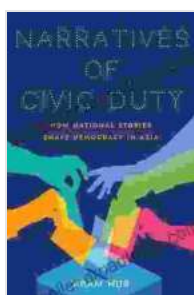


# How National Stories Shape Democracy in Asia: Studies from the Weatherhead East Asian Institute

This book explores the complex relationship between national stories and democracy in Asia. Drawing on case studies from across the region, the authors argue that national stories play a crucial role in shaping democratic institutions and practices.



## Narratives of Civic Duty: How National Stories Shape Democracy in Asia (Studies of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University) by Aram Hur

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 11583 KB

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

Print length : 210 pages

Screen Reader: Supported



The book is divided into four parts. The first part examines the role of national stories in the formation of democratic institutions. The second part looks at how national stories are used to justify and legitimize democratic practices. The third part explores the challenges to democracy posed by national stories. The fourth part concludes with a discussion of the implications of the book's findings for the future of democracy in Asia.

The book's contributors are leading scholars in the field of Asian studies. They offer a diverse range of perspectives on the relationship between national stories and democracy. The book is essential reading for anyone interested in the politics of Asia and the challenges facing democracy in the region.

## **The Role of National Stories in the Formation of Democratic Institutions**

National stories play a crucial role in the formation of democratic institutions. They provide a shared narrative that can unite citizens and give them a sense of common purpose. They also help to legitimate democratic institutions and practices.

In the case of South Korea, the national story of the "Miracle on the Han River" helped to unite the country after the Korean War and create a sense of national pride. This story also helped to legitimize the democratic institutions that were established in the aftermath of the war.

In contrast, in the case of Myanmar, the national story of the "Burmese Way to Socialism" has been used to justify authoritarian rule. This story has helped to legitimize the military's grip on power and suppress dissent.

## **How National Stories Are Used to Justify and Legitimize Democratic Practices**

National stories are also used to justify and legitimize democratic practices. They can provide a basis for democratic values and norms. They can also help to create a sense of national unity and cohesion.

In the case of India, the national story of "unity in diversity" has been used to justify the country's democratic institutions. This story emphasizes the importance of religious tolerance and cultural pluralism. It has also helped to create a sense of national unity and belonging.

In contrast, in the case of China, the national story of the "Chinese Dream" has been used to justify the Chinese Communist Party's authoritarian rule. This story emphasizes the importance of economic development and national unity. It has also helped to legitimize the party's suppression of dissent.

### **The Challenges to Democracy Posed by National Stories**

National stories can also pose challenges to democracy. They can be used to justify authoritarian rule, suppress dissent, and promote discrimination.

In the case of Thailand, the national story of the "nation, religion, and monarchy" has been used to justify military coups and the suppression of dissent. This story has also been used to promote discrimination against religious minorities.

In contrast, in the case of Taiwan, the national story of the "ROC on Taiwan" has been used to justify the country's independence from China. This story has also helped to build a sense of national unity and identity.

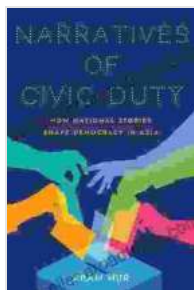
### **The Implications of the Book's Findings for the Future of Democracy in Asia**

The findings of this book have important implications for the future of democracy in Asia. They suggest that national stories can play a crucial role in shaping democratic institutions and practices. However, they also

warn that national stories can be used to justify authoritarian rule, suppress dissent, and promote discrimination.

The book's findings also suggest that the relationship between national stories and democracy is complex and evolving. As Asia continues to develop, its national stories will likely continue to change. It is important to be aware of the potential challenges and opportunities that these changes may present for democracy in the region.

This book is a valuable contribution to the study of democracy in Asia. It provides a comprehensive analysis of the complex relationship between national stories and democracy. The book's findings will be of interest to scholars, policymakers, and anyone interested in the future of democracy in Asia.



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