

Recent Books from Hong Kong – March 2017

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Architecture

Ultra-Modernism: Architecture and Modernity in Manchuria / Edward Denison and Guangyu Ren

Hong Kong : Hong Kong University Press, 2016

160p.; 41 b&w illus. 23cm.

9789888390502

\$ 45.00 / HB

374gm.

The first half of the twentieth century was fraught with global tensions and political machinations. However, for all the destruction in that period, these geopolitical conditions in Manchuria cultivated an extraordinary variety of architecture and urban planning, which has completely escaped international attention until now. With over forty carefully chosen images, Ultra-Modernism: Architecture and Modernity in Manchuria is the first book in English that illustrates Manchuria's encounter with modernity through its built environment. Edward Denison and Guangyu Ren take readers through Russia's early territorial claims, Japan's construction of the South Manchuria Railway (SMR), and the establishment of Manchukuo in 1932. The book examines in detail the creation of modern cities along the SMR and focuses on three of the most important modern urban centres in Manchuria: the Russian-dominated city of Harbin, the port of Dalian, and the new capital of Manchukuo, Hsinking (Changchun).

Like so much of the world outside 'the West' during the twentieth century, Manchuria's encounter with modernity is merely a faint whisper drowned out by the deafening master narrative of Western-centric modernism. This book attempts to redress an imbalance in the modern history of China by studying the impact of Japan on architecture and planning beyond the depredations of the Sino-Japanese War.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=237953>

Cinema Studies

Martial Arts Cinema and Hong Kong Modernity: Aesthetics,
Representation, Circulation / Man-Fung Yip
Hong Kong : Hong Kong University Press, 2017
240p.; 24 b&w illus.
9789888390717
\$ 65.00 /HB
488gm.

At the core of *Martial Arts Cinema and Hong Kong Modernity: Aesthetics, Representation, Circulation* is a fascinating paradox: the martial arts film, long regarded as a vehicle of Chinese cultural nationalism, can also be understood as a mass cultural expression of Hong Kong's modern urban-industrial society. This important and popular genre, Man-Fung Yip argues, articulates the experiential qualities, the competing social subjectivities and gender discourses, as well as the heightened circulation of capital, people, goods, information, and technologies in Hong Kong of the 1960s and 1970s. In addition to providing a novel conceptual framework for the study of Hong Kong martial arts cinema and shedding light on the nexus between social change and cultural/aesthetic form, this book offers perceptive analyses of individual films, including not only the canonical works of King Hu, Chang Cheh, and Bruce Lee, but also many lesser-known ones by Lau Kar-leung and Chor Yuen, among others, that have not been adequately discussed before. Thoroughly researched and lucidly written, Yip's stimulating study will ignite debates in new directions for both scholars and fans of Chinese-language martial arts cinema

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=239661>

Communication/Journalism

Social Issues of Advertising / Kara Chan
Kowloon: City University of Hong Kong Press, 2017
xxii, 218p.
9789629372835
\$ 49.50 / PB
484gm.

Advertising is something which we are exposed to from a young age and which can affect us in many different ways. Centered around the question “Does advertising improve society?” this volume explores the impact and issues of advertising and questions its social responsibility, with a focus on Hong Kong society. The collection of essays offers a broad view of the interaction between society and advertising, from an introduction to semiotic studies, exploring the use of gender stereotypes to the employment of brand placement as a new form of product promotion.

Written by professors of advertising with experience from both within the industry and from international research, this is a senior level textbook designed to augment any studies in advertising, marketing, public relations or media studies.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=239662>

Economics/Development Studies

China's Energy Policy from National and International Perspective : The Energy Revolution and One Belt One Road Initiative / Qinhua Xu & William Chung
Kowloon: City University of Hong Kong Press, 2016
xxxii, 252p.
9789629372576
\$ 55.00 / PB
434gm.

Building upon the first volume, which examined China's energy plans, this book will examine the strategies China has taken to meet its burgeoning energy demands, continue its fast-paced economic growth and also address the mounting concerns about environmental welfare and the true cost of China's development. With new chapters addressing international agreements, the so-called “China energy threat” and the Belt and Road Initiative, this volume will continue to discuss and interpret both domestic policies and China's international role.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=239664>

History

Kung Fu and Science / Fen Sun, Patrick TK Leung & Roy Vellaisamy
Kowloon: City University of Hong Kong Press, 2016

160p.

