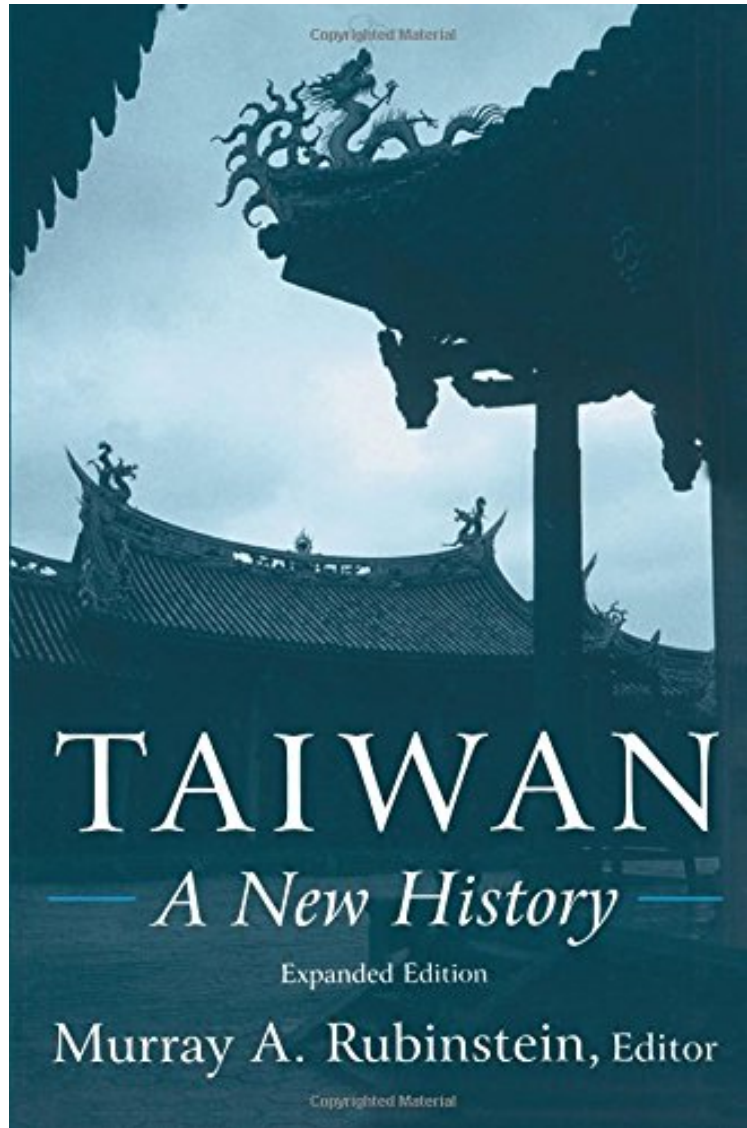


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Taiwan: A New History (East Gate Books)

Murray A. Rubinstein

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Murray A. Rubinstein : Taiwan: A New History (East Gate Books) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Taiwan: A New History (East Gate Books):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good collection of academic worksBy CailenA good collection of academic works. If you are serious about the Taiwanese history, this would be a good read. The last chapter reflects the American's view on Taiwanese politics.11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. An excellent survey of Taiwan's historyBy Michael Le HoullierThis is one of the most complete books on Taiwan and its history available in the English language. The reading is dense in places and is highly academic, but for anyone who has a background in

Taiwan's history and wants to get in depth, this would be the volume for you. Beginning from Taiwan's physical environment, other specialists focus on aboriginal Taiwan, the encroachment of the Minnan people, from the Dutch and Cheng to incorporation by the Ching Dynasty. The late nineteenth century receives some coverage in depth. There is also a frank assessment of the Japanese occupation years. About half of the book is devoted to post-World War II Taiwan. Political, religious, modernization and other topics of modern Taiwan are discussed in depth. Unfortunately, due to the dating of the book, recent democratic developments are not covered (the book stops shortly following President Lee Tung Hui's popular election as President). However, for anyone interested in developing a deeper understanding of Taiwan, other than actually living here, this book is one of the best options available. For the novice on Taiwan, I recommend reading Denny Roy's "Taiwan: A Political History first." It is an excellent read and not as dense as this work. 31 of 35 people found the following review helpful. The Editor/Author's Response

By Murray A Rubinstein, editor

This is a response to Denny Roy's review. Prof. Roy is indeed a rival of sorts having recently written a political history of Taiwan that may soon be published. He and a number of others find my definition of history--or rather my broad conception of history--troubling but I will stand by it. I have called on the resources of the best people I know in the subfield of Taiwan studies and they have produced admirably researched and written chapters. The book is designed as a comprehensive single volume work that provides an introduction to Taiwan and all facets of its history. Thus literature, religion, geography, ethnography, and culture are included in the mix. Some scholars such as Prof Roy and Prof. John Copper among them are more focused on politics but there is more to history than politics in this new and decidedly multi-cultural and post modern world. One person's comprehensiveness is another's chopiness but so be it. I think the book is well integrated and the individual authors have worked through, in good measure, the themes spelled out in the introduction. One other important point The political struggles KMT-dangwai of the 1970s and 1980s, struggles I saw first hand on Taiwan are dealt with within the context of the matrix of events and are part of a large scale political narrative. They are not however the only subject of this long chapter. In other books I have focused on this period and its actors such as Lu Hsiu-lien as well as the Presbyterian Church but this was not the time for such detail. Prof. Roy's own focus on the modern period is well done indeed but then he writes a formal "political" history, while I do not. One final point: What I find annoying is the tone of the review at certain points, particularly the comments on the concluding section. I think they work and they sum up the book and its major themes. I invite others who know the book such as Alan Wachman and other Taiwan hands or China hands as well as journalist and members of the public to add their voices to this discussion of a book that many recognize as an invaluable work for scholar and lay reader alike.

Since its initial publication in 1999, *Taiwan: A New History* has established itself as the book of choice on the history of Taiwan. Conceived as a cohesive and interconnected set of interpretive and narrative essays, it is the most integrated, comprehensive, and accessible history of Taiwan published in any Western language. The contributors are the very best people in their specialties, drawn from North America, Europe, and Asia. This new edition expands the coverage from where the first edition ended in 1995 to 2006. It includes new material on democratization, party politics, and the independence movement. Collectively, the chapters take the reader from the geographical and climatological setting, through the stages of premodern history and contact with China and the West, through the Japanese occupation, to the successful establishment of a modern state.