

*Divisions of Labor: Globality, Ideology, and War in the Shaping of the Japanese Labor Movement.* By LONNY E. CARLILE. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2005. x, 292 pp. \$55.00 (cloth).

As Lonny Carlile himself explains, this is not a history of the working class or a history of labor-management relations in Japan. Treading paths blazed by Takemae Eiji, John Price, Andrew Gordon, Ikuo Kume, and Hugh Williamson, Carlile's *Divisions of Labor: Globality, Ideology, and War in the Shaping of the Japanese Labor Movement* is the first study to apply an interregional comparative approach to the history of the high politics of Japan's postwar labor movement.

Recent scholarship on postwar Japan emphasizes the continuities between the pre- and postwar period. Carlile has done one better by centering his comparative framework on labor politics in western Europe and using European interwar, wartime, and postwar histories to illuminate the geopolitical context within which Japan's labor movement emerged. Carlile argues that not only were the labor politics of the postwar period an extension of trends apparent during the 1920s and 1930s but also that the high politics of Japan's interwar and postwar labor movements were akin to those that emerged in France, Italy, and Germany. Many labor scholars have asserted that the political structure of the Japanese labor movement was comparable to that of western Europe, but this is the first publication in English to offer the depth of comparative historical analysis necessary to support the claim.

Although Carlile falls into an established pattern by choosing a framework that excludes comparison to labor movements that struggled to emerge in the postcolonial industrializing world, by placing the history of the Japanese labor movement in a western European context, he successfully illustrates the structural, ideological, and political commonalities that existed between the labor movements in much of the post-1945 capitalist industrialized world. Significantly, Carlile's study of the Japanese context in relation to western European contemporaries also delivers a comparative framework that nonspecialists should also find helpful for understanding the global context of the ideological fratricide that characterized much of the history of organized labor in western Europe, Australia, and the United States.

In delving into what is often characterized as a murky period of political factionalism and economic desperation, Carlile has woven a complex synthesis derived from a rich collection of memoirs, policy statements, internal documents, and transcribed interviews selected from the papers of rival federations, political parties, labor activists, cadres, and politicians. Carlile's was no easy task in that he has not merely focused on the history of one labor federation, industry, union, management group, or political party but also provided the reader with a broad representation of sources found only in the papers produced at the highest levels of each organization.

Carlile's "big picture" approach does not engage the history of labor politics that coemerged from the grassroots; nevertheless, he has done well to focus on the politics of the national arena. Indeed, the strength of this work rests in Carlile's well-informed analysis of the political machinations that characterized labor movements from the mid-1940s to the late 1950s.

In particular, Carlile's fourth and fifth chapters (on the period from 1945 to 1947) provide considerable insight into the way in which the differences in the geopolitical context of the immediate postwar reconstruction in Europe and Japan influenced the local political alliances that composed what Carlile calls "resistance-coalition governments" in France and Italy and the conservative bureaucratic governments that re-

emerged in occupied Japan. He argues in part that in the effort to build a new democratic order, organized labor and political parties in both regions formed alliances analogous to each other. However, the lack of a strong resistance movement in wartime Japan combined with American interests to see the simultaneous resurgence of conservative bureaucratic governments, on the one hand, and the formation of a vast field of discrete enterprise unions without strong ties to the reemerging national labor movement, on the other. The lack of a common context of wartime resistance, he argues, allowed the socialists in Japan to exclude from their early political alliances the communists (whom they greatly distrusted) and birthed a discrete trajectory for the postwar Japanese labor movement.

As is inevitable with any comparative history, the full extent of the European context has been truncated in order to provide the depth of analysis expected of what is primarily a study of Japan, and the reader may find himself or herself wanting a secondary source on hand to help fill in the gaps. This is not a criticism of Carlile so much as a complaint about comparative history as a genre, and it is nonetheless evident that Carlile has made an excellent contribution to the literature on Japan's postwar labor movement that offers the depth of comparative analysis lacking in Kume's *Disparaged Success* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1998) and the scholarly rigor not found in Williamson's *Coping with the Miracle* (London and Boulder, Colo.: Pluto Press, 1994). Indeed, this book might perhaps best serve as a companion volume to Gordon's *Wages of Affluence* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1998).

CHRISTOPHER GERTEIS  
Yale University

*Geisha, Harlot, Strangler, Star: A Woman, Sex, and Morality in Modern Japan.*  
By WILLIAM JOHNSTON. New York: Columbia University Press, 2004. viii,  
272 pp. \$29.50 (cloth).

William Johnston has written an important book about a fascinating topic: Abe Sada's 1936 murder and genital mutilation of her lover. Not everyone would consider this subject worthy of serious scholarly attention. But as Johnston writes in the introduction, he joined a small group of scholars in 1992 to study "the history of sex and sexuality in Japan," and this is where he first encountered historical records pertaining to Abe Sada (pp. 3–4). The Abe incident, of course, became infamous in Japan. Newspaper readers at the time were entranced by accounts of the thirty-two-year-old former geisha and prostitute's murder and mutilation of her employer and lover, Kishida Ichizō. Crowds turned out to see where she and Ichizō had their tryst and to the police station where she was held. And why not? The story was magnificently salacious: after indulging in almost-nonstop romantic and sexual activity for more than a week, Abe wrapped her kimono sash around "Kichi's" neck and strangled him while he slept. She then severed his penis and scrotum, wrapped them in paper so she could keep them close to her, and fled from the inn where the couple had sequestered themselves for days.

Having captured the popular imagination since the moment that it occurred, this incident has been the subject of numerous films, novels and short stories, the most notable among them being Ōshima Nagisa's 1976 film, *In the Realm of the Senses*. Johnston was motivated to write a serious scholarly inquiry into this incident because he believes that the social and cultural forces that drove Abe to commit her crime