

administration of the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands, and reduce its military deployments not only in Asia but elsewhere as well. China would renounce the use of force against Taiwan, pressure both North Korea and Iran to denuclearize, and limit the development of antiship ballistic missiles and submarine forces that threaten U.S. forces in the Pacific. The vision of a more peaceful world is attractive. But it is hard to imagine how such a strategy could be sustained over several administrations in either country or obtain the support of either country's allies.

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*Examining Japan's Lost Decades*

EDITED BY YOICHI FUNABASHI AND BARAK KUSHNER. Routledge, 2015, 372 pp.

Contrary to the conventional wisdom, Japan has undertaken bold structural reforms and significant policy shifts since the early 1990s, generating a more robust two-party system and a strengthened U.S.-Japanese alliance. Yet serious problems remain, among them slow economic growth, policymaking institutions that are hobbled by consensus-based procedures, and a failure to respond effectively to frictions with China and South Korea. The root of the trouble may be what one author in this excellent collection calls "demographic collapse," with the over-65 proportion of the population surging from ten percent to 25 percent in two decades; the government has still not adopted the reforms to social and immigration policies that will be necessary to confront that issue. Other hindrances have included a halting, insufficient economic stimulus;

resistance to trade liberalization; and lagging reform of corporate management. Most of the contributors to this volume are distinguished Japanese academics. Their overlapping diagnoses and prescriptions are persuasive. But they make it hard to know which people, groups, or institutions are most to blame for Japan's problems—and whether those problems can ever be solved.

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*Pakistan's Enduring Challenges*

EDITED BY C. CHRISTINE FAIR AND SARAH J. WATSON. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015, 320 pp.

The Pakistani security establishment has always relied on proxy jihadist groups to counter threats from neighboring Afghanistan and India and to destabilize Indian-ruled Kashmir. But according to the expertly researched essays in this book, jihadist attacks have boomeranged on the Pakistani state. The U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, however incomplete, has diminished the incentives for Washington to help Islamabad fight domestic jihadist groups. China and Saudi Arabia are unlikely to commit many resources to help protect Pakistan from its self-inflicted problems, which also include dysfunctional electricity and tax systems and the unreliable security of its growing nuclear arsenal. The contributors to this volume see glimmers of hope in the modest strengthening of civilian authorities over the military and the fragile growth of civil society. But there is no sign that the Pakistani "deep state" sees any alternative to its counterproductive security strategy.

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