China, Japan and Regional Leadership in East Asia

Edited by Christopher M. Dent, Professor of East Asia’s International Political Economy, University of Leeds, UK

This book considers themes, evidence and ideas relating to the prospects for regional leadership in East Asia, with particular reference to China and Japan assuming ‘regional leader actor’ roles. Key issues discussed by the list of distinguished contributors include:

• the extent to which there is an East Asian region to lead
• China–Japan relations
• different aspects of Japan and China’s positions in the East Asia region
• how the seemingly inexorable rise of China is being addressed within the region
• how China and Japan have explored paths of regional leadership through certain regional and multilateral organisations and frameworks
• the position of certain ‘intermediary powers’ (i.e. the United States and Korea) with regards to regional leadership diplomacy in East Asia.

Invaluably, the concluding chapter brings together the main findings of the book and presents new analytical approaches for studying the nature of, and prospects for leadership in East Asia.

‘China, Japan and Regional Leadership in East Asia is a compilation which provides a necessary and welcome update to the Asian regionalism debates of the last decade, bringing together notable experts in Asian area studies and comparative foreign policy to provide many new insights... essential reading both for practitioners of Asian studies and those concerned with the role of comparative regionalism in modern international relations.’
– Marc Lanteigne, East Asia – An International Quarterly

‘... this book is strongly recommended reading for everyone interested in Japan–China relations, leadership, and East Asia. It proves that looking at complex issues from a variety of angles does bring a much deeper understanding. I thoroughly enjoyed it!’
– Marie Söderberg, Journal of Japanese Studies

‘This book addresses one of the most intriguing but also under-researched issues of the future of the Asian strategic landscape: who will lead the region and replace US leadership, Japan and China, and what kind of leadership do we have to expect? The authors come to the conclusion that it is a matrix or combination of leadership options rather than a single leadership type, depending on issue domains, governance structure and geospatial scales. ... The conclusions by Christopher Dent admirably draw the theoretical and empirical issues together.’
– Reinhard Drifte, Pacific Affairs

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