

difficult political phase within the European Union demonstrates. As Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence in 2008 spreads its effects to other regional theatres, like Georgia with its Russian enclaves, managing nationalism seems essential to regional and international stability and security for the foreseeable future. Smith's linkage of today's national formulas with their ancient forebears enriches our understanding of the complexities of both past and present.

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Christopher L. Hill. *National History and the World of Nations: Capital, State, and the Rhetoric of History in Japan, France, and the United States*. Durham, NC and London: Duke University Press, 2009. Pp. xvi. 351. US\$24.95 (pb).

In the past dozen years or so, historiography has gone seriously global. The time has ended when one could understand the history of the discipline of history as a series of (Western) streams flowing inexorably into the lake of nineteenth-century German scholarship and then out into the confusing canal system of post-Second World War sub-disciplinary specializations. Apart from a number of reference books and a recent Longman survey of modern historiography by Georg Iggers, Edward Wang, and Supriya Mukherjee, (*A Global History of Modern Historiography*, 2008), there are several other major works in progress with a worldwide scope.

The cumulative result of much of this has been, paraphrasing Dipesh Chakrabarty, to provincialize European historiography. Post-colonial scholars have offered a radical critique of the imperializing mission of European historiography and indeed the very Western notion of a single-narrative hegemonic and linear history. Meanwhile, a number of important studies, building on the post-nationalist scholarship of Benedict Anderson and Partha Chatterjee in particular, have offered us intelligent analysis of various Asian historiographies in the context of modern nation-building. Stefan Tanaka's *Japan's Orient* (1993) and Thongchai Winichakul's *Siam Mapped* (1994) are outstanding examples in this genre.

Christopher L. Hill's new book sits within this globalized historiography. Rather more ideologically explicit than some other works in the field - Hill wears his anti-globalization, capitalist-critical sentiments on the sleeve of his account - the book offers a three-way analysis of the whipping of wild space and unruly time into nationalist cages at the very peak, during the late nineteenth century, of the emergence of the modern state system and of international capitalism. While Hill eschews direct comparison, in the sense of back-and-forth juxtaposition of his cases within individual chapters, the three very different countries he picks afford a wide range of circumstances. These are: France, a declining power in the heart of 'Old Europe', struggling to establish its Third Republic in the wake of military defeat, and deal with the memory of Revolutions past (especially 1789); the United States, a classic 'settler society' and ex-colony then emerging as a North American industrial heavyweight (but haunted by its own recent civil war and challenged by race, immigration, and ongoing rural-urban tensions); and Meiji Japan, newly reopened to the West and trying to resist subjugation by Euro-America by adopting some of

its discourses, history among them, while simultaneously repudiating its own recent Tokugawa past.

Hill divides his work into two parts, each with a chapter on one of his countries. The first part details the ways in which each nation was 'made' territorially through historical discourses. The second part deals more conventionally with the parallel homogenization of divergent pasts, and there are interesting parallels with a recent book, *The Contested Nation* (2008), edited by Chris Lorenz and Stefan Berger in the Palgrave 'Writing the Nation Series'. The overarching argument is not just that nations and their histories were 'invented' at this time in an Andersonian-Hobsbawmian sense, but specifically that they were constructed within a developing modern world-system of nations that was substantively different from its predecessor, and in which economic imperialism (the global network of markets and capital) played as significant a role as more obvious political concerns.

Rather than cast his net widely, Hill throughout emphasizes a few key texts and authors. Some, such as France's Ernest Renan and America's Frederick Jackson Turner are well known: Turner's 'frontier thesis' is an obvious starting point for US geohistorical discourse. Others, such as the American racist preacher Josiah Strong and Japan's Yamaji Aizan and Fukuzawa Yukichi will be familiar to specialists but less so to a general audience. (Fukuzawa is much praised as the social scientist who promoted Western-style historical thinking in Japan as a means of modernization; this sets him in a slightly different light). 'History' itself is a broad umbrella: Hill does not restrict himself to academic historiography (which, in fact, has a rather minor role) but includes novels such as Victor Hugo's Terror-era *Ninety-Three* and Mori Ogai's short story 'The Dancing Girl', which allegorically reflect on their respective nation's histories. These works were as much concerned with projecting a confident future as they were with tracing the trajectory of the past.

While Hill is careful not to stretch his evidence, he is unambiguous that these are not three disconnected cases of national-history writing that coincidentally bear similarities. Rather, he argues for a kind of overarching international episteme, pivoting around the relationship between capital and state, within which both temporal and spatial reorganization occurred in all three countries. (And presumably elsewhere: India would have presented a fascinating fourth case, that of a colony still adjusting to its Western master). Well written, and convincingly argued - even if one does not accept all of Hill's premises or his ideological positions - this is an important study and a worthy addition to the literature on both nationalism and historiography.

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Gilles Kepel. *Beyond Terror and Martyrdom: The Future of the Middle East*, trans. Pascale Ghazaleh. Cambridge, MA and London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2008. Pp. 328. US\$27.95.

The tragic events of 11 September 2001 and their global fallout have spawned a multitude of writings seeking to explain causes, catalysts, and consequences. The