Bibliography of Resources on East Asia
(updated February 2009)

East Asia

Society and Culture


History


Fairservis, Walter Ashlin. *Before the Buddha Came*. New York: Scribner, 1972. This text explores life in Asia when its great civilizations were forming.


**Literature**


**Religion and Philosophy**


**Art**


This comprehensive history of ceramics includes a chapter titled “The Far East” with information on ceramics from Japan, China, and Korea.


This is a good source for photos of East Asian art, especially pottery.


This how-to guide includes many symbols and their traditional interpretations.


This standard textbook for pottery producers has a number of technical references to Asian pottery techniques and materials and many photos of Asian pottery.

**Curricular Materials**


The essays in this collection focus on specific case studies from China, India, Pakistan,
Indonesia, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines intended for introductory courses in anthropology, economics, political science, and sociology. The essays would also be of use in high school.


*East Asia in Transition.* The World in Transition Series. Atlanta: Southern Center for International Studies, 1996. This educational package comes with a videotape and is divided into topics covering politics, economics, and social issues.


Miller, Barbara Stoler, ed. *Masterworks of Asian Literature in Comparative Perspective: A Guide for Teaching.* Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1994. This teaching guide identifies texts, themes, and comparative contexts for introducing Asian material into courses on world literature. Although it is intended for the undergraduate level, it easily could be adjusted for high school classes.

**Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE)**

This teaching unit covers rice and rice farming in Asia and the Pacific.

This curricular unit deals with the geography of Asia including physical and political features.


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**China**

**Society and Culture**


This two-volume collection contains a wide variety of poetry, philosophy, and other important literary texts.

This anthology covers the history of Chinese culture, literature, and politics.


This collection contains primary materials from antiquity through the Tiananmen Square protests.

Essays in this anthology focus on issues such as the environment, women and gender issues, population growth, politics, international relations, literature, and popular culture.

This collection of folktales are arranged thematically and recorded as told by the editor’s Chinese students.


This first-person account of one girl’s experience during the Cultural Revolution was written for children and young adults.


This text offers insights on Chinese culture from an American teaching and studying there.

These translations of essays mark political change in twentieth-century China, covering issues such as women’s liberation, the Cultural Revolution, and population policies.


**History**


This book examines the nomads of Asia from a military perspective. The history covers ancient Scythians to the Manchu’s conquest of China.


This controversial work asserts that China discovered America before Europeans.


This is the first English-language biography of the real Khubilai Khan. The book covers his life and influence on Asia and Europe.


This is an excellent resource for the non-specialist.

This classic Chinese manual of warfare written over two thousand years ago by General Sun Tzu forms the earliest known source about military strategy.


**Literature**


This anthology includes modern Chinese women’s writings of the 1920s and 1930s.


This anthology collects avant-garde writings in contemporary China.


This text provides an accessible discussion of representative Chinese novels such as *Dream of the Red Chamber* and *Journey to the West*.

This text, though outdated, offers accessible analyses of major fiction writers in modern China.


Li, Nianpei, Xiquan Pang, Yizeng Sun, and Binseng Li. *Old Tales of China: China’s Most Well-Known Folklores, Legends, Myths, and Historical Anecdotes*. 2nd ed. Hong Kong: Commercial Press, 1989.


This good example of China’s revolutionary/realist fiction is very readable.

This source-book is impressive in its coverage of many genres but lacks critical insight.


One of the best autobiographical accounts of the Cultural Revolution, this memoir offers a fascinating introduction to the study of mass movements.


This selection includes highly enjoyable stories about ethnic people living in remote mountain areas in northeastern China.

**Religion and Philosophy**


In this translation, Lau interpreted the individual sayings with an eye toward the whole corpus,
attempting to maintain internal consistency. The text contains an introduction of Confucius’ life and teachings and three appendices on Confucius’s China, his disciples, and the composition of *The Analects*.

