

The Soviet offensive in Manchuria had other long-lasting effects on the geopolitics of East Asia. One of its legacies is the ongoing dispute between Russia and Japan over the Kurile Islands. The division of Korea is another. This marks a critical reason for Stephenson's book to be read by scholars of the Second World War.

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The Soviet Myth of World War II: Patriotic Memory and the Russian Question in the USSR. By Jonathan Brunstedt. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021. ISBN 978-1-1084-9875-3. Maps. Figures. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xiii, 306. \$39.99 (hardback).

How Russian or Soviet was the war myth of the Great Patriotic War? In his book, John Brunstedt examines the question of the patriotic memory of the Second World War in the USSR. He offers an in-depth analysis of the tension between Soviet identity and patriotism through the reception and transmission of the war myth in this enormous multi-ethnic country from the late 1940s to the 1980s. Brunstedt navigates through the history of this victory myth through the turbulent years of the USSR. He follows the question of the contribution of the Russians to the war and its representation in wider society.

After a solid literature review of Soviet and Western scholars working on the war myth, Brunstedt moves to five chronological chapters. He begins with Stalin's Russo-centric May 1945 toast to the Russian people and their victory over the Nazis, before tracing subsequent efforts of national advancement, conceptualizations of Russian identity, and their subsequent rejection by other members of the USSR over the following decades. Ultimately, the Russo-centric mythologization of the war was unsatisfactory for the other peoples of the USSR.

In the following chapters, Brunstedt discusses how the war myth became an area of tension between the multi-ethnic and national countries. Brunstedt offers a cogent analysis of official party reports, political press releases, and works of art, in order to discuss how the clash of different interpretations of patriotic identity were received in the USSR as a whole.

The collective memory and the myth of the Great Patriotic war was a site of competition between the different ethnic groups and Russians—the most influential and most assertive ethnic group. Central to his analysis are questions of how intellectuals conceptualized the war, how the state and party authorities dealt with it, and who deserved the glory of winning it. Brunstedt sketches how discussions and clashes resulted in a reformation of the myth-making into a pan-Soviet experience to build cohesion in the USSR. After Stalin's Russo-centric toast to war victory, and, finally, under Brezhnev, Russo-centric hegemony was reconciled with multi-ethnic union, the Russian nation with the Soviet state.

The compromise in fashioning this war myth and its transmission meant that it was transformed into a pan-Soviet myth, which internationalized the experi-

ences of all citizens, to shape a unifying narrative of the Second World War. The Victory Day parade, the dedications of monuments and parks, became part of Soviet celebrations to commemorate the victory and, from the 1960s on, a cultic part of the Pan-Soviet identity (p. 181).

As Soviet war commemoration traditions became routine (p. 188), the Russo-centric view also diminished. Brunstedt traces press coverage, Communist Party reports and correspondence to determine the origins and form of the myth, while also citing intellectuals and literary works about the meaning of the war's memory. Officials' discussions, including press coverage and memorial design, shaped the myth's memory. He analyzes the myth in a socialist society, which was committed to the Marxist ideals of internationalism, and in the young USSR, which had reconciled itself with concepts of patriotism, homeland, Russian ethnocentrism, and the glorification of war.

He carefully draws out how Russian primacy and a Russian-dominated ethnic hierarchy were also displayed in the war myth. This caused conflicts, but it simultaneously enabled an alternative, namely a supra-ethnic source of belonging that would eventually subsume Russian and non-Russian loyalties alike. The underlying tension and competition between Russo-centric and internationalist conceptions of the victory became manifest during the late 1980s, however.

In the end, the Soviet memory encapsulated contrasting ideas and versions of the war, which were centered on the role of the nation in the war and its relationship with the current Soviet state. The book is well researched and includes many aspects of the presentation and perception of the myth in the USSR, from the early post-war period until the late 1980s. The pan-Soviet celebrations and traditions that were established in the USSR today reflect Russia's national pride, offering the chance for decidedly patriotic celebrations. The Soviet state used the memory of the war to create a patriotic state, which, according to Brunstedt, the USSR was able to perpetuate until the late 1980s and its own demise.

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Defenders of Japan: The Post-Imperial Armed Forces 1946–2016. By Garren Mulloy. London: Hurst, 2021. ISBN 978-1-8490-4893-4. Notes. Index. Pp. xxvi, 416. £30.00 (hardback).

Garren Mulloy is an expert in the fields of international relations and modern history. He obtained his Ph.D. in international relations from the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and has been researching Japanese history, politics, and national defense affairs for more than twenty years. Previously a lecturer and visiting scholar in Keio University (Japan) and Cambridge University, respectively, he is now a professor in the Faculty of International Relations at Daito Bunka University in Japan. His academic experiences demonstrate an excellent capabil-

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