

Editor's Note

The Editorial Board of the *Journal of Asian Studies* met on the occasion of the annual meeting to discuss various issues, including guidelines for letters to the editor written in response to book reviews that have appeared in the *Journal*. The following points were developed at that meeting.

1. Responses to book reviews should be limited to two hundred words.
2. Responses, when at all possible, should be received by the editor within four weeks from the publication date of the number of the *Journal* in which the book review appeared.
3. Responses should reply to issues raised by the reviewers and engage legitimate intellectual issues of general significance to the field. Personal or political remarks, rebuttals of minor arguments, and commentary unrelated to central scholarly issues are all inappropriate.
4. The authors of book reviews that elicit responses judged suitable for publication will be invited to submit counter-responses that also conform to points 1 and 3, above. Responses and counter-responses will normally appear together in the number of the *Journal* immediately succeeding the number in which the book review in question appeared.
5. Responses and counter-responses will be published at the discretion of the editor.

I want to thank my colleagues on the Editorial Board, and especially Mary Elizabeth Berry, for their help in drawing up these guidelines. I hope they will be useful both to those who write responses and to those who edit them.