

# Asia and Postwar Japan

## *Deimperialization, Civic Activism, and National Identity*

Simon Avenell

Published by the Harvard University Asia Center  
Distributed by Harvard University Press  
Cambridge (Massachusetts) and London 2022

## *Contents*

<i>List of Figures</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xi
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xiii
Introduction	I
The Asia Problem in Postwar Japan	I
The Mentality of Abandoning Asia and the Politics of De-Asianization	8
Deimperialization and the Late 1960s and Early 1970s as a Turning Point	17
Organization of the Book	22
I   The Early Postwar Period: Asia as Ideology and Ideal	29
The Occupation as De-Asianization	32
The Ideology of Asiatic Stagnation	38
Beyond Stagnation: Idealizing Asia in the 1950s	45
The Fervor of Asian Nationalism	57
Toward a Rediscovery of the Region	63
Conclusion: Embracing Asia and the Imperial Blind Spot	74
2   From Ethnic Nationalism to Ethnic Responsibility	77
The Komatsugawa Incident and Ethnic Responsibility	79
The Early 1960s Discussion on Prejudice and Discrimination	89

	The Japan–South Korea Normalization Dialogues and the 1965 Treaty	97
	From War Responsibility to Ethnic Responsibility	103
	The Gwon Hui-ro Incident of 1968	113
3	The Vietnam War, Immigration Control, and Original Sin	121
	The Vietnam War and the Self as Perpetrator	124
	The Challenge of Revisionist History	134
	The Progressive Response: August 15 as Camouflage	138
	The Immigration Control Struggle and the Omura Detention Center	161
	Students, Asia, and the “Hitler Within”	167
	Into the 1970s: Legacies for Deimperialization and Activism	179
4	Grassroots Regionalization and Asian Solidarity in the 1970s	182
	Japan’s Triumphant Return to Asia in the 1970s	184
	Government, Business, and Media Responses	188
	Giving Voice to Asians	192
	“We Don’t Know Asia”: Overcoming Progressives’ Ignorance	197
	Resisting Japan in Asia: The New Solidarity Movements	207
	<i>Pollution Export and the Awakening to Asia in Environmental Movements</i>	208
	<i>Kisaeng Sex Tourism and the Awakening to Asia in the Women’s Movement</i>	215
	<i>The Japan–South Korea Solidarity Movement</i>	232
	Conclusion	244
5	Another Internationalization: Postwar Responsibility, Inter-People Diplomacy, and Bananas	246
	Postwar Responsibility	250
	Tsurumi Yoshiyuki: Rethinking Japan through Asia	260
	<i>Learning from Asia</i>	264
	<i>Why Is Asia Poor? The Political Economy of Bananas</i>	270
	Another Internationalization: Grassroots Globalization and Asia	277
	<i>Inter-People versus International Diplomacy</i>	279
	<i>International NGOs and Asia</i>	285
	Conclusion	296

6	The Breakthrough: Asian Community and Identity in a Time of Change	298
	The Asia Boom in Post-Bubble Japan: Building an East Asian Community	302
	The Return of the Past: Movements for Compensation and Reconciliation	309
	The New Asianism: Resistance, Revival, or a New Common House?	316
	<i>Hard-Line Asianists and Civilizational Warriors</i>	317
	<i>Moderate Instrumentalists and Fusionists</i>	326
	<i>Progressive Visionaries</i>	334
	Conclusion	354
	Conclusion: Japan's Postwar Odyssey with Asia	357
	Rethinking Postwar Japan in, through, and with Asia	361
	Mapping Asia onto Postwar Japan	366
	<i>Asia and Responsibility</i>	368
	<i>Asia and Civil Society</i>	370
	<i>Asia and National Identity</i>	374
	<i>Bibliography</i>	379
	<i>Index</i>	411

## *Figures*

Figure 1	Appearances of “Asia” and “East Asian Community” in the <i>Asahi Shinbun</i> , 1945–2018	304
Figure 2	Numbers of Japanese International NGOs Formed, 1950s–2010s	372