

Books Published

Factor Supply and Factor Intensity of Trade in Korea, Seoul: KDI Press, 1976.

Trade, Distortions and Employment Growth in Korea, Seoul: KDI Press, 1979.

Trade and Growth: A Korean Perspective, Seoul: Kudara, 1994.

Reviewed by Lawrence H. Officer, University of Illinois at Chicago, in *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, Vol. 45: 2, 1997: "Hong's volume, as a collection of his papers over time, shows him to be a truly versatile economist, proficient in pure theory analysis, empirical application of pure theory, economic growth in both theory and application, and trade policy. Economists, historians, and policy makers concerned with the transition of Korea from undeveloped to NIC status would do well to consult Hong's book."

Catch-Up and Crisis in Korea, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, U.K., 2002.

百濟와 大和日本の 起源, Seoul: 구다라, 1994

古代韓日關係史: 百濟倭, Seoul: 一志社, 2003.

Relationship between Korea and Japan in Early Period: Paekche and Yamato Wa, Seoul: Ilsimsa, 1988.

Reviewed by Sara M. Nelson, University of Denver, in *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Volume 48, Number 2, 1989, pp. 636-637,

"Wontack Hong goes a step beyond the horserider theory in this scholarly and provocative work, which sheds new light on early Korea and Japan through ... From the perspective of Korean archaeology the arguments ring true. I hope Japan specialists will not dismiss the book as a mere polemic ..."

and also by Jonathan W. Best, Wesleyan University, in *The Journal of Japanese Studies*, Volume 16, Number 2, 1990, pp. 437-442.

"... offers an enlightening and relatively concise overview of historically critical process. These features alone are sufficient to make ... worthy of reading ... it does contribute a fresh and intellectually rewarding perspective on one of the most significant and problematic issues in northeast Asian history."

Paekche of Korea and the Origin of Yamato Japan, Seoul: Kudara, 1994.

Reviewed by Sarah M. Nelson, University of Denver, in *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Volume 54, Number 3, 1995, pp. 850-851,

“Hong does make explicit the political ramifications of the present interpretation of Japanese and Korean ancient history, which is an important contribution in itself. This book should be taken seriously by western scholars.”

and also by Leon Serafim, University of Hawaii at Manoa, in *Korean Studies*, Volume 19, 1995, pp. 193-196.

“Reading this book has me nearly convinced that Hong's main thesis, namely, that the Paekche royal house ... conquered and unified Japan ... Even for those who would not for a minute believe the horserider hypothesis in any form, the book has gathered in one place a great many of the main arguments on either side ... Further, Hong can muster creditable, almost convincing arguments for his central hypothesis.”

Korea and Japan in East Asian History, Seoul: Kudara, 2006.

Reviewed by Gina L. Barnes, SOAS University of London, in *Korean Studies*, Volume 31, 2007, pp.79-82.

“Hong ...has applied his considerable research skills to the problem of Japan-Korea relations in the period of state formation....The core of this new book continues this dialog. Thus, although posing as a history of northeast Asia (the tripolar region consisting of northern China, northeastern China plus Korea and Japan, and northwestern desert and steppe regions) from the Neolithic through the Qing dynasty, the real message is contained in chapters 5 to 11. ... As a sweeping historical work, it is difficult to find another publication that integrates so much material from across such swaths of time and space. Much of this is new to general English readers, precisely because the two northern regions and their effect on Chinese dynastic formation were long neglected in China scholarship—Hong's main point. For this synthesis, we therefore have Hong to thank for bringing all these disparate data to our attention.”

East Asian History: A Tripolar Approach, Seoul: Kudara, 2010.

Ancient Korea-Japan Relations: Paekche and the Origin of the Yamato Dynasty, Seoul: Kudara, 2010.

Both reviewed by Juha Janhunen, University of Helsinki, in *Studia Orientalia*, 109 (2010), pp.136-9.

"These books deserve special recognition not only for their insightful approach but also for their elegant design, with high-quality color pictures, maps, and extracts from primary sources integrated in the whole in a reader-friendly way. ...

The first of the two volumes is essentially a handbook of East Asian political and cultural history, chronologically arranged, and with a focus on Manchuria, historiographically the most neglected component of the tripolar complex. ... By the "tripolar approach" he means that East Asia should not be viewed from the traditional Sinocentric perspective (= the monopolar approach), nor in a framework involving China and "the unified nomads in the steppe" (= the bipolar approach), but, rather, in terms of a system of interaction between three actors of equal weight, but with different roles: China, Mongolia, and Manchuria. ... As a model for understanding East Asian history it does not seem to have alternatives. Even so, much research is still being done on East Asia in the spirit of obsolete paradigms, which is why Hong's two books certainly serve a purpose as a healthy reminder of how things can also be seen. ... that make the reading of Hong's books so refreshing.

The second volume by Hong is more strictly focused on the protohistorical period, though it also has a modern political dimension. The principal objective of the book is to bring forth evidence in favor of the "Kudara-Yamato model," according to which the immediate origins of Yamato Japan were located in Paekche. The evidence itself is generally well known, extending from historical records to obvious cultural and archaeological parallels, but the problem is that the relevant facts have never been recognized by the Japanese national historiography. This forces Hong to criticize "the claustrophobic narrowness of the Japanese academic tradition" as a whole, a criticism that is certainly justified at least as far as the fields of archaeology and history are concerned. ... The role of Paekche in the early history of Japan is beyond any doubt. ... The political and military ties between Paekche and Yamato suggest an intimate partnership that is best explained by assuming an ethnic affinity. Hong must be right when he claims that "a member of the Paekche royal family carried out the conquest of the Yamato region in the late fourth century," thus laying the foundations of Japan as a political state. Much of Hong's book is devoted to the summarizing of the archaeological, historical, folkloric, and even onomastic evidence in favor of this claim. ... Hong's two books are, in general, much better argued than anything presented by Japanese historians or even linguists during the recent decades."

Informal comments on *East Asian History: A Tripolar Approach*:

"I am certainly in agreement with the themes you develop in *East Asian History: A Tripolar Approach*, and you have gone into far more detail than I did in my own book, the *Perilous Frontier*, which is now a bit over twenty years old. ... However, I still retain a strong interest in the topics you have presented and so will enjoy reading your book in more detail." (2010)

Thomas Barfield, Department of Anthropology, Boston University

"The history book also excels in focusing on the continual, historical relationship among regions of East Asia in understanding the Korean, Chinese, and Japanese history. This is a unique perspective in understanding the history of East Asian, which has been normally discussed by and large on the basis of each region being treated separately—as if each has basically developed autochthonously, with only occasional interrelations with neighboring regions. Your perspective is original and eye-opening." (April 3, 2010)

Harumi Befu, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University

"*East Asian History: A Tripolar Approach* (revised edition)...is marvelously illustrated and a work of deep scholarship." (February 5, 2012)

Raymond Weitzman, Department of Linguistics, California State University, Fresno

"I am sure this will become one of the standard texts in English because of its broad scope." (January 10, 2012)

Mark Hudson, Nishikyushu University

"I surely enjoyed seeing East Asian history put into a larger framework, not subject to the Chinese view of the world, or better perhaps how the Chinese would like the world to be. It's high time that we look beyond that. You've done a great job." (March 23, 2012)

Gertraude Roth Li, Center for Chinese Studies, University of Hawai'i at Manoa

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

"... 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

Informal comments on both ***East Asian History*** and ***Ancient Korea-Japan Relations***:

"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)

Lihî 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
