American Political & Cultural Perspectives on Japan: From Perry to Obama

Mr. John H. Miller,
Former Foreign Service Officer

Wednesday, October 22, 2014
4:00 – 5:00 P.M.

Japan-America Society of Washington DC
1819 L Street, NW, B2
Washington, DC 20036

American Political and Cultural Perspectives on Japan: From Perry to Obama (Lexington, 2014) is an historical survey of how Americans have viewed Japan and the Japanese during the past 160 years. It encompasses diplomatic, political, economic, social, and cultural interactions, with an emphasis on American images and stereotypes. It begins with the American opening of Tokugawa Japan in the 1850s. Subsequent chapters explore American attitudes during the Gilded Age, and early 1900s, and the Pacific War. The second part of the book, organized around the theme of the postwar Japanese-American partnership, covers the Occupation, the Cold War, the troubled 1980s, and the post-Cold War decades down to the present. The conclusion offers some predictions about how Americans may view Japan in the future.

John H. Miller is a former Foreign Service Officer who served in Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Canada, and Washington. Following his retirement from the Foreign Service, he taught at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu, and was Asia Chair at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center in Arlington, Va. He holds a doctorate in Japanese history from Princeton University and is the author of Modern East Asia: An Introductory History (M.E. Sharpe, 2007).


The program is free but seating is limited.

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