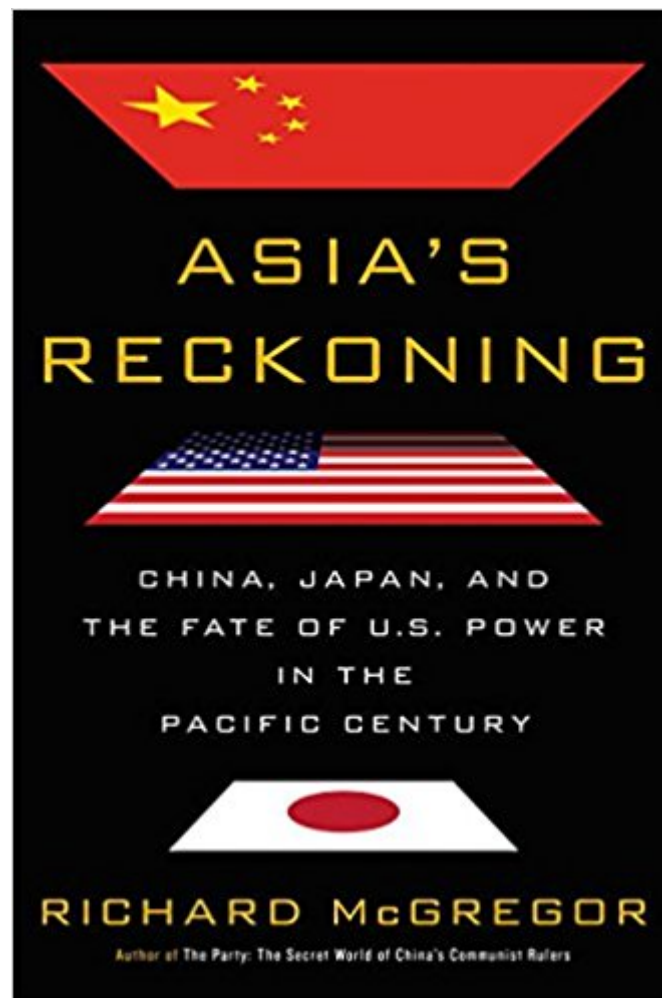


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# Asia's Reckoning: China, Japan, And The Fate Of U.S. Power In The Pacific Century



## Synopsis

“Often critical of Washington,” McGregor offers detailed, vivid descriptions of American Asian diplomacy. *Publishers Weekly* A history of the combative military, diplomatic, and economic relations among China, Japan, and the United States since the 1970s and the potential crisis that awaits them Richard McGregor’s *Asia’s Reckoning* is a compelling account of the widening geopolitical cracks in a region that has flourished under an American security umbrella for more than half a century. The toxic rivalry between China and Japan, two Asian giants consumed with endless history wars and ruled by entrenched political dynasties, is threatening to upend the peace underwritten by Pax Americana since World War II. Combined with Donald Trump’s disdain for America’s old alliances and China’s own regional ambitions, east Asia is entering a new era of instability and conflict. If the United States laid the postwar foundations for modern Asia, now the anchor of the global economy, *Asia’s Reckoning* reveals how that structure is falling apart. With unrivaled access to archives in the United States and Asia, as well as to many of the major players in all three countries, Richard McGregor has written a tale that blends the tectonic shifts in diplomacy with bitter domestic politics and the personalities driving them. It is a story not only of an overstretched America, but also of the rise and fall and rise of the great powers of Asia. The about-turn of Japan from a colossus seemingly poised for world domination to a nation in inexorable decline in the space of two decades has few parallels in modern history, as does the rapid rise of China—a country whose military is now larger than those of Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and southeast Asia’s combined. The confrontational course on which China and Japan are set is no simple spat between neighbors: the United States would be involved on the side of Japan in any military conflict between the two countries. The fallout would be an economic tsunami, affecting manufacturing centers, trade routes, and political capitals on every continent. Richard McGregor’s book takes us behind the headlines of his years reporting as the *Financial Times*’s Beijing and Washington bureau chief to show how American power will stand or fall on its ability to hold its ground in Asia.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“McGregor anatomizes the dynamic, often strained trilateral relationship between China, Japan, and the U.S. since WWII. His informed volume comes at a time when, in his opinion, East Asia sits at the heart of the global economy and China’s aggressive foreign policy is upsetting the region’s stability. . . . Often critical of Washington’s combination of idealism and arrogance, McGregor offers detailed, vivid descriptions of America’s Asian diplomacy. . . . Reviewing East Asia’s toxic rivalries with balance and insight, McGregor’s survey concludes ominously with President Trump’s lack of familiarity with regional issues and disdain for old alliances, portending further tensions in East Asia’s future.” —Publishers Weekly