———. *The Analects of Confucius*. Translated by Simon Leys. New York: W.W. Norton, 1997. This is an easy to read translation of the classic work.


**Art and Chinese Characters**


The author divides his survey of Chinese art history into these categories: art in the tomb, art at
court, art in the temple, art in the life of the elite, and art in the marketplace.

Farrer, Anne, Jane Portal, Shelagh Vainker, and Carol Michaelson. *The British Museum Book of

Fazzioli, Edoardo. *Chinese Calligraphy from Pictograph to Ideogram: The History of 214


Miyagawa, Torao. *Chinese Painting*. Translated and edited by Alfred Birnbaum. New York:
Weatherhill/Tankosha, 1983.


This illustrated text includes photos of landscapes, shrines, temples, and artwork and information
on geography, history, beliefs, and art styles.


1998.

Thorp and Vinograd present the art of China, not just from a historical perspective but also as a
cultural expression of societal expectations, politics, belief systems, and outside influences.


**Texts for Young Readers**

This collection of color photographs with descriptions of some of China’s ancient artifacts is appropriate for middle school students.

This novel offers a fictionalized account of the Tiananmen Square protests as seen by a fourteen-year-old Canadian boy in China with his father.

Covering a variety of topics relating to Chinese history and culture, this text is appropriate for students in fifth through tenth grade.

This introduction to China and its culture is appropriate for middle school students.

This introduction to the abacus offers some commentary on differences between Chinese and Japanese uses of this mathematical tool.

The illustrated introduction details the importance of rivers (and the Yellow River in particular) to Chinese culture.

Finney, Susan, and Patricia Kindle. *China Then and Now: Dynasties to Dragon Boats, Pagodas to Pavilions*. Carthage, IL: Good Apple, Inc. 1988. This text is appropriate for middle-school students.


**Curricular Materials**


and political dimensions of China’s transformation under Deng. Part III reviews the most critical issues on the U.S.-Chinese policy agenda today.


This book includes a teaching guide.


**Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE)**

This unit for high school students discusses the environmental and social costs of China’s rapid growth.

This unit explores the history and geography of the Silk Road. It includes small group activities, an adaptation of the simulation Heelotia, and a video.

This unit for students in tenth through twelfth grades includes a lesson using Ji-li Jiang’s memoir *Red Scarf Girl.*

This unit for middle and high school students includes a CD-ROM.


**Japan**

**Society and Culture**

This text offers interesting insights into gender and rural life.

Booth was an experienced observer who wrote about his experience traveling the length of Japan. The chapter on Hiroshima may be especially useful for classes.

This introduction to Japanese culture looks at how certain material objects are used in everyday life.


Originally published in 1907, this volume is still an interesting introduction to the subject.


A young American woman offers observations on her experience as a trainee in a Japanese office.


Chapter 5 gives a fun, accessible explanation of the two Japanese family systems, *ie* and *kazoku*, using letters from a Japanese advice column.

This volume covers traditional and contemporary Japan by letting the Japanese speak for themselves. It incorporates fiction, poetry, newspaper and magazine articles, letters, diaries, and historical documents.
This text provides timely essays on the Japanese family as the nation struggles with the consequences of an aging society.

This volume on contemporary Japan with a focus on historical continuity includes sections on geography, history, society, government, business, and international relations.

This journalist offers his take on Japanese culture through the lens of Japanese professional baseball and the experiences of Americans playing in Japan.

**History**

This work looks at women and gender roles in Japan, from female gods and empresses to the daily life of women in contemporary Japan.

Plentiful photographs and illustrations make this a useful aid in the high school history class.

This collection of recorded oral testimonies of events surrounding World War II provides valuable insight from Japan’s perspective.


Hersey profiles several survivors of the Hiroshima bombing in this quick must-read for anyone studying Hiroshima or planning to visit. This book was first published in 1946; the new edition includes a new chapter written forty years later.


The revised edition of this text, first released in 1909, includes an introduction by Terence Barrow and three hundred illustrations, eighteen appendices, and several maps.


