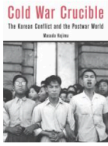


Cold War crucible : the Korean Conflict and the postwar world



Masuda, Hajimu. Harvard, 2015

388p index, 9780674598478 \$39.95

LC Call Number: D843

Masuda (National Univ. of Singapore) has written a fascinating intellectual study exploring the crossroads of social and diplomatic history by examining the social construction of the Cold War in the minds of ordinary citizens. With a special emphasis on US and Chinese societies, he seeks to understand the roles of popular imagination, memory, and acceptance in helping to contextualize the Cold War and allowing it to metastasize from simply an abstract idea to a constructed reality. Rather than focusing on the origins of the Cold War and who initiated it, as many historians have done, the author aims to describe how the "reality" of the Cold War developed and why so many people came to accept this image of the world. Operating from a grassroots level, Masuda examines the attitudes, myths, and beliefs of ordinary people and how they came to believe in the Cold War world. Though the Cold War was not yet a reality in the late 1940s, this quickly changed in 1950 with the outbreak of the Korean War. This event, combined with the historical legacy and local memories of WW II, ultimately created the Cold War.

Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students, faculty.

Reviewer: C. G. Frentzos, Austin Peay State University

Recommendation: Recommended

Readership Level: Graduate Students, Researchers/Faculty, Professionals/Practitioners

Interdisciplinary Subjects: [Asian and Asian American Studies](#)

Subject: [Social & Behavioral Sciences - History, Geography & Area Studies](#)

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