Bibliography of Resources on East Asia
(updated December 2008)

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.


This educational package comes with a videotape and is divided into topics covering politics, economics, and social issues.

This collection of essays is intended to help teachers find material for lectures on Asian history to augment lectures on Western themes with comparative perspectives.


Reader’s and teacher’s guides are available.

This high school textbook includes an introductory “fundamentals” section on transliteration, naming systems, and the model minority myth. Other sections focus on issues of the family, cultural traditions, the Asian diaspora, literature, and the arts in Asian Pacific countries.

This high school textbook includes units on Chinese and Japanese literature.

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.


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.
This collection includes biographies of Confucius, Empress Wu, the Qianlong Emperor, Liang Qichao, and Mao Zedong.


**Literature**


This anthology of essays, stories, and poems is thematically arranged. It is a good source on Chinese literary and political culture in the 1980s.


This novel may appeal to high school students.


This book is a wonderful source of Chinese literary criticism in translation. It shows the Chinese context for ideas about literary expression and development in the twentieth century.

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 Binsheng 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.


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


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.


This work for middle school students explores the discovery of the terra cotta warriors buried in the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huang.


**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.

*Along the Silk Road—People, Interaction, and Cultural Exchange.* Stanford, CA: Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE), 1993. 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.


*Chinese Dynasties, Part One: The Shang Dynasty through the Tang Dynasty, 1600 B.C.E. to 907 C.E.* Stanford, CA: Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE), 2006. This unit for middle and high school students includes a CD-ROM.


**Japan**

**Society and Culture**


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 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.


Literature


This novel set in twentieth-century Japan juxtaposes the traditional role of women in Japan and the complexities of modern society.


This anthology contains in-depth analyses of many famous waka poems and succinct explanations of rhetorical devices such as “pillow words” and “pivot words,” making it a good background source for any instructor interested in teaching early poetry.


The author’s emulation of Edgar Allan Poe (evident even in his pen name) make these fun stories an interesting topic for comparative discussions.

This is a must-have poetry and prose anthology.

This prose and fiction collection includes literature from 1868 to the 1950s.


This text includes alternate translations of famous Genji chapters and episodes from the famous medieval warrior epic, Heike monogatari.


This most famous modern Japanese novel tells the story of a man who must choose between filial piety and friendship.


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.


This text is a translation of a puppet play from the mid-1700s.

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.


**Curricular Materials**


Collinwood, Dean W. *Global Studies: Japan and the Pacific Rim*. 5th ed. Salt Lake City: University of Utah, 2001. 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 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)**


The six lessons include slides and an audio-tape of poetry reading with the goal of introducing students to Japanese poetry and artistic tradition.

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

Another great SPICE unit, this one focuses on cross-cultural communication and cultural differences.

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

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 book meets the needs of the general reader and introduces traditional and modern Korea. Chapters are written by specialists in the field.


This general reference book covers various topics related to Korea.


Although a bit outdated, these three volumes, Korean Arts and Culture, Korean History, and This is Korea, contain beautiful pictures of Korea and Korean art.


This is a good source of primary materials with commentary on history, literature, religion, and other aspects of Korean culture.


This collection of articles centers on women’s issues in Korea including aspects of myth, religion, modern poetry, language, and the Korean War.


History


Henthorn, William. *A History of Korea.* New York: Free Press, 1971. 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.


Nahm, Andrew. *Introduction to Korean History and Culture.* Elizabeth, NJ: Hollym International Corp., 1993. This is a very good source on Korean history from prehistory to the mid-twentieth century.


**Literature**


———, ed. *Anthology of Korean Literature: From Early Times to the Nineteenth Century.* Honolulu: University of Hawaiʻi Press, 1981. 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.


**Religion and Philosophy**


**Art**


**Texts for Young Readers**


Lee, Uk-Bae. *Sori’s Harvest Moon Day: A Story of Korea*. Norwalk, CT: Soundprints, 1999. This text is appropriate for elementary-school students.


**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.