**Literature**


Edogawa Rampo. *Japanese Tales of Mystery and Imagination*. Rutland, VT: Tuttle, 1956. The author’s emulation of Edgar Allan Poe (evident even in his pen name) make these fun stories an interesting topic for comparative discussions.

Keene, Donald, ed. *Anthology of Japanese Literature from the Earliest Era to the Mid-Nineteenth Century*. New York: Grove Press, 1955. This is a must-have poetry and prose anthology.


Shimazaki Toson. *Before the Dawn*. Translated by William E. Naff. Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press, 1987. This historical novel set in the second half of the nineteenth century spans the close of the Edo period and the first few decades of the Meiji period as it chronicles the social dislocations brought about by Japan’s rush to adopt Western culture.


Set in early twentieth-century Japan, this novel is about Japan’s struggle with adopting elements of Western culture while maintaining its own traditional values.

This classic anthology of poetry and prose chronicles the development of Japanese literature, philosophy, and political culture.


Ueda offers a thorough introduction to Basho and the genre of *haiku* poetry from various perspectives.


**Religion and Philosophy**


Art


This is a good general source about the aesthetics of Japanese art.


These three essays are intended to help the student of kabuki appreciate and understand some of the sociohistorical, technical, and musical features of the art form.


This thorough account of the long tradition of pottery production in the Shigaraki Valley is out of print but available in libraries.


This is an excellent source about the mechanics of calligraphy.

This thorough text focuses on the elements of kabuki performance.

This is a black-and-white photograph commentary of kabuki, noh, and bunraku.


Available at the Cleveland Museum of Art, this is a good source for photos of Japanese crafts and fine art.

This definitive study of the prehistoric Jomon pottery of Japan includes great pictures.


This introduction to Japanese brush writing can be found through the Cleveland Museum of Art.


Fumio Miki, a recognized authority on haniwa, terra cotta clay figures buried with the dead during the Kofun period, explores their development and use. This book includes illustrations and photos.

This text has a good selection of photos that reflect the depth and variety of Japanese ceramics through the ages. Although out of print, it is available in libraries.

This text is full of photos of landscapes, shrines, temples, and various artworks and information about geography, history, beliefs, and art styles.


This is a fun book that demonstrates how to draw a variety of poses and activities in the anime style.


This exhibition catalog offers an overview of two centuries of art and culture in the city now called Tokyo. It is available free of charge on loan through the National Gallery of Art. The packet contains a very informative booklet with notes for the images. Write for their catalog at this address: Department of Educational Resources, Extension Programs Section, National Gallery of Art, 4th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20565.


This handbook provides a basic explanation of the tools needed, a demonstration of proper brush grip, and illustrations of various subject matter found in sumi-e.


This text may be useful as a resource about Japanese aesthetics in architecture.
**Texts for Young Readers**


This text is appropriate for middle school students.

This is a good introduction for middle school students.

This mystery centering on a fourteen-year-old hero in eighteenth-century Japan has some good historical details.

This text is appropriate for middle school students.

This text is appropriate for students in sixth through tenth grades.

This is a very good introduction for middle and high school students to many facets of Japanese culture.

These poems addressing the bombing of Hiroshima and its aftermath and anti-nuclear activism are very readable for high school students and useful for generating discussion about nuclear weapons.

This text is appropriate for middle school students.

This powerful graphic novel based on the boyhood experiences of the author is a good addition to high school classes studying the nuclear bombings and wartime Japan. Several other volumes have now been translated into English.

This text provides a good reference for middle and high school students.
This history of Japan from its first contact with Europeans in 1543 through the 1990s is appropriate for middle and high school students.

This tale of a Japanese American boy in Hawai‘i during World War II would appeal to middle school students.

This text is appropriate for middle school students.

**Curricular Materials**


This includes country reports, current statistics, and background essays on the Pacific Rim, the Pacific Islands, and Japan. It also features a wide selection of carefully selected articles from newspapers and magazines from around the world and an annotated list of Web sites guides students to additional resources.


