

Cold War Crucible

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The Korean Conflict and the Postwar World

Masuda Hajimu



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著者:Hajimu Masuda

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The end of World War II did not mean the arrival of peace. The major powers faced social upheaval at home, while anticolonial wars erupted around the world.

American–Soviet relations grew chilly, but the meaning of the rivalry remained disputable. Cold War Crucible reveals the Korean War as the catalyst for a new postwar order. The conflict led people to believe in the Cold War as a dangerous reality, a belief that would define the fears of two generations.

In the international arena, North Korea’s aggression was widely interpreted as the beginning of World War III. At the domestic level, the conflict generated a wartime logic that created dividing lines between “us” and “them,” precipitating waves of social purges to stifle dissent. The United States allowed McCarthyism to take root; Britain launched anti-labor initiatives; Japan conducted its Red Purge; and China cracked down on counterrevolutionaries. These attempts to restore domestic tranquility were not a product of the Cold War, Masuda Hajimu shows, but driving forces in creating a mindset for it. Alarmed by the idea of enemies from within and faced with the notion of a bipolar conflict that could quickly go from chilly to nuclear, ordinary people and policymakers created a fantasy of a Cold War world in which global and domestic order was paramount.

In discovering how policymaking and popular opinion combined to establish and propagate the new postwar reality, Cold War Crucible offers a history that reorients our understanding of what the Cold War really was.

作者介绍:

Masuda Hajimu is Assistant Professor of History at the National University of Singapore.

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标签

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评论

人们怎么知道“冷战”开始了

挺有意思的一部书。核心观点上面的朋友说过啦。一个冷战的观念如果能为这么多人接受？冷战如何成为了我们对过去的历史的共同记忆。这本书提供了一个很好的理解角度。回到历史现场，抛开既定的前提假设，观察朝鲜战争前后的历史现实。不简单围绕某些标志性事件进行讨论，而是关注历史发展本身的连续性，同时关注每一个活在那段时期的每一个人的不同想法和处境。历史不是简单的舞台剧和精英的设计。也许历史书写是“任人打扮”，但事情的发展肯定是更为复杂的。(εó∀ó)

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书评

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