

In This Issue

In her presidential address, BARBARA STOLER MILLER examines the connections between religion and national politics in present-day South Asia in terms of her own work as a scholar of Indian classical literature. She believes it is necessary to investigate the underlying cultural patterns and conceptual systems of the past, lest we be trapped into believing that South Asia and India itself may be only a construct of British imperialism. In the process, however, she cautions that scholars, when employing elaborate theoretical vocabularies, often mask the seriousness of their work. Much of present-day scholarship is searching for links between the control of knowledge and the exercise of power. She urges us not to forget that as we represent the past.

MARIKO ASANO TAMANOI investigates the exercise of state power toward a marginal category of young women in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Japan. She sees these nursemaids (*komori*) as being defined as undesirables by the increasingly powerful and dominant Japanese national state, which sought to endorse a more conventional and acceptable model of women as housewives and mothers. The state, then, attempted to reform these *komori*. The nursemaids themselves, she argues, resisted by creating songs that challenged the mores and the ideals fostered by the Japanese state and, in the process, defined their own identity and worth.

RICHARD F. DONER, in reference to Southeast Asia, asserts the need to broaden the discussion of economic growth to include political economy, which he defines as “the ways politics influences aspects of economic policymaking,” and, in turn, how economic activity influences the political process. He points out that dependency theory has the value of showing how external events and forces can affect the economy of small states participating in a regional or world economy, while institutional theory can explain the role of the state in creating limits to the functioning of market forces. He adds a plea, based on his own research in Thailand, for scholars using the institutional approach not to exclude the important activities of nongovernmental bodies such as trade associations or merchant groups from their analysis.

In our fourth article, we also present insights from the political-economy approach to economic development. STEPHAN HAGGARD, BYUNG-KOOK KIM, and CHUNG-IN MOON analyze Korea's economic transition over a twelve-year period following the Korean War (1950–1953). They follow the standard wisdom that Korea moved from the industrialization strategy based on import-substitution to one based on export-oriented growth. However, they emphasize the politics of economy policy decisions and policy reform efforts. They conclude that in the South Korean case the decisions that produced export-led growth were a product of four factors: pressure from the United States, executive dominance, reform within the bureaucracy, and restructuring of the relations between the state and business. They believe that their findings provide the means for analyzing the politics of economic development in other parts of Asia as well.