[A] wide-ranging study of China’s re-emergence as a regional power in Asia after a long hiatus, thwarting the designs of other powers, including the United States and Russia. . . . The U.S. [finds itself] firmly ensnared in the so-called Thucydides trap, the principle that it is dangerous to build an empire but even more dangerous to let it go. So it is, and the current leadership appears to be at a loss about what to do or to formulate other aspects of any coherent policy in and toward Asia. . . . Geopolitics wonks will want to give attention to this urgent but nonsensationalized argument.” —Kirkus Reviews

“The United States, China, and Japan form the power triangle that will shape much of the international politics in the 21st century. Richard McGregor’s masterful *The Party* illuminated one corner of that triangle—China. In this important book he describes how the other two corners have interacted with China since World War II. Lucid, insightful and ominous, as the author describes big trouble ahead.” —Eliot Cohen, author of *Supreme Command*

“Richard McGregor’s new book is essential reading for anyone worried about the most fraught relationship in Asia—between China and Japan. With extensive experience in and knowledge

of both China, Japan, and the United States, McGregor is in a unique position to unpack the relationship and sort through the extensive propaganda and myth-making on all sides. A great read!

• John Pomfret, author of *The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom* “McGregor distills years of meetings with high officials in China and Japan to give a vivid nuanced picture of their relations in the 21st century.”

• Ezra Vogel, author of *Deng Xiaoping and the Transformation of China* “An in-depth depiction of radical changes and challenges in Japan-China relations in the post-war period, thoroughly researched and rich in storytelling. In the course of tumultuous relations with China, Japan has had to trail blaze in the face of the rise of China. Japan’s naked exposure to the unfolding Realpolitik with China at its core is for the first time comprehensively reviewed.”

• Yoichi Funabashi, former Editor-in-Chief, *Asahi Shimbun* Praise for *The Party: The Secret World of China’s Communist Rulers* “A lively and penetrating account of a party that has clung to secrecy as an inviolable principle.”

• The Washington Post “Fascinating. . . . Illuminating. . . . McGregor guides readers through recent events in China, teasing out what each tells us about the Party’s role. . . . Reading this primer will help foreigners better navigate the hidden political shoals of the Chinese business world.”

• The Wall Street Journal “A masterful depiction of the party today. . . . McGregor illuminates the most important of the contradictions and paradoxes. . . . An entertaining and insightful portrait of China’s secretive rulers.”

• The Economist “Few outsiders have any realistic sense of the innards, motives, rivalries, and fears of the Chinese Communist leadership. But we all know much more than before, thanks to Richard McGregor’s illuminating and richly-textured look at the people in charge of China’s political machinery. . . . Invaluable.”

• James Fallows, national correspondent for *The Atlantic* “Masterful. . . . McGregor’s book is proof that for all of its secretive tendencies, the Party and its power can be usefully analyzed. . . . An accessible introduction to the Party’s power in today’s China.”

• Ian Johnson, *The New York Review of Books*

Richard McGregor is a journalist and an author with extensive experience in reporting from east Asia and Washington. A 2015 fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., his work has appeared in the *International Herald Tribune* and *Foreign Policy* and he has appeared on the Charlie Rose show, the BBC, and NPR. His previous book, *The Party*, won numerous awards, including the 2011 Asia Society book of the year and the Asian book of the

year prize from Japan's Mainichi Shimbun.

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