

Outline of Contemporary Taiwanese Historiography

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ABSTRACT

This review essay aims to provide an analytic outline of contemporary Taiwanese historiography. The major arguments can be summarized in two parts: I first trace the multiple origins of Taiwan historical study by pointing out the complex interplay of four major research traditions since late nineteenth century, namely Japanese colonial studies, Chinese local history, Western area studies and Taiwanese oppositional discourse. The article then outlines the major achievements of Taiwan-centered historiography since the 1980s in source collection, research topics, institution building and internationalization and further comment on new trends towards cross-disciplinary research, diversification of historical discourse and intensification of identity politics in the 1990s. The conclusion reflects on the challenges and prospects of Taiwan historical study in the new global age.

Keywords: Contemporary Taiwanese Historiography, Japanese Colonial Studies, Chinese Local History, Western Area Studies, Taiwan Opposition Movement