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Review of *East meets East: Chinese discover the modern world in Japan, 1854-1898*

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Reynolds, Douglas R. **East meets East: Chinese discover the modern world in Japan, 1854-1898: a window on the intellectual and social transformation of modern China**, by Douglas R. Reynolds with Carol T. Reynolds. Association for Asian Studies, 2014. 715p bibl index afp (Asia past & present: new research from AAS, 12) ISBN 9780924304767 pbk, \$38.00

The argument in this book is simple but non-trivial: China encountered the modern world in Japan, especially after the fall of the last samurai regime and the creation of a modern oligarchy. Chinese intellectuals who visited Japan between the US expedition to Japan in 1854 and the onset of reforms following China's loss in the First Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895) wrote about what they saw and, in so doing, introduced a new vocabulary of modernization used by the Chinese state. This is not a surprise for East Asian specialists. At over 400 pages, the book has no shortage of biographical detail about these 17 men, such as their educational backgrounds, rank promotions, career shifts, and observations of Japan. The details are supposed to illustrate, in part, how and why these men were ignored by Chinese officialdom but nonetheless made important contributions to Chinese modernization. Sometimes the details are not well integrated into a larger argument; better editing would have fixed this. The best way to read this book is as an encyclopedic tome, thoroughly researched by a scholar with a long career researching Sino-Japanese relations in the late 19th century. **Summing Up: ★★** Recommended. Graduate students/faculty.—*M. J. Wert, Marquette University*