



Asian Studies Notes

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Vol. 12, No. 3/ November 2006

<http://www.asianstudies.buffalo.edu/newsletter>

亞細亞學研究

Japan and Its Neighbors

A New Take on Kishi Nobusuke

Thomas W. Burkman, Director of Asian Studies

The first time I set foot in Japan, in June 1960, the streets were raging against the government, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), and impending revisions in the US-Japan Security Treaty. As laborer and student barricades and snaking demonstrations put Tokyo at a near standstill, a late-night session of the Diet forced approval of the revised treaty. President Eisenhower canceled a scheduled visit to Japan, and Prime Minister Kishi Nobusuke resigned. One small-town South Jersey teenager got a quick and candid introduction to violent politics.

Kishi (1896-1987) was definitely a relic of imperialist Japan. Before the war he worked in economic planning in Manchukuo, Japan's puppet state in northeast China. As a member of the Tojo Hideki cabinet from 1941 to 1944,

he directed economic mobilization for the war against the United States. The Allied Occupation imprisoned him as a war criminal, but he re-entered politics when Japan's sovereignty was restored in 1952 and crafted the merger that birthed the LDP in 1955. He became prime minister in 1957. Even after his 1960 resignation, he was the major kingmaker machinating in *genro* fashion behind the scenes of the ruling, conservative LDP until his death at age 91. Seemingly the epitome of Japan's autocratic past, Kishi was the ogre that liberals loved to hate.



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Kimchee and Chitlins

GENSeng, an Asian American theatre group at SUNY/Geneseo, will stage *Kimchee and Chitlins*, a "serious comedy about getting along" which looks at our prejudices and assumptions about race and ethnicity through the experiences of Koreans and African Americans in Flatbush, Brooklyn. It is written by Elizabeth Wong and directed by Randy Barbara Kaplan. It will be performed at Geneseo on November 30th, at 7 pm; December 1st, at 4 pm; and December 2nd, at 2 pm.

All tickets are \$6.00. Reservations can be made via <http://bbo.geneseo.edu>.

Asia at Noon November 10

Professor Arabella Lyon to Address Rhetoric in Classical China

Arabella Lyon, Associate Professor of English will speak at the Asian Studies Program's brown bag event on November 10, 12:00-1:00, in Park 280. Her subject is, "Why Do the Rulers Listen to the Wild Theories of Speech-Makers? Or, Rhetoric, the Law, and Ancient China." The convener will be Prof. Jiyuan Yu of the Department of Philosophy.

Opening with the question of whether the concept of rhetoric (persuasion in a political forum), a term coined during the Athenian democracy, can be applied to China, this presentation answers the question of intellectual colonization pragmatically and then uses Confucius (traditionally 551-479 B.C.) and the Chinese Legalist Han Fei (?289-233 B.C.E.) to consider what a classical Chinese rhetoric might look like. In writing on both remonstrance and persuasion, Chinese rhetoric is more deferential to the audience than that of the West, but only in part from respect. Implicit in appealing to more powerful rulers is a concern with their potential violence and, in the case of

Han Fei's theories, a desire for the stability of the law above the individual.

Professor Lyon was a Fulbright lecturer in American Literature at Sichuan University, 1999-2000. Subsequently, she studied rhetoric in the Chinese tradition in two NEH Summer Seminars, one at the East-West Center in Hawaii in 2001 and one at the University of California in 2003. Her work in comparative rhetoric involving China has been published in three articles. Her current project examines Han Fei through the lens of speech act theory.



Confucius



Han Fei

Cont. from P. 1 KISHI NOBUSUKE

We have just witnessed the lengthy, 6-year tenure of Prime Minister Koizumi Junichiro. Koizumi blushed not at honoring the war dead at Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, drawing protests from Japan's neighbors - China and the Koreans - who once suffered invasion and colonization. Koizumi, who valued his friendship with President George W. Bush and sent troops to Iraq, defended his visits to Yasukuni as a private matter and "none of other countries' business."

Some historians and commentators, tired of the confrontational posture of "fighting Koizumi," are now looking back at the Kishi Cabinet with a fresh realization that it was the era when Japan settled the issue of war indemnities and achieved reconciliation with Southeast Asia. In the tradition of postwar premier Yoshida Shigeru, Kishi acted in the conviction that Japan, though defeated in war, could still win in the field of diplomacy.

When Kishi took office in 1957, he set out on a tour that took him first to fifteen nations in Asia and Oceania - the first Japanese prime minister to visit most of them - and then to the United States. No Japanese leader, before or

since, has conducted such ambitious diplomacy. In each country he visited, Kishi apologized for Japan's wartime actions and solicited the cooperation of Asian leaders in economic development. His apologies played a key role in moderating strong anti-Japanese feelings in the Philippines and Australia. In Burma, his off-the-script remarks stressed that Japan was not the Japan of the past, but a nation willing to meet its obligations of reparations with goodwill. Visiting Chiang Kai-shek in Taiwan, he expressed gratitude that the Generalissimo had dealt with Japan by "repaying malice with virtue" after the war. For the next quarter century, Kishi was the leading Japanese figure in furthering rapprochement with Taiwan, a Japanese colony until 1945.

