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Edited by Simon Avenell

Reconsidering Postwar Japanese History

A Handbook

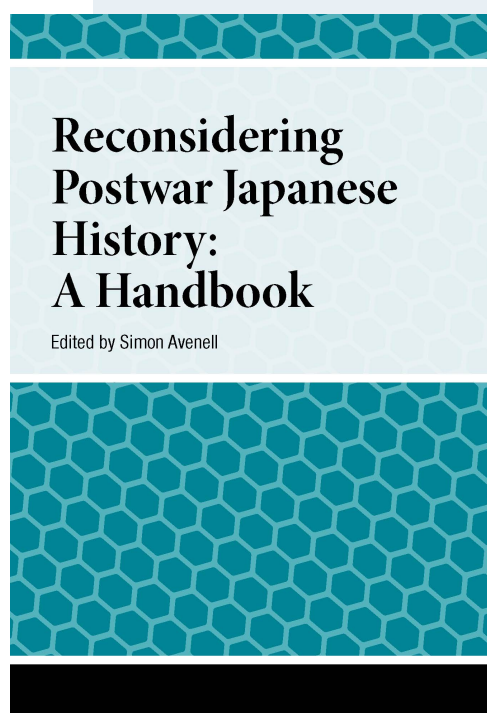
After war defeat in 1945, Japan underwent historic political, economic and social transformations resulting in the country's rebirth as an economic powerhouse and exemplar of liberal democracy in East Asia. This handbook expands and enriches our understanding of this tumultuous contemporary era in Japan's modern history.

Chapters in the volume ask novel theoretical questions and present fresh empirical perspectives on the era. How, for example, has the postwar era been chronologized to date and how might we rethink or enhance such interpretations? What can we learn by rethinking established moments and phases like the Allied Occupation, the period of high-speed economic growth, the 1970s, the Bubble Economy, and the "lost decades" of Heisei Japan (1989-2019)?

Contributors attempt to transcend temporal, geographical, intellectual and other boundaries inherent in our current understandings of Japan's postwar experience to provide a compelling compilation of perspectives. The volume's extensive chronological coverage, combined with the innovative perspectives of the contributors, make it essential reading for both researchers and learners interested in the multifaceted dynamics of Japan's fascinating contemporary era.

BIOGRAPHY

Simon Avenell is professor at the Australian National University. He specializes in modern Japanese history, with a particular interest in civil society, social activism, and the history of ideas in postwar Japan. His latest book, *Asia and Postwar Japan: Deimperialization, Civic Activism, and National Identity*, was published by Harvard University Press in 2022.



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