

Japan's Colonization of Korea: Discourse and Power (Peoples of Hawai'i, the Pacific, & Asia)

By Alexis Dudden

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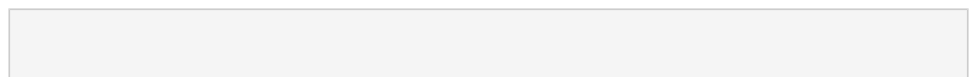
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From its creation in the early twentieth century, policymakers used the discourse of international law to legitimate Japan's empire. Although the Japanese state aggrandizers' reliance on this discourse did not create the imperial nation Japan would become, their fluent use of its terms inscribed Japan's claims as legal practice within Japan and abroad. Focusing on Japan's annexation of Korea in 1910, Alexis Dudden gives long-needed attention to the intellectual history of the empire and brings to light presumptions of the twentieth century's so-called international system by describing its most powerful—and most often overlooked—member's engagement with that system.

Early chapters describe the global atmosphere that declared Japan the legal ruler of Korea and frame the significance of the discourse of early twentieth-century international law and how its terms became Japanese. Dudden then brings together these discussions in her analysis of how Meiji leaders embedded this discourse into legal precedent for Japan, particularly in its relations with Korea. Remaining chapters explore the limits of these 'universal' ideas and consider how the international arena measured Japan's use of its terms. Dudden squares her examination of the legality of Japan's imperialist designs by discussing the place of colonial policy studies in Japan at the time, demonstrating how this new discipline further created a common sense that Japan's empire accorded to knowledgeable practice.

This landmark study greatly enhances our understanding of the intellectual underpinnings of Japan's imperial aspirations. In this carefully researched and cogently argued work, Dudden makes clear that, even before Japan annexed Korea, it had embarked on a legal and often legislating mission to make its colonization legitimate in the eyes of the world.



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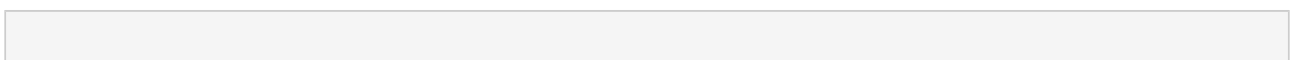
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Editorial Review

Review

"[Duus'] book deserves a wide audience."

"The author's descriptions of the 100th Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team's combat operations are gripping and personal, enabling the reader to envision and understand the hardships and horrors experienced by the Japanese-American infantrymen."

"The Japanese-American soldiers not only won a victory over the enemy abroad but over prejudice and injustice at home. President Harry S. Truman himself said as much. Masayo Duus has written a book that is truly remarkable, not because it so effectively affirms this lesson once more, but because she manages to tell so much more. After extensive research and interviews, she tells her tale through the voices of many: generals, privates, mothers, sons, Germans, French, issei, nisei, draftees, volunteers, kotonks, and buddhaheads."

Excellent-- "*Korean Quarterly*"

A skillful narrative-- "*Japan Times*"

Students of Japan's history, domestic politics, and international relations will find this text extremely valuable, as will readers of theorists such as Roland Barthes, Michel Foucault, and Gayatri Spivak.... Essential. All levels/libraries.-- "*CHOICE*"

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Review

This will take its place as a major book in Japanese and Korean history, prompting a reexamination of Japan's controversial annexation of Korea. Dudden's fascinating analysis rests on the sort of transnational

research that scholars often talk about, but rarely undertake. Japan's rise as an imperialist power should not be seen as exceptional, she argues, but rather was embedded in the global discourses of the time. She tells the remarkable and unsettling story of how Japanese leaders quickly mastered Western international law in the late nineteenth century, and how they used the new legal norms to legitimize themselves and their colonial project in the eyes of the Western powers. (**Sheldon Garon**, Princeton University)

In *Japan's Colonization of Korea*, Alexis Dudden gives us a very compelling look at how Itô Hirobumi and other Japanese leaders viewed geo-political relationships at the end of the nineteenth century and beginning of the twentieth. In particular, she shows that Euro-American concepts of international law both provided a motive for imperialism in general and supplied an intellectual framework to legitimate Japan's imposition of hegemony over its continental neighbor. Drawing on Korean, Japanese, and Western-language sources, Dudden adds enormously to our understanding of the intellectual foundations of Japanese imperialism, and her work surely will be compared favorably with other landmark studies on Japanese colonialism by Hilroy Conroy, Mark Peattie, and Peter Duus. (**James L. McClain**, Brown University)

Japan's Colonization of Korea makes a powerful case that every step Japan took to erase Korea's sovereignty was 'legal' in the prevailing terms of international conduct at the start of the twentieth century?and that taking Korea as a protectorate was a strategic step in Japan's own efforts to achieve diplomatic parity with the Great Powers of the West. Alexis Dudden deftly dissects colonial rhetoric and practice from Sapporo to Seoul, interweaving biographical with textual analysis and showing a keen attentiveness throughout to Korean as well as Japanese voices. Drawing on legal history, colonial studies, and translation theory, the book is impressive in both heft and range. A compelling addition to the growing field of comparative imperial history. (**Karen Wigen**, Stanford University)

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Japan's Colonization of Korea: Discourse and Power (Peoples of Hawai'i, the Pacific, & Asia) can be one of your basic books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to get every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing Japan's Colonization of Korea: Discourse and Power (Peoples of Hawai'i, the Pacific, & Asia) yet doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource information that maybe you can be one among it. This great information could drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial imagining.

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