HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

Title	Foreword
Author(s)	Iwashita, Akihiro
Citation	Eurasia Border Review, 3(Special Issue), 1-1
Issue Date	2012
Doc URL	https://hdl.handle.net/2115/50959
Type	other
File Information	EBR3-S_003.pdf



Hokkaido University Collection of Scholarly and Academic Papers : HUSCAP

Foreword

We are pleased to announce the publication of the special issue "China's Post-Revolutionary Borders" in *Eurasia Border Review*. The new journal has certainly developed with good qualified peer-reviewed articles and has already become a bi-annual journal thanks to its many contributors. In addition, we recently decided to arrange special issues on critical, but not well-known topics.

The first special issue is edited by David Wolff, a professor at the Slavic Research Center, in close cooperation with his broad project on Eurasian Cold War History studies. The International Cold War history network is advancing step by step from the US and Europe toward the former Soviet Republics and Asia. China was undoubtedly a key player of the Cold War within the context of its relations with the US, the Soviet Union, India, Korea, Japan and other concerned countries.

When we focus on China's geopolitics and history, China's presence has been truly outstanding. China has long struggled with the stability and security of its vast borderlands, approximately 22,000 kilometers of inland borders with Mongolia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, and North Korea as well as Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, in addition to its vast maritime frontier with Southeast Asia, Korea and Japan. We often attempt to analyze China and its foreign policy from classic points of view such as power politics and balance of power, but deep geopolitical analysis suggests another dynamic logic to China's existential activities, always heavily influenced by the presence of its various neighbors.

This special issue is meaningful, probably the first of its kind, for featuring China in the Cold War histories with an emphasis on border politics. It is also a good illustration of collaboration between historical analysis and political geography. The research results suggest a new contribution of the border studies school to international relations. Factually, the contributors discussed the interaction between "border" and "alliance" in the Cold War order/re-ordering. Border issues helped establish and destroy alliance, while alliances set new boundaries, some of which eventually became borders, de facto and de jure. In this context, new theoretical challenges arise and our discussion on the border and borderlands in Cold War history takes on dimensions and directions toward a challenging new research frontier.

We hope the reader enjoys this historical tour of the PRC's borders in the making.

1 June 2012
Akihiro Iwashita