

tackle some of those spectral topics that have yet to be exorcized fully from Asian Studies, hoary ideas such as oriental despotism and an Asiatic mode of production, as well as the rationality question.

Martin and Wigen's prose is clear and accessible even for students. This would be an excellent beginning for a survey course in Asian Studies or Western Civilization, encouraging students to be critical of the way maps and atlases are organized, and of the meaning of terms such as "civilization" or "the West" that trip so lightly off our tongues. Those of us at

Kenyon who teach in Asian Studies read this book and discussed it together, a salutary exercise in a program that presumes to span that entire non-entity called Asia! Whatever the shape of your Asian Studies program, you and your students will also find challenges and food for thought in this book.

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We urge our college administrators to recognize the contributions of ASIANetwork meetings for program and curricular development and to draw financial support from those parts of their budgets to support faculty attendance at the ASIANetwork conferences. Discussion of ideas at ASIANetwork conferences invariably turns to how ideas operate or could operate in the classroom.

ASIANetwork is a special professional resource and worthy of separate funding for faculty professional development. Colleagues whose college policies permit "only one conference per year" might want to propose an alternative, namely, "unless one of the conferences is ASIANetwork or an equivalent meeting devoted primarily to intellectual community in service to teaching and learning in the liberal arts."