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**Review of Wada Haruki, *The Korean War: An International History*, by Wada Haruki (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2014).**

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Most people today know little about the Korean War. In fact, it is often referred to as the “forgotten war,” since it tends to be overshadowed by World War II, just preceding Korea, and the Vietnam War, which broke out in the decade following. Into this vacuum steps Japanese scholar Wada Haruki with a new global study of the Korean War, a work that treats the war in all its international complexities. We are fortunate that Frank Baldwin has provided a fine translation of the book from its original Japanese. In his study, Haruki mines sources from China, Russia, the United States and Japan. Ultimately, he argues the war was really two essential conflicts: a civil war in Korea and a Sino-American war.

The civil war amounted to a bitter battle between North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung and Republic of Korea President Syngman Rhee, basically a war between the North with Communism and the South leaning toward the West. Haruki goes into great detail about how each of these leaders failed in unifying the two parts of Korea. Rhee, a particularly greedy, aggressive leader, almost lost United States support in the process. Meanwhile Kim Il-Sung insisted on doing things his own way, refusing to listen to Mao or Stalin who were giving him advice. In particular, he failed to listen to their instructions to draw back troops when the United States finally got involved. Kim underestimated the military power of the United States. The Sino-American War, meanwhile, helped lead to the Yoshida Doctrine and the conclusion of the US- Japan security treaty. Haruki argues that Japan outsmarted the United States by arranging that America agree to protect Japan. With U.S. protection, Japan could focus on building its economy back up after the destruction of the Pacific War.

Haruki also brings to light new perspectives on the relations between different world leaders, especially Kim, Stalin and Mao. Haruki reveals many details of the Korean War that most scholars would not think of, such as how the Korean War was international in scope, as it was not just the two Koreas, America, and the People’s Republic of China: many other nations were involved.

This book is extremely useful as it helps readers get a better understanding of the “forgotten” Korean War. In these days when North and South Korea dominate the news, most recently with talk about reunification, we owe it to ourselves not to forget the Korean War.