

Informal comments on *Ancient Korea-Japan Relations: Paekche and the Origin of the Yamato Dynasty*:

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“... the formation of the Japanese people and ... the formative years of the Yamato Kingdom. This subject continues to interest me, and I appreciate your sending me your excellent articles. ... You mentioned Ono’s article, and the view that a proto-Malayo-Polynesian language was formerly spoken in Kyushu. ... the well-known linguist Bernard Comrie ... noted that the open structure of most Japanese syllables is reminiscent of Malayo-Polynesian. He also noted that both archaeological and linguistic evidence suggests arrival of proto-Austronesian-speaking farmers in Taiwan around 4000 BC, and it is clear that those farmers spread Austronesian languages east to Micronesia, south to Indonesia, and southwest to the coast of Vietnam. ...It is much shorter distance from Taiwan to Japan than from Taiwan to the Marianas islands in Micronesia, which the Austronesians undoubtedly did reach long before the Yayoi wave.” (August 4, 2009)

Jared Diamond, Professor of Geography, UCLA

“I have always felt that the study of Japanese prehistory has not paid enough attention to the relationship between Korea and Japan. Without sufficient evidence on the Korean infusion of culture to Japan, we cannot understand the development of Japan’s prehistory. Your book explores this relationship systematically.” (April 3, 2010)

Harumi Befu, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University

“It is wonderfully produced and is extremely useful. I am the kind of a closet or a half-closet supporter of the conquest theory – while I am still looking forward for reading your book attentively to get persuaded that it was Paekche. There is no doubt in my mind that some ruling dynasties or a dynasty, especially that of Homuda, came from Korean Peninsula.” (April 10, 2010)

Alexander Vovin, Dept. of East Asian Languages and Literatures, University of Hawai’i at Manoa

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“The contents of the books, *East Asian History: A Tripolar Approach*, and *Ancient Korea-Japan Relations*, incidentally coincide with a seminar that I currently teach at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and I am glad to be able to make use of the new approach they represent.” (May 14, 2010)

Lihi Yariv-Laor, Department of East Asian Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

“They are both very impressive, major scholarly works, and I have enjoyed going through them a great deal and have learned much from your perspective on the historical matters that you discuss. ... Your books will certainly figure in the primary reading and discussion materials.” (April 11, 2010)

William G. Boltz, Department of Asian Languages & Literature, University of Washington

“Your mastery of the academic literature is impressive, as is your energy in continuing to update your own important work.” (March 6, 2010)

Bruce Batten, Professor of Japanese History, J. F. Oberlin University

“They are beautifully printed and the contents show that they both deal with tremendously important issues.” (March 16, 2010)

Edward L. Shaughnessy, Creel Distinguished Service Professor of Early China and Chair,  
East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago

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