



Colonial Project, National Game: A History of Baseball in Taiwan (Asia Pacific Modern)

By Andrew D. Morris

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In this engrossing cultural history of baseball in Taiwan, Andrew D. Morris traces the game's social, ethnic, political, and cultural significance since its introduction on the island more than one hundred years ago. Introduced by the Japanese colonial government at the turn of the century, baseball was expected to "civilize" and modernize Taiwan's Han Chinese and Austronesian Aborigine populations. After World War II, the game was tolerated as a remnant of Japanese culture and then strategically employed by the ruling Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT). Even as it was also enthroned by Taiwanese politicians, cultural producers, and citizens as their national game. In considering baseball's cultural and historical implications, Morris deftly addresses a number of societal themes crucial to understanding modern Taiwan, the question of Chinese "reunification," and East Asia as a whole.

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Editorial Review

Review

“An excellent read and a must study for anyone wishing to understand baseball in a global setting. . . . Highly recommended.”
(*Choice* 2011-05-09)

“Morris offers an innovative reading of history.”
(*China Review International* 2012-07-25)

“Captivating prose. . . . A much-needed view from the margins.”
(*Pacific Affairs, Ubc* 2012-07-27)

“Beautifully written.”
(*American Historical Review* 2011-12-01)

“Offers indispensable elements of knowledge and analyses to those intending to include baseball in their future studies of Taiwan.”
(*China Perspectives* 2012-09-07)

“Morris’s nuanced account of the history of baseball in Taiwan is an enjoyable read. . . . A major contribution.”
(Sandra Collins *The China Journal* 2012-09-13)

"Engaging and well-written . . . a major contribution."
(Jennifer Liu *Journal of Global History* 2011-07-01)

From the Inside Flap

“Morris successfully weaves the intricacies of baseball’s history into a compelling narrative while giving us a keen analysis of its larger significance. It is rare to find someone who can pull that off. This is an absorbing and distinguished addition to sports history, to Taiwanese history, and to studies of colonialism and its aftermath.”—William Kelly, Yale University

“*Colonial Project, National Game* offers an engaging and penetrating analysis of the culture of baseball in Taiwan, in both its local and global conditions. Morris weaves details into a compelling narrative that is as much about the game on the field as the game being played out in the arenas of ethnicity, nationalism and geopolitics. Morris’s study is a model of sophistication and lucidity. He demonstrates that through a perceptive reading of the mundane world of curve balls and player contracts, we can better understand the ideological substructure of the social.”—Joseph R. Allen, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

About the Author

Andrew D. Morris is Professor of History and Chair of the History Department at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. He is the author of *Marrow of the Nation: A History of Sport and*

Physical Culture in Republican China (UC Press) and coeditor of *The Minor Arts of Daily Life: Popular Culture in Taiwan*.

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