This is a three-part series of curriculum units on early modern to prewar/wartime Japanese history combining text and slides. Units include: *Tokugawa Japan: The Great Peace and the Development of Urban Society*; *Meiji Japan: The Dynamics of National Change*; and *Imperial Japan: Expansion and War*.


Integrating a cross-cultural perspective on constitutional government and individual rights, this text looks at Japanese political and social traditions, the Meiji Constitution, the 1947 Constitution, and individuals’ rights in Japan.

Warshaw, Steven. *Japan Emerges: A Concise History of Japan from Its Origin to the Present*. Rev. ed. Berkeley: Diablo Press, 1993. This volume is good for a general overview and is divided into historical periods. A teacher’s guide is also available.

**Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE)**


*Introduction to Japanese Buddhist Art*. Stanford, CA: Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE), 2004. This unit is appropriate for middle and high school students and includes a CD-ROM.


*Japanese Art in the Edo Period*. Stanford, CA: Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE), 2005. This unit for middle and high school students includes a CD-ROM.

*Japanese Radio Exercises*. Stanford, CA: Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE), 1996. This unit for middle and high school students introduces the history and cultural of Japanese group exercise and includes a videotape.


*Tea and the Japanese Practice of Chanoyu*. Stanford, CA: Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE), 2005. These lessons on the history and practice of the tea ceremony for middle and high school students include a CD-ROM and DVD.


**Korea**

**Society and Culture**


Han, Pae Ho, and Chae-Jin Lee, ed. *The Korean Peninsula and the Major Powers*. Sungnam, Korea: The Sejong Institute, 1998. This dense, academic work is full of interesting essays about Korea and its relationships with other nations including Japan, Russia, and China.


This collection of information about Korea focuses on areas such as geography, history, religion, government, culture, foreign relations, and the economy.


History


This work surveys Korea’s history from pre-history to the end of the Yi Dynasty in 1910. The author gives analyses of the country’s religious and ethical systems, art and literature, and social and educational methods through the centuries in Asia.


This memoir looks at Korean life during and after the colonial period.


This is a very good source on Korean history from prehistory to the mid-twentieth century.


The articles collected here deal with issues of modernity and colonialism in Korea. The work also addresses women’s issues, human rights, and national identity.
Literature


These short stories center on modern Korean society.


This was the first major anthology of Korean literature and includes poetry and prose from 600 B.C.E. This is a must-have for those interested in Korean literature.


This anthology collects works of modern Korean fiction by authors who have won literary awards.


This text is appropriate for young adults.


**Religion and Philosophy**

This text covers traditional religions as well as Christianity and ideology in North Korea.

This text discusses the religious and philosophical background of Korean culture.


**Art**


Texts for Young Readers

This text for students in sixth through eighth grades discusses the history, geography, daily life, and culture of Korea.


This novel for students in third through sixth grades takes place in seventh-century Korea.

Included with this collection of traditional Korean proverbs for students in third through sixth grades are brief explanations of their meanings and, when applicable, comparison with Western equivalents.

In this novel, Kim writes of seven scenes from a childhood in Korea during the Japanese occupation.

This text is appropriate for elementary-school students.


This text is appropriate for elementary-school students.

Set in twelfth-century Korea, this short novel describes a society of artisans through the eyes of a young orphan who becomes interested in pottery.

This text introduces North Korean society to students in sixth through twelfth grades.


This text is appropriate for students in middle and high school.
Curricular Materials


Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE)

*Understanding the Korean Peninsula in the 21st Century.* Stanford, CA: Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE), 1997. This great unit from SPICE examines the Japanese colonization of Korea, the Korean War, and contemporary politics and economics.

*U.S.-South Korean Relations.* Stanford, CA: Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE). This unit is aimed at educating students about the four core pillars of the U.S. treaty with South Korea: democracy, economic prosperity, security, and socio-cultural interaction.