Abstracts

The People in History: Recent Trends in Japanese Historiography

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CAROL GLUCK   Pages 25–50
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In the 1960s a group of Japanese historians responded to the contemporary bureaucratic superstate by embarking on a search for a popular past. They began to reexamine Japan's modern experience from the point of view of the people, not the elite, and with special emphasis not on political events but on social forces and attitudes. They rejected Marxism and modernization theory as alien and limiting and sought instead an indigenous methodology that might better fit the Japanese case because it was derived from it. By choosing topics that suggested the importance of popular energies in the development of modern Japan, they endeavored to enlarge the canvas of social history by bringing the people into it as significant subjects of historical change. Their scholarly efforts have drawn the attention of Japanese within and without academic circles and, as this introductory critical essay suggests, may usefully draw that of Western readers as well.

Crisis Mortality in the Nineteenth Century Philippines:
Data from Parish Records

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PETER C. SMITH   Pages 51–76
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This paper describes mortality patterns across forty localities in the nineteenth century Philippines and suggests an interpretation of these patterns. Burial records from the Catholic church archives of the localities (parishes) are combined with local population estimates to obtain local mortality levels and trends over time, seasonal variations in mortality, and, especially, episodes of abnormal or "crisis" mortality. It is observed that the level of mortality increased as the nineteenth century progressed, that this was due in large part to an increase in the intensity and frequency of crisis mortality, and that these episodes occurred over time and across the localities in a patterned fashion. Among the underlying causes explored are possible declines in the level of living among the peasantry resulting from the nineteenth century commercialization of Philippine agriculture.

Matriliny, Marxism, and the Birth of the Communist Party
in Kerala, 1930–1940

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ROBIN JEFFREY   Pages 77–98
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Why has communism flourished in some parts of Asia and not in others? Examining the case of Kerala, this paper argues that, in India at least, social dislocation is the crucial ingredient when added to poverty, landlessness, and literacy. In Kerala, the matrilineal family system of caste-Hindus and the attendant system of extreme disabilities enforced

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against the low castes collapsed in the early twentieth century. The social upheaval was greater than anywhere else in India. A *déraciné* generation of caste-Hindus was forced to seek remedies for-the disruption and misery that daily confronted it, while increasing numbers of low castes refused to submit to the restrictions that traditional society sought to impose. This situation of social turmoil, similar in some ways to that prevailing in China and Vietnam, contributed crucially to the establishment of Kerala's vigorous, broad-based Communist party in the late 1930s.

Yü Chi and his Mongol Sovereign: The Scholar as Apologist
JOHN D. LANGLOIS, JR.   Pages 99–116

This paper, a study of the career of Yü Chi (1272–1348), explores the nature of Chinese literati support of Mongol rulers during the Yüan period. Yü Chi served as the leading apologist for the usurper Tugh Temür (Wen-tsung, r. 1328 and 1329–1332). The most prominent court scholar of his time, Yü Chi devoted himself to the enhancement of Tugh Temür's prestige, authority, and legitimacy. The paper explores Yü's activities in detail and speculates on his motivations in serving his Mongol emperor. In particular, it suggests that Yü Chi's ultimate aim in bolstering the usurper's claims to the throne, as well as in encouraging imperial support of Chinese cultural symbols and values, was to make Mongol rule more predictable and stable and thus to benefit the Mongols' Chinese subjects.