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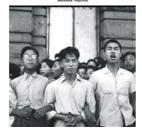
#### **Short Reviews**

### By John Delury, Taehwan Kim

Cold War Crucible: The Korean Conflict and the Postwar World By Masuda Hajimu Harvard University Press, 2015, 400 pages, \$39.95 (Hardcover) Marchina through Suffering: Loss and Survival in North Korea By Sandra Fahy Columbia University Press, 2015, 272 pages, \$40.00 (Hardcover) Great Game East: India, China, and the Struggle for Asia's Most Volatile Frontier By Bertil Lintner Yale University Press, 2015, 376 pages, \$35 (Hardcover) Deng Xiaoping's Long War: The Military Conflict between China and Vietnam, 1979-1991 By Xiaoming Zhang The **University of North** Carolina Press, 2015, 296 pages, \$34.95 (Hardcover) Russia and the New World Disorder By Bobo Lo Chatham House, 2015, 336 pages, \$34.00 (Hardcover) Thieves of State: Why Corruption Threatens Global Security By Sarah Chayes W. W. Norton & Company, 2015, 272 pages, \$17.31 (Hardcover) Digital Diplomacy: Theory and Practice By Corneliu Bjola and Marcus Holmes (eds.)

Routledge, 2015, 272 pages, \$111.30 (Hardcover)

## Cold War Crucible The Korean Conflict and the Postwar World



#### WAR ENDURED IN THE IMAGINATION

Masuda Hajimu at the National University of Singapore starts his revisionist study of Cold War Asia with a deceptively simple premise: the Cold War only existed because people believed it so. It was as much a consciousness as a conflict. From this constructivist starting point — the Cold War as a giant "imagined community" — Masuda plunges into the domestic politics and cultural life of Japan, China and the United States, in order explain why each society bought into the idea of a global war for or against communism.

Equally at home in the languages and archives of Tokyo, Beijing and Washington, and emphasizing the catalytic role of the Korean War, he crafts a transnational story that links Asia into a worldwide struggle. His central thesis is that the global Cold War was constructed out of local campaigns to suppress progressive movements and social causes that had gained ground in the 1940s. This was as true, he argues, in communist societies like China as in the capitalist US. He concludes by suggesting the global conflict of our own day — our "clash of civilizations" — is cut from the same Cold War cloth of a "gigantic social construction" designed on both sides to enforce domestic order in the name of global liberation.

Such an ambitious, revisionist interpretation will require more research before gaining acceptance, but in opening up such lines of inquiry, Masuda has contributed significantly to how we think about the social history behind great power and global conflict.

Reviewed by John Delury, Associate Professor at Yonsei University Graduate School of International Studies and book reviews co-editor for Global Asia.

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- 2. The East Asian Peace: How Did It Happen? How Deep Is It?
- Security Pluralism in the Asia-Pacific: Reshaping Regional Order
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