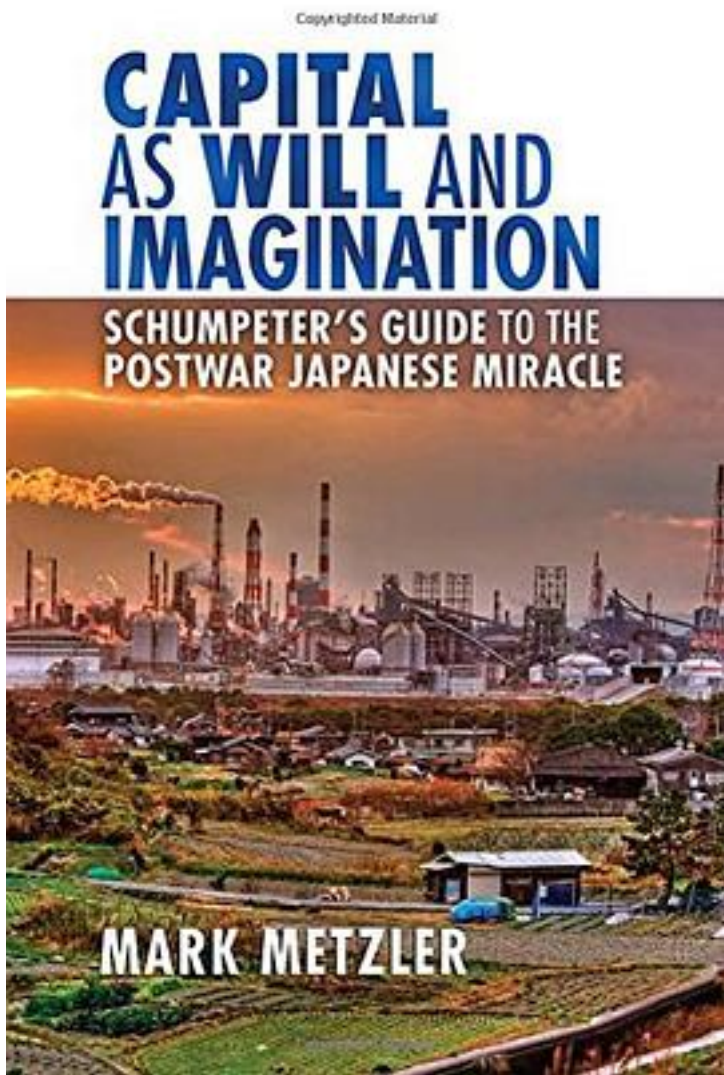


Capital as Will and Imagination



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With this book, Mark Metzler continues his investigation into the economic history of twentieth-century Japan that he began in *Lever of Empire*. In *Capital as Will and Imagination*, he focuses on the successful stabilization of Japanese capitalism after the Second World War. How did a defeated and heavily damaged nation manage reconstruction so rapidly? What economic beliefs resulted in the "miracle" years of high-speed economic growth? Metzler argues that the inflationary creation of credit was key to Japan's postwar success—and its eventual demise due to its instability over the long term.

To prove his case, Metzler explores heterodox ideas about economic life, in particular Joseph Schumpeter's realization that inflation is intrinsic to capitalist development. Schumpeter's ideas, widely ignored within standard American neoclassical economic theory, were shaped by his experience of Austria's reconstruction after 1918. They were highly influential in Japan, and Metzler traces their impact in the period from the Allied Occupation, starting in 1945, through the Income Doubling Plan of 1960. Japan after defeat, Metzler argues, illustrates the critical importance of inflationary credit creation for increased production.

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Mark Metzler is Associate Professor of History at the University of Texas at Austin. He is the author of *Lever of Empire: The International Gold Standard and the Crisis of Liberalism in Prewar Japan*.

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