Dr. Lam Peng Er
List of Publications

Books


6. (Edited with Ganesan Narayanan and Colin Durkop), *East Asia’s Relations with a Rising China* (Seoul: Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, 2010), pp.482.


Reviews of *Japan’s Peace-building Diplomacy in Asia*

1. *East Asia Integration Studies*: “This book develops an important argument concerning Japan’s peace-building efforts, which have become a new pillar in Tokyo’s foreign policy. ... The author conducted extensive document research in both policy and media for this book, coupled with extensive interviews of relevant policymakers, diplomats, and peace-building and development practitioners. This book is one of the most updated accounts of Japan’s foreign policy, documenting real voices about what actually happened in the peace-building fields, and it is a must-read for scholars, as well as students, who are interested in Japanese politics and foreign policy”. *East Asian Integration Studies*, Vol. 6, No. 5, 2013.

2. *Journal of Conflict Transformation and Security*: “Lam Peng Er’s book is a very straight forward, remarkably argued publication on Japan’s emerging and
strategic political role in Asia and in the world. The author argues that in contrast to previous fundamental pillars of Tokyo’s foreign policy - either as a non-interventionist state and or an aggressive militaristic imperial regime - Tokyo pushes an active peacebuilding role in international affairs. The author focuses on diplomatic and humanitarian efforts by Japan to end ethnic and class conflict, as well as to pursue post-conflict and peace building activities, in five different cases. ... Overall, this is a very well argued and structured book, particularly the coherence of the theoretical point and empirical examples, which makes it a must read for anyone working on Japanese foreign policy. Most especially with the growing Chinese territorial interests, this is a very timely book on a very important actor in Southeast and East Asia”. Journal of Conflict Transformation and Security, Vol.2, No.2, October 2012, pp.265-266.

3. Journal of Japanese Studies: “This is a must-read book for anyone seeking a comprehensive understanding of Japan’s foreign and security policies. It contains surprises even for experts well versed in Japanese foreign policy. I suspect many other specialists will at best be only dimly aware of Japan’s activism in peace and human security promotion in Mindanao, Sri Lanka, and Aceh, or of Japan’s continuing support for East Timor and Cambodia, before picking up Lam’s book. ... In short, Lam brings a bird’s-eye view from his perch in Singapore to understanding Japan’s relationship with Southeast Asia while using his expertise in Japanese domestic politics to show how this influences foreign policy. Although shedding light on a significant but hitherto obscure aspect of Japanese foreign policy, Lam's book nevertheless engages the main academic debate in the field today, namely, whether Japan is "normalizing" into a great power that uses military force as an instrument to promote national objectives abroad. Looking at this issue from his unique angle, Lam is fully convincing when he argues that Japan has found its niche in international security: non-combat-related peace building”. Journal of Japanese Studies, Vol.37, No.2, Summer 2011, pp.498-502.

4. Journal of Human Security: “Lam’s book on Japan’s peace-building is an excellent and timely contribution to the emerging literature on Asia’s peace-building efforts. ... The book argues for a new perspective on Japan’s international relations from the vantage point of peace-building. ...The thesis of this book is very clear, and should appeal to a wide readership. It does a very good job of aiming the discussion at scholars, practitioners, students and the general public alike. The author’s interviews, correspondences, and conversations with key practitioners --- such as diplomats, military officers, UN officials, and governmental and non-governmental aid agency personnel --- add depth and value to his analysis, and make the discussion vivid and interesting. I hope this book attracts the attention of Japanese policymakers, as it carries a very important message to them”. Journal of Human Security, Vol.7, No.1, 2011.

5. Asian Studies Review: “This is a well-researched book, as evidenced by the extensive notes and bibliography .... It provides intriguing insights into Japanese perceptions of the peace-building role that Japan can take in the region; however, it also shows the success Japan has had in promoting its institutionalization of and engagement with that role. ... This is an interesting book on an area of Japanese policy-making likely to interest readers from many disciplines”. Asian Studies Review, Vol.35. No.1, 2011.

