

Whatever course he chooses, the IRGC will rely on its proven survival instincts. Donald Trump will be the seventh U.S. president it has confronted.

Asia and Pacific

Andrew J. Nathan

Strategic Coupling: East Asian Industrial Transformation in the New Global Economy

BY HENRY WAI-CHUNG YEUNG.
Cornell University Press, 2016, 312 pp.

The theory of the “developmental state” has shaped understandings of how the East Asian “tiger economies” flourished from the 1960s through the 1980s. It attributed their successes to wise interventions by government technocrats. But starting in the early 1990s, states began to be less effective and global markets started becoming more complex, forcing East Asian companies to find ways to compete on their own. Those who succeeded linked up (or, as Yeung says, “coupled”) with ever-larger and more elaborate global supply chains in one of three ways. Some provided cutting-edge design and manufacturing services to leading brands (as Taiwan’s Foxconn did for Apple). Others, including big shipbuilding firms in South Korea and Singapore, learned to specialize. And still others broke out as global brand names, such as Acer in Taiwan and Samsung, LG, and Hyundai in South Korea. This is a fascinating and richly informative contribution to the field of business history and to the study

of the political economy of advanced industrial development.

Dictators and Their Secret Police: Coercive Institutions and State Violence

BY SHEENA CHESTNUT GREITENS.
Cambridge University Press, 2016, 240 pp.

The “third wave” of democratization in the 1980s and 1990s was followed by what some have called “the authoritarian resurgence,” leading scholars to renew their attention to the workings of repressive regimes. But few have studied one of the most important institutions in any authoritarian system: the political police. Greitens’ original and well-researched analysis uses case studies—Taiwan under Chiang Kai-shek and Chiang Ching-kuo, the Philippines under Ferdinand Marcos, and South Korea under Park Chung-hee and Chun Doo-hwan—to explore the different ways that dictators organize this coercive apparatus. She finds that they tend to fragment it into multiple competing organizations when they want to guard against coups, but they integrate and streamline it when they are worried about popular resistance. She also finds that better-organized and more penetrative coercive systems tend to use less violence than fragmented ones, since they do a better job of spying on citizens and deterring dissent.

Park Chung Hee and Modern Korea: The Roots of Militarism, 1866–1945

BY CARTER J. ECKERT. Harvard University Press, 2016, 512 pp.

This pathbreaking book contributes to both modern Korean history and

The contents of Foreign Affairs are protected by copyright. © 2004 Council on Foreign Relations, Inc., all rights reserved. To request permission to reproduce additional copies of the article(s) you will retrieve, please contact the Permissions and Licensing office of Foreign Affairs.