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## Exporting Japan

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**TOAKE ENDOH. *Exporting Japan: Politics of Emigration to Latin America*. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press. 2009. Pp. 267. ISBN: 978-0-252-03402-2.**

Many historians choosing to research Japanese immigration often focus on the destination country and the immigrant community. Although informative, this often reveals only a section of the story. Toake Endoh directed her research to the political context of Japanese immigration to Latin America, primarily in the milieu of the emigration politics. She ostensibly explained motives for the Japanese government's support of emigration both pre- and post-war in addition to the reasons for choosing Latin America. In this well-researched work, Endoh captured the essence of Japanese emigration. She explicated that the main reasons for allowing emigration were the political and economic benefits afforded to the Japanese government.

Endoh began her work by detailing the visit of Japanese prime minister, Koizumi Jun'ichirō, to Brazil in 2004. This provided an opportunity to introduce the importance of the Japanese community in Latin America as well as the connections to their heritage. The introduction provided readers with a brief overview of Japanese immigration, turning the focus specifically to Latin America. To be sure, she offered comparisons to North American and Hawaiian counterparts. Endoh established migratory patterns in the likelihood that many immigrants were from the southern regions of Japan and traveled to lesser developed economic areas. Often times, these economies promised greater benefits than the homeland even if the immigrants experienced hardship upon arrival. In Part I, the waves of immigration defined the chapters. Endoh explained why Peru, Brazil and Mexico pulled the greatest number of immigrants, while also mentioning the migration that occurred once the Japanese arrived.

Endoh used part two to initiate her idea that the Japanese government understood Latin American emigration to be a political and foreign policy tool. Here, she detailed the economic markets expansion and also the broadening of the Japanese

sphere of influence. Endoh made a big leap to state that the Japanese government did not want to colonize in the traditional sense. However, the government expected its citizens to act in a certain manner to honor the state. The Japanese government also purchased small plots of land (usually 1000 hectares) to push emigration. Citizens and businesses worked with the government to establish a working emigration system. Although the government turned emigration companies over to the private sector, they still controlled who emigrated, how many, and the conditions of each immigrant. Later in the book, Endoh explained that many of the miners from southern Japan who had communist or unionist leanings were often pushed to emigrate. The government found ways to manipulate this system to not only have influence in foreign policy but to also maintain a strict control over the homeland. Okinawan immigration was also pushed for similar reasons. By the end of World War II, the state regained complete control over immigration.

Endoh explained that World War II and the occupation of Japan brought a temporary end to emigration. Nevertheless, the government continued to push for new policies, especially for the distrusted Okinawans. Some countries, like Peru, refused to allow any further Japanese immigration. Others placed strict limits on the number of immigrants and relegated them to the poor untended areas of the country. Those who migrated to Brazil often found themselves in the jungle or tropical areas that had not been tamed or farmed. Thus, the policy of immigration continued but suffered because of the war.

The extensive research in this book proved to be vital for the students in the field of Japanese immigration. Endoh divided the book thematically, which, although helpful, might also provide confusion for those unfamiliar with the subject. This structure remains ideal for the researcher or historian because it allows connections to be made as well as providing an in-depth analysis of the differing aspects of emigration politics. The only true weakness of the work was Endoh's slight disregard to other reasons for emigration. Studies show that overcrowding, jobs, and other factors played a role in emigration. Yet, Endoh only highlighted



these in passing. Her work did provide the reader with new ideas and information that were often left out of previous immigration studies. By providing the emigrant view rather than that of immigrants, Endoh allowed readers to glimpse the importance of domestic and global politics in immigration history. Overall, this magnificent work provided a new dynamic to the study of immigration and foreign policy.

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