level, researchers' definitions of *yōkai* are not uniform. The aim of this paper is, while referring to efforts to reconsider the concept of *yōkai* in contemporary folklore studies, to decipher INOUE Enryō's philosophically motivated *Yōkai Studies* (or, *Mystery Studies*), and above all, to inquire into its limits and possibilities through his late-year "Mutual Inclusion" theory. By taking as an unconscious ontological premise the non-existence of *yōkai*, *yōkai* research in contemporary folklore studies has come up against the ontologies of folklorists that speak of actual existence of *yōkai*. For this reason, we must newly inquire into the ontological premise of the *yōkai* concept. However, this requires not something that results in an 'anything goes' perceptual relativism, but rather a pluralistic methodology that allows the co-existence of diverse ontological viewpoints while unifying them on a meta-level. In this sense, the perspectival conception of the interrelated structure of matter, mind and principle in Enryō's *Yōkai Studies* and his late period philosophy of the Mutual Inclusion of the 'front' and 'back' offer considerable clues. A research approach that is not partial to a specific view of *yōkai* and makes use of folklorists' worldviews can provide a meta-theory for *yōkai* research. However, Enryō did not fully traverse this path. In his own *Yōkai Studies*, he did not choose to adopt the perspective of the superimposition of time, space, mind and matter within mutual inclusion, or approach *yōkai* phenomena as the edge of the cosmos that is formed within this perspective.

Drawing from Enryō's ideas, the paper proposes to newly define the concept of *yōkai* as the edge of the cosmos. *Yōkai* are things that continually threaten the concepts of the cosmos that researchers and folklorists hold. Having inquired to this point, our questions reverse themselves. Perhaps it is us humans who are interrogated by *yōkai*.

Keywords: Inoue Enryō, Yōkai, Mutual Inclusion, Folklore, Mystery Studies

State, Political Parties, and the Nation: Triangular Political History without a Center of Gravity*

Shimizu Yuichirō

A Noisy Beginning: The Ideas and Reality of the Meiji Restoration

The Meiji Restoration marked the opening of an ideal. As part of the pledge made in the Meiji Charter Oath of Five Articles 1868, the restoration government called for all matters to be publicly discussed, for national cohesion, and realization of a self-fulfilling society, revealing the new nation's willingness to break with convention and learn from the world. Though they felt aversion towards excessive idealism, it was necessary to put forward justifications –which would resonate powerfully– for having brought to an abrupt end to the 260 years of relative peace sustained by the Tokugawa shogunate. However, the realization of ideals is not easy. More than anything, for a people who have lived in a stable and conservative society for so long, the Restoration was violent cataclysm, unparalleled in both the experience of men and the nation.

In the inaugural year of the Meiji monarchical era, the restoration government convoked the *Kōgisho*, 1869. A deliberative body, composed of representatives from 260 domains, was something which no one had assembled before. The orientations of members of the *Kōgisho* –retainers of the domains,

* This article is the English translation of the following article with the same title in Japanese: "Kokka, Seitō, Kokumin: Rikken Seiji no 130 nen", *ASTEION*, No. 90(2019), pp. 14-28. Translated by Dr. Andrew Levidis. Prof. Shimizu is currently teaching at Faculty of Policy Management, Keio University. yuichiro@sfc.keio.ac.jp