

# Imaging Japan: Comparing Narratives about Japan in Chinese Junior High School History Textbooks

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Historical narrations are amongst the most important elements in nation-building in modern nation-states. In this presentation, 7 different versions of China's junior high school history textbooks are analysed to see how the image of Japan since the Second World War is constructed. The paper consists of two content analyses: horizontal and vertical. In terms of the range of coverage, the language, the anti-Japanese stories, the data, the lesson exercises, the lesson activities, and the illustrations, the delineation of the war conveys excessively negative messages on Japan; meanwhile, textbooks mostly strive to deliver a more positive impression of post-WWII rapid economic development in Japan, but alarming statements about Japan's political ambition in some textbooks reveal that some versions continue to cast doubts toward Japan. The disparity in the tone indicates regional differences.



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