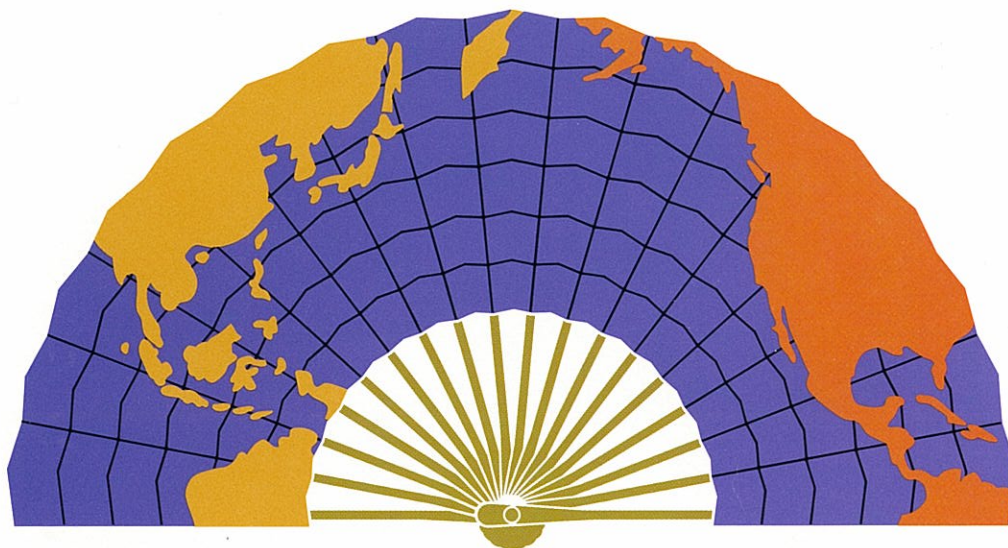


A TELEVISION COURSE AND PBS SERIES



# THE PACIFIC CENTURY

*An Introduction to Modern Asia*

The Pacific Basin Institute



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## COURSE UNITS

*The Pacific Century* explores the emergence of modern Asia, the United States and the Pacific Basin in a one-semester, 13-unit course, including 10 one-hour video programs, a textbook, telecourse faculty manual and student study guide.

### **Dynasty and Empire:**

#### **Asia to the Nineteenth Century**

*(print-only unit)* portrays the historical movements within Asia as the cultural and political foundation for the era of accelerated change beginning in the 19th century.

#### **Asia & the Challenge of the West**

treats the collision of East and West in the early 19th century. Aggressive Western traders and colonizers, supported by powerful gunboats and new technology, sought to "open" Asia, challenging the viability of ancient Asian-Pacific regimes.

#### **Meiji: Asia's Response to the West**

explores Chinese, Japanese and Korean reactions to 19th century colonialism—reactions that continue to the present day. By far the most important of these was the 1868 Japanese Meiji Restoration. Japan became the first industrially and technically underdeveloped nation to modernize itself and become a

great power. In contrast, China, beset by internal division, external challenges and corrupt rulers, was unable to change quickly and thus declined in power and influence.

### **Writers & Revolutionaries:**

#### **The Rise of Asian Nationalism**

addresses the period from 1919 to 1930 as Asian nationalists searched for solutions to problems arising from colonialism, modernization and corrupt regimes. The important themes of the age are embodied in the lives of four men: Chinese writer Lu Xun; Indonesian leader Sukarno; Vietnamese revolutionary Ho Chi Minh; and Japanese philosopher Kita Ikki.

### **From the Barrel of a Gun:**

#### **The Remaking of Asia**

continues the history of nationalism in China, Indonesia, Vietnam and Japan from 1930 to the new post-World II political order. During this time, nationalist ideals were fundamentally changed by the harsh realities of twentieth century nation-building: from

*Japanese print, c. 1880's.  
The Meiji era  
brought rapid change  
to Japanese society.*



dealing with foreign colonial powers to bitter internal struggles between rival political factions.

### **Reinventing Japan:**

#### **The American Occupation**

examines the utter transformation of the Pacific Basin region in the wake of World War II through the expanding—and often explosive—American and Japanese relationship, and the ambiguous roles of conqueror and conquered.

#### **The Birth of Japan, Inc.**

considers the political, historical, and cultural underpinnings of Japan's post-war economic miracle both in the wealth it brought to the Pacific Basin, and in its creation of a new Asian model of capitalism.

#### **Big Business and the Ghost of Confucius**

addresses how Asia's newly industrialized countries—Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore—are moving quickly to the forefront of the world economy. Their rapid economic development raises fundamental questions about how Asian-Pacific societies have entered the modern world, the role of the state in economic growth, and the

way rulers and ruled alike have invoked traditional values in their efforts to "catch up."

### **The Fight for Democracy**

considers the rising level of expectations among Asian peoples for greater political freedom and self-determination. In the Republic of Korea, rapid economic growth has fostered democratic aspirations; the gap between economic development and political freedoms has fostered popular challenges to autocratic power.

