This book explores the crisis of cultural identity which has assaulted Asian countries since Western countries began to have a profound impact on Asia in the nineteenth century. Confronted by Western ‘civilization’ and by ‘modernity’, Asian countries have been compelled to rethink their identity, and to consider how they should relate to Western ‘civilization’ and ‘modernity’. The result, the author argues, has been a redefining by Asian countries of their own character as nations, and an adaptation of ‘civilization’ and ‘modernity’ to their own special conditions. Asian nations, the author contends, have thereby engaged with the West and with modernity, but on their own terms, occasionally, and in various inconsistent ways in which they could assert a sense of difference, forcing changes in the Western concept of civilization. Drawing on postmodern theory, the Kyoto School, Confucian and other traditional Asian thought, and the actual experiences of Asian countries, especially China and Japan, the author demonstrates that Asian countries’ redefining of the concept of civilization in the course of their quest for an appropriate postmodern national identity is every bit as key a part of ‘the rise of Asia’ as economic growth or greater international political activity.

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Reviews

“In this highly original, deeply probing, and imaginatively argued book Chih-yu Shih adds a singularly original voice to a vast chorus that, in both major and minor keys, is singing the hymns about the rise of China and the Asian century. Since the economic and military facets of power shifts can be decoded best through cultural lenses, Civilization, Nation and Modernity becomes an indispensable source for any serious student of East Asia.” - Peter J. Katzenstein, Walter S. Carpenter, Jr. Professor of International Studies Cornell University

Author Biography

Chih-yu Shih is Professor of Political Science at National Taiwan University, and Editor-in-Chief of Asian Ethnicity.
On China By India: From Civilization to Nation-State
Edited By Chih-yu Shih, Swaran Singh, and Reena Marwah

"This highly original book shifts our attention away from the preoccupations of the U.S. to India and from conventional social science and area studies perspectives to civilizational sensibilities. In a series of searching essays by well-informed Indian scholars, China's rise appears in a fresh light. Rather than seeking to bend China's experience only to the impatient expectations of secular liberalism, this important book reminds us of the imagined affinities that a civilizational understanding of self and other creates in India for China and the empathetic patience it engenders. Our understanding of China is greatly enriched by new insights that this broader vision yields." - Peter J. Katzenstein, Walter S. Carpenter, Jr. Professor of International Studies, Cornell University

India and China are two rising key players in the global political economy. The obvious contrast between Indian democracy and Chinese one-party rule results in very different national images. Both countries are also proud of their long history of civilization. Their views of each other—informed by their civilizational trajectories—are far richer than their institutional differences. This book studies specifically how civilizational knowledge about China among Indian academics has continued to impact contemporary Indian scholarship on China as nation state. To the extent that contemporary scholarship on China elsewhere lacks such civilizational sensibilities, and given the need for epistemological reflexivity in a multicultural world, this is a particularly urgent inquiry.

The book is a report of the first stage of findings on how views on China and the intellectual history of China studies have been embedded in India’s modern history and its evolving self-knowledge as a nation-state. The rise of India and China has caused intellectuals of both countries to become increasingly conscious of each other. Their contemporary relationship still carries the legacy of the border clash of 1962. The views that Indian intellectuals take of China is of great concern to all schools to policy and business practitioners around the world. The changing Indian perspectives that reflect the rise of India and the changing object of China studies together complicate and shift the images of China. This groundbreaking collection is the first of its kind to examine China studies from a perspective that is not Western. It will be essential for scholars in international relations, comparative politics, Asian studies, Buddhist studies, and strategic studies.

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Sinicizing International Relations

Self, Civilization, and Intellectual Politics in Subaltern East Asia

Chih-yu Shih

Sinicizing International Relations brings civilizational politics back to the studies of international relations and questions the notion of a rising Chinese nation by deconstructing the possibility of looking at China in its entirety. Writers on China are influenced by their own historical and philosophical backgrounds and the daily political and economic conditions in which they live and work. Their writings on China intrinsically reflect their encounters and choice. Studying the rise of China involves interactions between the identity of the observers who are doing the studying and the identities of China. Each set of interacting identities comprises choices on at least three levels: civilizational, national, and (sub)ethnic. As a result, intellectual choices of identity become intrinsic to international relations scholarship, and international relations acquire complicated cultural meanings in East Asian communities, which contemporary international relations theories fail to comprehend.

CONTENTS: Introduction: Transcending National Identities

CHIH-YU SHIH teaches civilizational politics, political psychology, and cultural studies at National Taiwan University as a University Chair Professor. His recent publications include Symbolic War, Civilization, Nation and Modernity in East Asia, Navigating Sovereignty, Collective Democracy, The Spirit of Chinese Foreign Policy, Autonomy, Ethnicity and Poverty in Southwestern China, and On China By India, among others. He is editor-in-chief of the journal Asian Ethnicity.

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Politics, history, and religion have long lent Tibet a glamorous air, particularly in the West. But Tibet can be understood in an astonishingly wide variety of other ways, including linguistic, ecological, environmental and climatological, geographical, geological, economic, biologic, sociologic, medicinal. Tibetan Studies in Comparative Perspective touches on all the elements of the Tibet issue, offering invaluable insight to a wide variety of readers, from specialists to those with a general interest in the topic. By putting readers into the shoes of all the stakeholders, from the Dalai Lama in his home in exile and the various Tibetan exile communities, to decision makers in Beijing, New Delhi, Washington and London, the issues at stake come into bold relief.

Furthermore, the book examines the potential opportunities that lay ahead, documents where and how Tibetans have been dispersed and offers a glimpse into the social and political undercurrents sending shudders through this exiled nation. With the chasm between exiles and indigenous Tibetans growing ever-larger, what challenges do Tibetans confront just to remain Tibetan? And how will this shape the future of their political movement? The book provides a timely re-examination of the contemporary predicament of Tibetans, both in and out of Tibet.

For more details, or to request a review, please contact Kathryn Reavill: Kathryn.reavill@tandf.co.uk

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Author Biography

Chih-Yu Shih teaches at National Taiwan University and is author of Civilization, Nation and Modernity in East Asia (Routledge, 2012); Autonomy, Ethnicity and Poverty in Southwestern China (Palgrave, 2007); Negotiating Ethnicity in China: Citizenship as a Response to the State (Routledge, 2002).

Yu-Wen Chen teaches at the University College Cork and is an Honorary Research Fellow at the Institute for Human Security at La Trobe University.
インタビュー 戦後日本の中国研究

平野健一郎・土田哲夫・村田雄二郎・石之瑜編

戦前から現在に至る日本の現代中国研究の背景・課題・方法の変化を、第一線の中国研究者11人へのインタビューをもとにたどる。激動する中国を鏡にした日本の戦後の学問史・知識社会史でもある。

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