

2016

Taiwan in Transformation: Retrospect and Prospect, by Chun-chieh Huang

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Recommended Citation

Rhode, Grant F. (2016) "Taiwan in Transformation: Retrospect and Prospect, by Chun-chieh Huang," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 69 : No. 1 , Article 19.

Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol69/iss1/19>

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being fairly familiar with the overall engagement, I found myself resorting to Wikipedia for a quick reminder and sanity check. Repetition is also rife throughout the book, sometimes in successive paragraphs, pages, and even endnotes, which makes the reader's journey more laborious than it need be.

The real worry, though, is his third difficulty: that of accuracy and the incorporation of a comprehensive coverage of the relevant scholarship. On the accuracy side, some of the construction dates for the ships involved are incorrect, even according to the sources that he does use; he cites the wrong Lambert in the text on page 6; on page 24, he claims Dogger was the first "battle" in the Anglo-German naval race when it was, of course, the first *dreadnought* engagement; while on page 27 he has HMS *Vernon* as "the gunnery school for the Royal Navy," when it was actually HMS *Excellent*. To make matters worse in the context, Admiral John "Jacky" Fisher was of course closely associated with both of these establishments, albeit at different points in his career. In addition, and while not as specific, there are all sorts of other, more general omissions and inaccuracies in the presentation of the powder vulnerabilities, the ammunition and gunnery practices in use, and the train of thought that led to the all-big-gun ordnance, all of which could have been corrected by reference to some of the more current scholarship from the likes of Jon Sumida, John Brooks, and Norman Friedman. Perhaps most importantly, though, and given that the author attempted to cover the origins of the battle cruiser type in his second chapter, it was disappointing to find Admiral Fisher's role in the whole debate minimized, and the relationship between the true dreadnought and its

battle cruiser variant simplified to an unrealistic degree. This is no trivial matter, because, to a greater or lesser extent, the fact that the battle cruiser was essentially performing in a role that had not been originally envisioned by its creators goes a long way toward explaining the very mixed results these ships achieved. Once again, this could have been better represented with a more searching inclusion of some of the more cutting-edge findings from Sumida, Nicolas Lambert, Matthew Seligmann, and others.

In sum, this book will probably disappoint the serious historian of the period. It does gather together in one place a host of interesting and related facts about the battle and its participants. Given that these can form useful "points of departure" for future work in this area, as well as informing and inspiring the amateur naval enthusiast, all is not lost. But the book could have been so much more.

ANGUS ROSS



Huang, Chun-chieh. *Taiwan in Transformation: Retrospect and Prospect*. 2nd ed. New Brunswick, N.J.: Transaction, 2014. 233pp. \$52.95

As a native Taiwanese deeply steeped in Chinese historical and philosophical sources, Chun-chieh Huang adds dimensions that are less emphasized in many other perceptive books on contemporary Taiwan. A prolific scholar of treatises on Confucian thought, Huang believes that Taiwan can bring much to contemporary Confucian thinking, since Taiwan interprets the world through a lens of contemporary and vibrant democracy—as opposed to China's legacy of the Cultural Revolution and party control.

In fact, he asserts that Taiwan can help lead China's Confucian revival as the gem in the crown of Confucian thinking.

The book is divided into approximately equal sections of retrospect and prospect, indicating the relative importance that the author gives to understanding the past as a foundation for understanding the present and the future. Before Huang explores the individual and social psychology of what it means to be a "New Taiwanese," he reviews the underlying nostalgia that almost all ethnically Chinese people, including those resident on Taiwan, have for cultural China. This is a powerful shared emotion that has ramifications for contemporary cross-strait politics. Colonized by the Japanese between 1895 and 1945, the Taiwanese suffered second-class Chinese citizenship and were labeled spies and collaborators by their ethnically similar mainland Chinese counterparts. Aside from this broad-based cultural discrimination, the millions of Taiwanese were then also repressed politically on the island by the million or so Nationalists who came to Taiwan after World War II, first to set up a provincial government to replace the Japanese occupying government, then to set up the Republic of China Nationalist government at the end of the Chinese civil war.

