

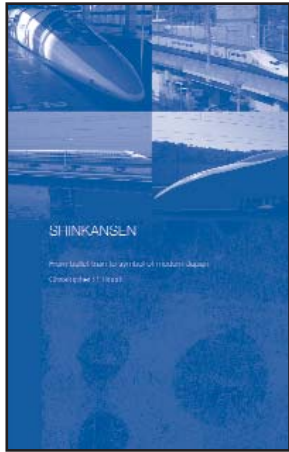


SHINKANSEN: FROM BULLET TRAIN TO SYMBOL OF MODERN JAPAN

Sunday 5 February, 2006

Special Talk at the NRM

To celebrate the renewal of the shinkansen display at the NRM and the publication of a new book, *Shinkansen: From Bullet Train to Symbol of Modern Japan*, Dr Christopher Hood will be talking on his research about the shinkansen. He will also be answering questions and signing copies of the book, which will be available on the day at 50% of the standard retail price.



ABOUT THE BOOK

The image of the shinkansen or 'bullet train' passing Mount Fuji is one of the most renowned images of modern Japan. Yet, despite its international reputation for speed and punctuality, little is understood about what makes it work so well and what its impact is.

This is a comprehensive account of the history of the shinkansen, from its planning during the Pacific War, to its launch in 1964 and subsequent development. It goes on to analyse the reasons behind the shinkansen's success, and demonstrates how it went from being simply a high-speed rail network to attaining the status of iconic national symbol. It considers the shinkansen's relationship with national and regional politics and economic development, its financial viability, the environmental challenges it must cope with, and the ways in which it reflects and influences important aspects of Japanese society. It concludes by considering whether the shinkansen can be successful in other countries developing high-speed railways. Overall, this book provides a thorough examination of the phenomenon of the shinkansen, and its relationship with Japanese society.

For more information see www.hood-online.co.uk/shinkansen/

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Christopher P. Hood is Director of the Cardiff Japanese Studies Centre, Cardiff University and an Associate Fellow at Chatham House. He is the author of *Japanese Education Reform: Nakasone's Legacy* (Routledge 2001), co-editor with G. Bownas and D. Powers of *Doing Business with the Japanese* (Direct Image, 2003), and regularly handles media enquiries relating to Japan. He is also a member, and membership secretary, of the Japanese Railway Society.

ABOUT THE DISPLAY

The Shinkansen Exhibition opened for public view on 14 July 2001 to coincide with the nationwide Japan 2001 Festival. The 82 feet long leading car was built in 1976 as part of a fleet of high-speed trains. It was withdrawn from service in October 2000, one of the last of the first series of cars in service, and was offered to the NRM by West Japan Railways (JR-West)

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS ON SUNDAY 5 FEBRUARY

- 12:30 Dr Hood will answer individual questions and sign copies of the book
 - 13:00 Dr Hood will talk about his research and answer questions about his research
 - 14:00 Dr Hood will answer individual questions and sign copies of the book
- The event will end at 15:00
All events will be held near the shinkansen display in the Great Hall of the NRM

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