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Neutrality and Collaboration in South China

Macau during the Second World War

Helena F. S. Lopes

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The South China enclave of Macau was the first and last European colonial settlement in East Asia and a territory at the crossroads of different empires. In this highly original study, Helena F. S. Lopes analyses the layers of collaboration that developed from neutrality in Macau during the Second World War. Exploring the intersections of local, regional and global dynamics, she unpacks the connections between a plurality of actors with competing and collaborative interests, including Chinese Nationalists, Communists and collaborators with Japan, Portuguese colonial authorities and British and Japanese representatives. Lopes argues that neutrality eased the movement of refugees of different nationalities who sought shelter in Macau during the war and that it helped to guarantee the maintenance of two remnants of European colonialism – Macau and Hong Kong. Drawing on extensive research from multilingual archival material from Asia, Europe, Australasia and America, this book brings to light the multiple global connections framing the experiences of neutrality and collaboration in the Portuguese-administered enclave of Macau.

Introduction: An 'East Asian Casablanca'; 1. Caught in the middle: Macau between Chinese resistance and collaboration; 2. Old allies and new friends: the Macau Portuguese administration, Japan and Britain before the fall of Hong Kong; 3. Crisis and opportunity: refugees in wartime Macau; 4. The last 'lone island': pressure, profits and philanthropy; 5. Colonial transplantation: Hong Kong in Macau; 6. Seeking justice and recognition: dealing with neutrality and collaboration after the war; Epilogue: enduring legacies of a globally connected periphery.

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