9789629372521

\$ 39.50 / PB

344gm.

Kung Fu has evolved from a traditional means of defence to become a system of attacking and defending oneself, with or without weapons, exercising the body and maintaining good physical and mental health. As such, these practices have found an international following. Yet what has remained a largely unexplored area is the scientific principles behind these martial arts.

This book not only covers the brief history of Chinese martial arts, but also brings together the wisdom of a Kung Fu grand master with a scientist and teacher to explain the scientific reasons why Kung Fu is the powerful practice that it is. Using the principles of physics, biomechanics and biology, with a number of drawings showing some basic postures of Kung Fu, the authors present a deep understanding of how the styles, the specific movements and methods of attack and defence operate.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=239666>

Merchants of War and Peace: British Knowledge of China in the Making of
the Opium War / Song-Chuan Chen
Hong Kong : Hong Kong University Press, 2017
240p.; 23cm.
9789888390564
\$ 50.00 / HB
488gm.

Merchants of War and Peace challenges conventional arguments that the major driving forces of the First Opium War were the infamous opium smuggling trade, the defence of British national honour, and cultural conflicts between 'progressive' Britain and 'backward' China. Instead, it argues that the war was started by a group of British merchants in the Chinese port of Canton in the 1830s, known as the 'Warlike party'. Living in a period when British knowledge of China was growing rapidly, the Warlike party came to understand China's weakness and its members returned to London to lobby for intervention until war broke out in 1839.

However, the Warlike party did not get its way entirely. Another group of British merchants known in Canton as the 'Pacific party' opposed the war. In Britain, the anti-war movement gave the conflict its infamous name, the 'Opium War', which has stuck ever since. Using materials housed in the National Archives, UK, the First Historical Archives of China, the National Palace Museum, the British Library, SOAS Library, and Cambridge University Library, this meticulously researched and lucid volume is a new history of the cause of the First Opium War.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=237963>

Reading Colonies : Property and Control of the British Far East / R.B.E.

Price

Kowloon: City University of Hong Kong Press, 2016

xxxiv, 214p.

Includes Index

9789629372972

\$ 45.00/ PB

426gm.

Reading Colonies: Property and Control of the British Far East investigates how the British held on for so long. Rent control legislation, and other measures of property law such as land improvement opportunities, are nominated as key tools used to frustrate decolonization in most Eastern colonies. British colonial administrations tried long and hard to inhibit the dialectical discord between their colonial hierarchism and local forms of nationalism with the prompts and plaudits of property policy. In cases where indigenous landlordism masqueraded as patriotism, independence came quickly (Ceylon and Burma). Where public housing established itself as a key post-war plank of social policy, freedom from British rule was a more gradual affair (British Malaya and Hong Kong).

This study concludes that British colonial regimes did not offer a share of their industrial modernity to stay at the apex of political power, but readily adjusted old-style landlordism to keep nationalist usurpers at bay.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=239580>

Eight Months Behind the Bamboo Curtain : A Report on the First Eight Months of Communist Rule in China / Chang Kuo-sin
Kowloon: City University of Hong Kong Press, 2016
xxxviii, 170p.
9789629372880
\$ 25.00 / PB
272gm.

This was the motto of Chang Kuo-sin, and the ideal which he inspired generations of students of communication to follow. He proved his own dedication to this when, in 1949, he found himself in Nanking, the former nationalist capital, under the rule of the newly victorious communists. For eight months he lived and attempted to work in the midst of these historical changes. He managed to smuggle his detailed notes out to share with the world at a time when almost no reports of the new regime were being published. To mark the centenary of his birth, Hong Kong Baptist University's School of Communication has republished this important work by one of its most distinguished professors.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=239668>

Law

Personal Data (Privacy) Law in Hong Kong : A Practical Guide on Compliance / (Eds) Stephen Kai-yi Wong & Guobin Zhu
Kowloon: City University of Hong Kong Press, 2016
556p. ; 26cm.
9789629372828
\$ 150.00/ HB
1180gm.

This publication, which replaces its predecessor, has the dual aim of becoming a practitioner's guide on the important subject of personal data privacy, containing, as it does, a detailed exposition of the principles and provisions in the Ordinance and a comprehensive source of reference materials, and of enabling the Privacy Commissioner to discharge his major duty to promote awareness and understanding of the Ordinance.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=239669>