6. Asian Affairs: Journal of the Royal Society for Asian Affairs: “Peace-building may not at first blush be regarded as the most newsworthy and stimulating of topics. However, in this highly digestible and clearly structured book, Lam Peng Er does a fine job of beginning to address this state of affairs. ... Throughout Lam takes a balanced but critical position. ... Students of all levels in particular will find
7. **Pacific Affairs**: "Lam’s focus on peace diplomacy reveals surprising insights into the character of Japan’s post-Cold War policy stance. Ultimately, Japan’s developing niche in peace-building, Lam concludes, is a work in progress. Lam’s thoughtful, balanced and well-researched account will be the essential guide to scholars interested in this still-evolving work in progress". *Pacific Affairs*, Vol.83, No.4, December 2010.

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**Reviews of Green Politics in Japan**

1. **Journal of Japanese Studies**: "Lam’s study is impressive. His work is likely to be compared with that of authors such as Margaret MacKean, Jeffrey Broadbent, and Norrie Huddle and Michael Reich, all leading scholars of environmental movements in Japan. ... In addition, the book sheds light on the workings of the Japanese party system and electoral politics. ... This is a terrific addition to the literature on Japanese politics. This book provides a refreshing look at women in politics, local politics and the possibility of new party politics in a political system that has been dominated by men, national politics, and conservative political parties." *The Journal of Japanese Studies (US)*, Vol.26, No.2, Summer 2000, pp.478-482.

2. **Social Science Japan Journal**: "Overall, this book is a detailed study of local politics in contemporary Japan in general, and the consumer co-operative movement and NET in particular. ... The book starts off from the theoretical question of value change and the anticipated growth of the alternative political sector. From there, it reaches a deep understanding of the potential and actual options for political involvement at the local level in Japan. Anyone wanting to know why new parties or social movements in general, and the NET party in particular, have been successful on the local and prefectural level but not on the national level in Japan will have much to learn from this book. ... Green Politics in Japan is an important contribution to our understanding of the sticking points as well as the future prospects of citizens’ involvement in social and political affairs, and its potential for a stronger civil society in contemporary Japan". *Social Science Japan Journal (Japan)*, Vol.6, No.2, October 2003.

3. **Journal of Asian Studies**: "Green Politics in Japan makes a valuable contribution to the literature on politics in Japan. ... (and) provides a wealth of information and penetrating insights into the obstacles to greater electoral success for Green Parties in Japan. ... Green Politics in Japan makes an excellent starting point for those interested in understanding politics and society in urban Japan and a good resource for detailed information on personalities and organization for serious scholars of Japanese politics". *The Journal of Asian Studies (US)*, Vol.59. No.4, November 2000, pp. 1020-1022.

4. **Pacific Affairs**: “Thus NET (Network Movement) appears to be a harbinger of political change in Japan. However, the author, in a well researched study, shows incisively why NET has not been effective, especially at the national level. This study has many general findings beyond its primary concern with party politics as it points incisively to the limits of change in Japan’s urban society.” *Pacific Affairs (Canada)*, Vol.73, No.3, Fall 2000, pp.436-438.

5. **Japanese Journal of Political Science**: “The book’s most interesting insight may have been the relationship between urban political organizations and what Dr Lam refers to as ‘social networks whose cohesion comes from personal ties, group loyalties, and reciprocal obligations rather than a purely ideological approach.’ The

**Internationally Refereed Journals**


5. “Soft power: Resonating with the preferences of a target country”, *Asia Policy* (US), No.15, January 2013, pp.132-134.


Invited Publications


**Book Chapters**


Book Reviews


**EDITORIAL OR ADVISORY BOARD: JOURNALS**

1. *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific* (Japan): Executive Editor

2. *Asian Journal of Peace Building* (South Korea): Executive Editor

3. East Asia Policy (Singapore): Associate Editor

4. *East Asia: An International Quarterly* (UK): Advisory Board

5. *World Food Journal* (Thailand), Advisory Board


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