



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EAST ASIAN STUDIES CENTER

Institute for Japanese Studies Lecture Series

From Black Ships to ONE PIECE: Japan-U.S. Relations

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Monday, November 13, 2017

4:00-5:30 pm

Ramseyer Hall 100

29 W Woodruff Ave

Abstract: This talk illustrates the history of Japan-U.S. relations, from Admiral Perry's Black Ships and the subsequent opening of Japan until today's frequent political, economic, military, and cultural interactions between the two countries. Regardless of whether or not the two nations' most recent interactions serve to bring them closer together, Japan and the U.S. have long been important allies that have largely defined the international order of East Asia for more than half a century.

It was not, of course, a simple path. By examining Japanese domestic politics and culture, one can observe the impact that America has had upon Japan as well as the latter's reaction to the former's influence: Early Friendship (1860s-70s), disillusion and acceptance (1880s-90s), competition between imperialisms (1900s-10s), Pax Americana and urbanization (1920s), confrontation and the Asia-Pacific War (1930s-45), Occupation (1945-52), the Cold War (1950s-80s) and its aftermath, and, finally, accelerated globalization (present).

The rise of China is changing the Japan-U.S. relationship in myriad ways. To anticipate and collaborate in shaping the future relations, one cannot overlook its deeply rooted foundation within the Japanese society. The American shadow over the popular Japanese manga *One Piece* is only one example.

Bio: Kaoru Iokibe, Professor, Graduate Schools for Law and Politics, University of Tokyo, received a PhD in Law from the University of Tokyo. His research comprises the political and diplomatic history of modern Japan. In 2003 he published his first book about the formation of the opposition party in Japan. His second book, published in 2010, is about Meiji Japan's restoration of sovereignty through the revision of "unequal treaties" (now under translation into English). Recently, his interest stretches to several other fields including the history of political lies and the challenges to them in the form of rhetoric and literature, although his affection for *anime* and *manga* sometimes serves as a distraction.



This lecture event is supported in part by a U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant to The Ohio State University East Asian Studies Center.

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