### **China:**

#### **Progress and the Burden of History**

*(print only unit)* explores the contemporary reflection of an age-old Chinese problem—how to modernize and unify a large, diverse country without resorting to brutal political repression. This segment examines the economics of Mao's peasant revolution 40 years ago and today, contrasting northern and southern China and conditions inland versus the coastal areas.

### **Sentimental Imperialists:**

#### **America in Asia**

Using the case studies of American involvement with China and the Philippines, this program examines American attitudes toward

Asia from 1776 to the present: the merchants, missionaries, and Marines who—however well-intentioned—often saw in Asia and Asians what they wanted to see, rather than the realities of those cultures and peoples.

### **The Siberian Salient:**

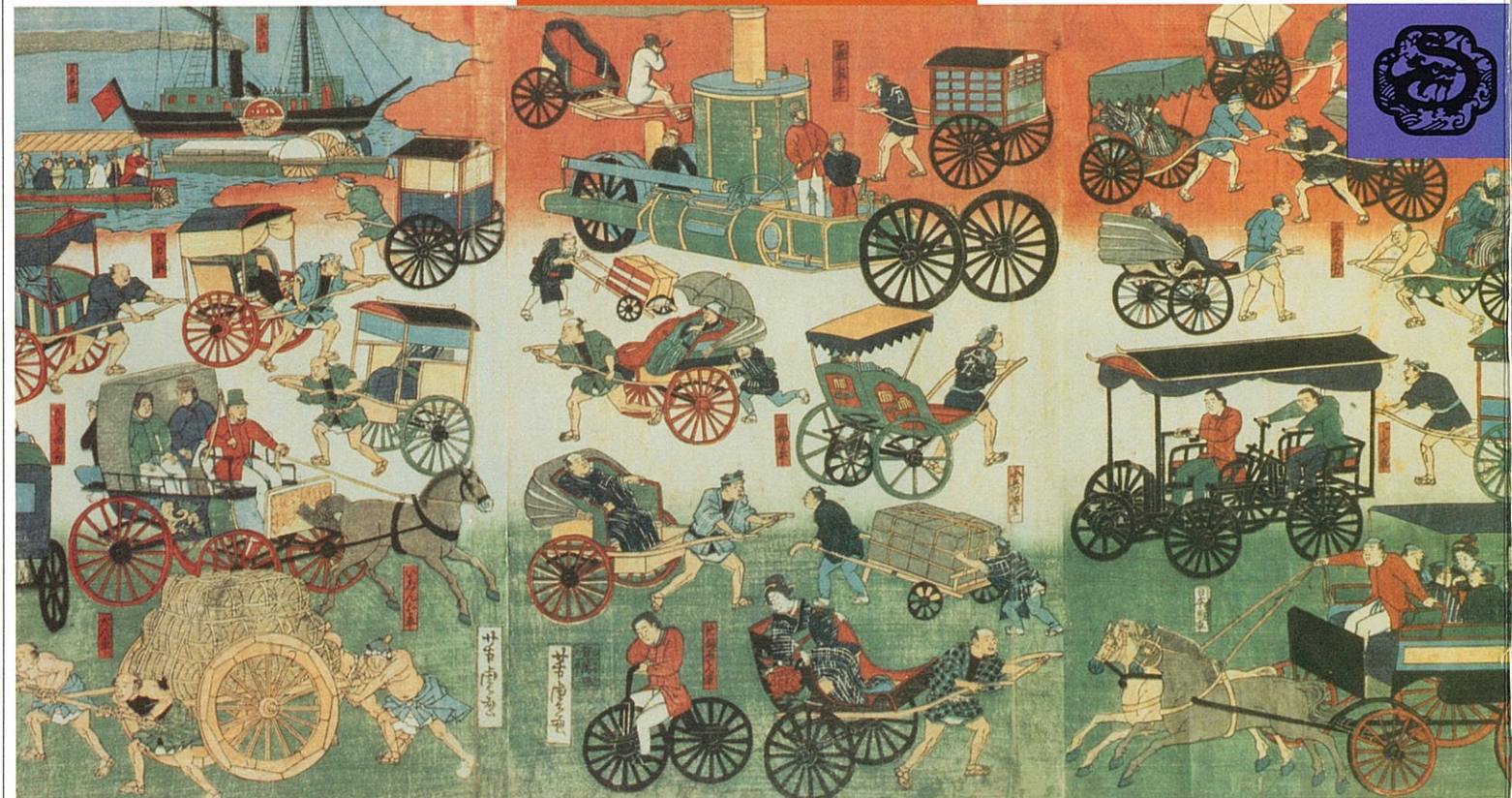
#### **Russia in Asia**

*(print-only unit)* describes Russia's continuing fascination with Asia, and the history of differences between the Soviet Far East and Moscow.

### **The Pacific Century:**

#### **The Future of the Pacific Basin**

looks at the difficult social problems—pollution, population growth, trade friction, immigration—that are shared by the entire region. In the context of the growing economic and ecological interdependence of the Asian-Pacific nations, this segment examines emerging international conflicts as well as possible solutions.



*American infantrymen in the Philippines, c. 1900, where two-thirds of the US Army was engaged in operations.*

*"Mrs. A.F. Mills teaching deaf and dumb boy [sic] in her private school. Che-foo, China," 1902.*



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