



The Origins of International Banking in Asia: The Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

By Shizuya Nishimura, Toshio Suzuki, Ranald C. Michie

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Without a means of crediting and debiting accounts worldwide and the non-physical transfer of funds, the rapid global economic integration of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries would have been impossible. It is the globalization of the banking system, much of which, particularly in Asia, had its roots in the nineteenth century, that helped facilitate increased human mobility, the exchange of commodities and manufactures, and the simplified transfer of funds.

This volume examines the origins, growth, and business practices of European banks in Asia, and the development of Asian (notably Japanese and Hong Kong) banks, and their operations on an international stage, and in doing so, provides important new detail and analysis of economic globalization. It draws on the archival documentation of main British, French, and Japanese banks involved and provides analysis from a range of historical viewpoints, including global banking strategy, monetary regimes, financial markets, international trade, labor immigration, and the development of communication tools.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Shizuya Nishimura is Professor Emeritus at Hosei University, Tokyo, Japan. He studied at the Faculty of Economics at the University of Tokyo, and gained his PhD in Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science. He has also been a Visiting Fellow in the Clare Hall College, University of Cambridge. His books include *The Decline of Inland Bills of Exchange in the London Money Market, 1855-1913* and *Pacific Banking 1859-1959: East meets West* (co-edited with Olive Checkland and Norio Tamaki).

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Ranald C. Michie is Professor of History, Durham University, and is recognised as one of the leading financial historians in the world, with a career spanning over 30 years of research and writing on the subject. His particular speciality is the history of securities markets, particularly stock exchanges, on which he has written numerous books and articles. These include work not only on the London Stock Exchange but also New York as well as investigations into the development of securities markets in Canada and Continental Europe. He has also written extensively on the City of London as a financial centre and his work has been translated into German. His books include *The London Stock Exchange: A History*, *The British Government and the City of London in the Twentieth Century* (edited with P. A. Williamson), and *The Global Securities Market: A History*.

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