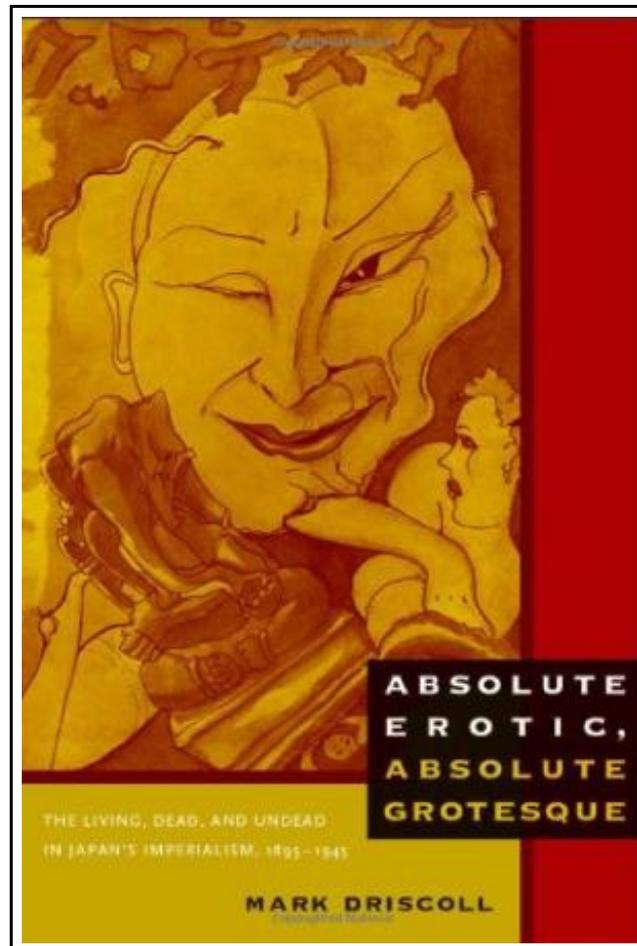


## Absolute Erotic, Absolute Grotesque: The Living, Dead, and Undead in Japan's Imperialism, 1895-1945



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*(Claire Bartell)*

## ABSOLUTE EROTIC, ABSOLUTE GROTESQUE: THE LIVING, DEAD, AND UNDEAD IN JAPAN'S IMPERIALISM, 1895-1945



Duke University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Absolute Erotic, Absolute Grotesque: The Living, Dead, and Undead in Japan's Imperialism, 1895-1945, Mark Driscoll, In this major reassessment of Japanese imperialism in Asia, Mark Driscoll foregrounds the role of human life and labour. Drawing on subaltern postcolonial studies and Marxism, he directs critical attention to the peripheries, where figures including Chinese coolies, Japanese pimps, trafficked Japanese women and Korean tenant farmers supplied the vital energy that drove Japan's empire. Driscoll identifies three phases of Japan's capitalist expansion, each powered by distinct modes of capturing and expropriating life and labour: biopolitics (1895-1914), neuropolitics (1920-32), and necropolitics (1935-45). During the first phase, Japanese elites harnessed the labour of marginalized subjectivities as it colonized Taiwan, Korea and south Manchuria, and sent hustlers and sex workers into China to expand its market hegemony. Linking the deformed bodies labouring in the peripheries with the "erotic-grotesque" media in the metropole, he centre's the second phase on commercial sexology, pornography and detective stories in Tokyo to argue that by 1930, capitalism had colonized all aspects of human life: not just labour practices, but also consumer's attention and leisure time. Focusing on Japan's Manchukuo colony in the third phase, he shows what happens to the central figures of biopolitics as they are subsumed under necropolitical capitalism: coolies become forced labourers, pimps turn into state officials and authorized narcotraffickers and sex workers become "comfort women." Driscoll concludes by discussing Chinese fiction written inside Manchukuo, describing the everyday violence unleashed by necropolitics.

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