The book recaps key eras in Taiwan's history, including the populating of the island by Haklo from Fujian Province, Hakka from Guangdong Province, the Dutch (1624–61), Koxinga and the Ming loyalists (1661–83), the Qing (1683–1895), and the Japanese (1895–1945).

Huang points out that the Chinese are "*Homo historicus*" most clearly, and that all ways forward must take into account the patterns and details of the past when considering the future.

According to Huang, Taiwan's path forward in cross-strait relations lies between those extremes of citizens who in 2013 favored quick integration (3 percent) and those who favored quick independence (7.2 percent). He recommends a necessary long-term steady dialogue examining and reconciling the mutual histories of Taiwan and mainland China. That is to say, Huang is not a proponent of maintaining the status quo but seeks a Confucian "middle way": carefully and compassionately forging an increasing reconciliation over time. Using a metaphor from literature, he posits that Taiwan is an orphan trying to reconcile with its parent. The pathos of the scenario is lessening because the orphan has had great success, but nevertheless there is a core of Chinese identity that still remains to be reconciled with the ever-emerging Taiwanese identity.

Although, as noted, Huang is a native observer of the Taiwanese scene, the book is gracefully written in fluid, clear English. It is useful as core reading for undergraduate and graduate courses on Taiwan, as well as for readers seeking to deepen their knowledge of East Asia. It also provides context that should be considered when thinking about U.S. policy in the Asia-Pacific region.

GRANT F. RHODE

OUR REVIEWERS

Bill Allison is professor of history at Georgia Southern University. He is the author of several books, including *Military Justice in Vietnam: The Rule of Law in an American War* (Kansas) and *My Lai: An American War Crime* (Johns Hopkins). He is a past vice president and current trustee of the Society of Military History and recently served as the General Harold K. Johnson Visiting Chair in Military History at the Army War College.

T. J. Johnson is an armor officer and serves as an instructor in the National Security Affairs Department at the U.S. Naval War College. He is a graduate of Ripon College (Ripon, Wis.) and received his master's degree from the School of Advanced Military Studies at Fort Leavenworth. He has written for a number of publications, including the *RUSI Journal* and *Defense News*.

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Major John J. Merriam joined the faculty of the Stockton Center for the Study of International Law as Associate Director for Land Warfare and associate professor in June 2014 after graduating from the Naval War College with highest distinction (first in class). Before coming to the War College, Major Merriam served in a variety of international and operational law positions, including as a special forces group judge advocate and a brigade combat team judge advocate.

Grant F. Rhode holds a PhD from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Asian diplomatic history and foreign policies. In addition to being a visiting researcher at the Boston University Center for the Study of Asia, he is an associate in research at the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University.

Captain Dale Rielage serves as Director for Intelligence and Information Operations for the U.S. Pacific Fleet. He has served as Third Fleet N2, Seventh Fleet Deputy N2, Senior Intelligence Officer for China at the Office of Naval Intelligence, and director of the Navy Asia Pacific Advisory Group.

Angus Ross is a retired Royal Navy officer and professor of joint military operations at the Naval War College. A graduate of the Naval War College, he received a second MA from Providence College and is currently working on PhD studies, studying naval transformation prior to the First World War. His recent published works include articles in this journal and others on the dilemma facing both the Royal Navy and the U.S. Navy in the wake of the *Dreadnought* revolution.

Peter J. Schifferle, PhD, is professor of history at the School of Advanced Military Studies, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and the author of *America's School for War: Fort Leavenworth, Officer Education, and Victory in World War II*.

Professor Stigler teaches classes on foreign policy and national security at the Naval War College, focusing on the international and domestic influences on U.S. national security policy. Stigler has published in *International Security*, *The National Interest*, *Joint Force Quarterly*, and the *Naval War College Review*. He currently has a book under contract with the academic press Transaction (affiliated with Rutgers University) titled *The Military: A Presidential Briefing Book*. The work is a critical examination of the military from the standpoint of an incoming president, examining issues such as force planning, crisis response, presidential command during wartime, strategic change, and postwar reconstruction efforts.

Professor Whiteside teaches theater security at the Naval War College Monterey Program. He is a graduate of West Point and has a PhD in political science from Washington State University. His primary research area is the strategy and tactics of the Islamic State movement from 2003 to the present.