

English-Language Works by JAAS Members 2013

The following citations and abstracts introduce recent publications, written in English by the members of the Japanese Association for American Studies, on topics related to American Studies.

ARTICLES IN JOURNALS

Kitahara, Taeko. "Why Are They So Disturbing?: A Study of Classic American Gangster Movies." *Journal of American and Canadian Studies* (Institute of American and Canadian Studies, Sophia University) 30 (2012): 31–53.

This article focuses on the classic American gangster movies (e.g., *Little Caesar*, *The Public Enemy*, and *Scarface*), and considers why they disturbed the authorities in the 1930s. These movies disclosed the impossibility of American dream, visualized taboos such as homosexual or incestuous desire, and employed comedy, which enticed audiences to consume the dangerous contents.

Miyashita, Kazuyo. "Foster's Songs in Japan." *American Music* 30, no. 3 (Fall 2012): 308–325.

The songs of Stephen Foster (1826–64) have been among the best-known pieces of American music in Japan. However, Foster's life has been largely ignored, perhaps because some of his songs were seen by some people as politically incorrect. This article discusses Foster's music in terms of Japanese education, Japanese cultural heritage, and as a cross-cultural vehicle.

ARTICLES IN BOOKS

Obayashi, Yuki. "Interpreting the Vietnam War from a Vietnamese American Perspective." In *The Adaptation of History: Essays on Ways of Telling the Past*, edited by Laurence Raw and Defne Ersin Tutan, 161–70. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2013.

This chapter shows the subjective selection of history at work through an analysis of films about the Vietnam War. The author surveys Hollywood's Vietnam War films as well as the Vietnamese American films *Green Dragon* (2002) and *Journey from the Fall* (2007).

Sasaki, Yutaka. "Japan." In *Encyclopedia of Military Science 2*, edited by G. Kurt Piehler, 727–31. Los Angeles: Sage Reference, 2013.

This chapter examines the evolution of the US-Japan alliance from the early 1950s until the present day. In particular, it traces the process in which the US-Japan security relationship has been experiencing significant transformations to adapt itself to changing security environments in East Asia and elsewhere following the end of the Cold War.

Sasaki, Yutaka. "Soft Power." In *Encyclopedia of Military Science 3*, edited by G. Kurt Piehler, 1275–79. Los Angeles: Sage Reference, 2013.

This chapter analyzes the concept of soft power and the use of soft power in US public diplomacy since the end of the Cold War. It also examines the way in which scholars of international relations have scrutinized the analytical strengths and limits of the soft power concept since it entered public discourse in the 1990s.

BOOKS

Kimura, Masato, and Tosh Minohara, eds. *Tumultuous Decade: Empire, Society, and Diplomacy in 1930s Japan*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013.

This book analyses the pivotal decade of 1931–1941 from the distinct vantage points of Japanese empire, society, and diplomacy to shed new light on and to provide new insight into what has been called the "tumultuous decade." Specifically, the times are examined through a multi-disciplinary lens based on an international history approach.