

promote anticompetitive actions with the objective of rent sharing, a situation which allows collusion to circumvent market discipline.

Taiwan was spared because a "garrison mentality" prevailed. Alerted to the fact that a failure to be competitive would endanger relations with China, Taiwan's leaders focused on resisting vested interests and liberalizing the capital markets so that new sectors of the economy could thrive. By contrast, the elites that rule the rest of Asia no longer threatened either internally or externally by the danger of Communist insurrection were more concerned with private benefits for a few concentrated constituents. The most common scenario was the exchange of campaign contributions for regulatory and financial privileges. Long before the crisis, many papers were written both within and outside the region, identifying the financial fault lines in these economies. Rather than protecting collective interests by establishing a competitive financial system that could nourish new ideas and interests, leaders in East Asia put the power of the state over capital allocation at the disposal of a few entrenched interests. The corrective, the authors in this volume all agree, rests in deep political reform that holds leaders openly accountable to citizen interests for the consequences of economic policy. What the region needs is a broad, deep and liquid financial system, which only fundamental changes in power relations can bring about.

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The Southwest Pacific Campaign, 1941–1945: Historiography and Annotated Bibliography. By EUGENE L. RASOR. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1996. ix, 279 pp. \$79.50.

"Let me tell you about the South Pacific," James Michener rhapsodizes in the opening lines of his collection of stories, *Tales of the South Pacific*, one of which would later be adapted to become the world famous musical. Though there are few Americans who cannot hum at least one of the tunes from that play, the actual war in that area of the world has made no impression on the popular historical memory. A few may recall that the two most famous American figures of the Pacific War, Admiral William F. Halsey ("Bill" to his friends, "Bull" to the press) and General Douglas MacArthur, were there but even they may be unsure as to where "there" was. Eugene Rasor's book will probably never be made into a musical, but it will tell you about the South and Southwest Pacific in mind-numbing detail. This work is characterized by the same comprehensiveness and depth of research which may be found in Rasor's earlier guides and bibliographies. In fact, the book is almost a complete research guide to the subject, discussing not only published works but archives, libraries, and other research centers. There is a section on veteran's organizations (unfortunately without addresses) and a list of scholarly conferences and public commemorations of the Pacific War held since 1989. The discussion of published works extends to documentaries, novels, dissertations, and even to information about forthcoming works.

To say this is a richly annotated bibliography would be a considerable understatement. Rasor leaves no doubt about his views and lets the reader know that in his book the first shall be first and the least shall be last. "The amount of emphasis and juxtaposition of various items, i.e., the best sources first and works of less contribution later, are indicators of quality" (p. 2).

The weaknesses of the book are, in some cases, a byproduct of its strengths. To begin with, Rasor never clearly explains to the reader what he means by “The Southwest Pacific Campaign.” (He appears to mean everything that did not happen in the Central Pacific or the China-Burma-India theaters.) The short “historical overview” is discursive, poorly organized, and unlikely to be of much use to the beginning student of the subject. By far the greatest weakness of the book is one characteristic of many Greenwood Press bibliographies and that is the use of numbers in the essay section to refer to full citations listed in the alphabetical bibliographical section. This is little problem when the author and title are both mentioned in the essays, but when they are not the reader will find himself constantly flipping back and forth between the two parts of the book. For example, the researcher interested in the New Guinea campaign will learn that there are books on that subject by Nathan Prefer, Edward Drea, Lance Zedric, Charles Anderson, and Stanford Smith. However, it is only after flipping to the appropriate pages in the rear that one finds that these works range from a memoir to a U.S. Army commemorative pamphlet, to a book on MacArthur’s code-breaking operations to a monograph on the Battle of the Driniumor River in April 1944. However, the richness of Rasor’s sources well repays these efforts.

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CHINA

Women and Property in China, 960–1949. By KATHRYN BERNHARDT. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1999. viii, 236 pp. \$45.00.

The Republican Civil Code, put into effect in 1931, radically revised Chinese property law. The Western concept of individual property took the place of the Chinese notion of family property, and women were granted the same inheritance rights as men. This meant that the link between succession to the ancestral cult and transmission of property was severed. Daughters, even if already married, received shares equal to those of their brothers and their widowed mothers. Widows for the first time were given full ownership of a share of the estate, but no longer any veto over what their sons did with their shares. Concubines were denied any legal status as mates but were given rights as mothers. The only way to distribute the property entirely to sons or adopted sons was to do it before the father died, letting him die intestate. Naturally, family goals and behavior were not as easily altered as the law, and those newly entitled to inherit frequently had to go to court to get their shares, which led to numerous lawsuits, especially in cases of sizable estates. In *Women and Property in China, 960–1949*, Kathryn Bernhardt draws on court records of 370 inheritance disputes from the Republican period to explicate how judges thought their way through the implications of these new laws and their unintended consequences.

Although two-thirds of the chapters are devoted to the well-documented Republican period, a particularly impressive contribution of this book is its sketch of long-term trends in Chinese inheritance law from the Song through Qing periods.