Abe Shinzo, the new prime minister of Japan, is none other than the grandson of Kishi Nobusuke. Will he take his cue from Kishi or Koizumi? Japan's relations with the People's Republic of China and South and North Korea remain strained by war and colonial memory. China and the Koreans were not on Kishi's tour itinerary. Could Abe complete the magnanimous policy of his forebear, and devote efforts to promoting reconciliation in East Asia?

ASIAN STUDIES DIRECTORY

Thomas W. Burkman, Director (burkman@buffalo.edu)

Mary Anne Lang, Office Manager (mal@buffalo.edu)

Zhen Li, Graduate Assistant (zli5@buffalo.edu)

714 Clemens, University at Buffalo, NY 14260/ Tel: (716) 645-3474 / Fax: (716) 645-3473/

<http://www.asianstudies.buffalo.edu/>

Visiting Islamacist Syafiq A. Mughni

The Asian Studies Program is hosting a Fulbright scholar in the field of Islamic studies for four weeks. Professor Syafiq A. Mughni arrived from Indonesia on October 21. Coming from Surabaya on Java, where the only variation in the year-long summer is dry and wet seasons, Mughni was fortunate to miss Buffalo's infamous early snowstorm by a week. Professor Mughni is comfortably



Prof. Mughni (center) at Council on International Studies and Programs, October 26

settled in the University Guest Quarters on Main Street, his sustenance generously provided by the office of the UB Vice-Provost for International Education. Mughni has taught at the State Institute of Islamic Studies in Surabaya since 1980. He obtained a Ph.D. in Islamic studies at UCLA in 1995.

Professor Mughni is teaching a short course on Islamic Institutions. One of his major Fulbright tasks is to engage in conversations with faculty and administrators at UB about the implementation of Islamic studies at UB. To this end, during his stay he is speaking with the Council on International Studies and Programs and associate deans in the College of Arts and Sciences. He is also meeting with the Law and Religion Group of the Baldy Center and with faculty and TAs in World Civilization courses. He will address the History Department colloquium on November 10. Off-campus, Dr. Mughni will hold a workshop for K-12 teachers in the Williamsville district and speak at Tapestry Charter High School in Buffalo. He will appear on Bridges TV, a Muslim-based channel with studios in Orchard Park. He has a few openings for additional engagements before his November 19 departure from Buffalo.

New Bollywood Course in Spring 2007

Asian Studies is pleased to announce the opening of a new course in Spring '07. It is "Bollywood, Globalization, and Contemporary India." The instructor, Aswin Punathambekar, is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Communication Arts at University of Wisconsin-Madison. He got his B.E. from University of Allahabad, India, M.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication from University of Georgia, and S.M. in Comparative Media Studies from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His research interests include globalization, culture industries (Bollywood), new media, etc. His book *Bollywood Cinema and Culture: A Reader* is forthcoming.

This course will examine the discourse of globalization in the Indian context by focusing on two key sites: media and migration. In historically grounded fashion, it will examine Bollywood (India's dominant culture industry) and the South Asian diaspora in order to under-

stand the economic, political, and cultural dimensions of globalization in contemporary India.

Beginning with general works on diaspora and transnationalism, the course will move on to explore the particularities of a South Asian diasporic experience in Southeast Asia, Africa, the United Kingdom, the Caribbean, and North America. It will consider the colonial experience of indenture and other forms of labor, and the development of anti-colonial activities abroad; changing configurations of caste, race and ethnicity in different national contexts; reconfigurations of religion; multicultural performances that draw on Bollywood cinema; the social mobilizing power of Indian film music and youth culture; and emergent political alliances that are transnational in nature.

Registration #: 222951 (AS 394), 323975 (DMS 394)

Asian Studies Calendar

November

- Nov. 10, 3:00-5:00 pm. **Dr. Mughni**, Islamic scholar. "Islam and Indonesian Politics in New Order Era, 1966-1998." History Department colloquium. Park 532.
- Nov. 10, 12:00-1:00 pm. *Asia at Noon*. **Arabella Lyon**, Associate Professor of English. "Why Do the Rulers Listen to the Wild Theories of the Speech-makers? Or, Rhetoric, the Law, and Ancient China." Park 280.

December

- Dec. 18. **Application deadline** of China-India Development and Relations Symposium.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

China-India Development and Relations Symposium (CIDRS)

CIDRS is a four-day program of keynote speeches, breakouts, plenary sessions, and student paper presentations focusing entirely on China's and India's most pressing development and international relations topics. It is organized by a team of Harvard students under the auspices of the Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR).

The symposium will be held from March 30 to April 2, 2007, at New York City. CIDRS seeks to foster a fuller understanding of the link between China and India through dialogue and exchange of ideas. Both general delegates and paper presenters are welcome! Applications are online at www.cidrs.org. Application deadline is **December 18th, 2006**.



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Asian Studies Program

714 Clemens Hall
Buffalo, NY 14260-4610
Tel.: (716)645-3474 Fax:(716)645-3473
Email: asian-studies@buffalo.edu
Homepage: <http://www.asianstudies.buffalo.edu/>

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Asian Studies Notes is published
6 times yearly by the Asian Studies
Program, University at Buffalo.

Zhen Li, Editor