

## Documentaries & Factual - Human/Social Interest



### The Mark Of Empire S2 – Kingdoms Of The East

**Episodes:** 4 x 60 mins

**Language:** English

**Year:** 2022

**Producer:** IFA

**Distributor:** Mediacorp

How do legacies of the past shape some of Asia's most modern nations today? Singaporean scholar and curator Peter Lee travels to Japan and South Korea to seek out epic legends and vibrant traditions of four distinct peoples in East Asia.

He embarks on a journey of adventure and discovery as he learns more about the traditions and identities under the mighty Tokugawa Shogun during Edo-period Japan. Up north in Hokkaido, he goes on a search for wild bears in their legendary natural landscapes. And as he makes his way down south, Peter traces the history of the small but vibrant Ryukyu Kingdom that emerged 600 years ago. In neighbouring South Korea, Peter meets the Korean musicians reviving Joseon-era music into radio-worthy pop, and discovers how much of the nation's cultural footprint was shaped by this legendary period in Korean history.

Narrator: Peter Lee

Information correct at time of printing

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### Episode 1 – Warriors of Tokugawa

Four centuries ago, Japan was unified under the mighty Tokugawa Shogun, laying the foundations for modern Japanese culture. Singaporean curator and scholar Peter Lee travels through Japan to chart this epic period in Japanese history, trying his hand at the ancient art of samurai swordsmanship, testing his skills at making fine porcelain, and getting behind the counter to make supersized sushi, the way it was before.

### Episode 2 – Joseon’s Defenders

Lasting over five centuries, the Joseon Dynasty was the Korean Peninsula’s longest reigning dynasty, and perhaps its most influential. Singaporean Peter Lee embarks on an adventure across South Korea to learn how this modern nation was shaped by Joseon-era traditions and milestones. Along the way, he meets a fashion designer reviving traditional costumes for the social media generation, tests his Korean language skills in a classroom, and joins in on a pop band’s rehearsal that takes inspiration from Pansori, traditional musical storytelling.

### Episode 3 – Merchants of Ryukyu

Located to Japan’s extreme south, the Ryukyu Archipelago was the setting for the small but vibrant Ryukyu Kingdom that emerged 600 years ago. Peter travels to its idyllic island settings to see how the Ryukyu identity is finding new meaning today as he visits a tattoo studio reviving an almost-lost traditional style, goes on a beachside horseback ride with the islands’ native horses, and tests his skills with a weapon through kobudo martial arts.

### Episode 4 – Descendants of Ainu

Japan’s northern island of Hokkaido is a must-see tourist destination for millions across the region, but not many know about its ancient inhabitants — the indigenous Ainu people. Singaporean scholar Peter Lee travels to the land of the Ainu, with its scenic landscapes and abundant natural resources, to learn more about how this resourceful people survived and thrived off the land. Along the way, he meets Ainu artisans who make textiles out of treebark. He visits a traditional Ainu Kotan, or Ainu village, and goes on a hike in the majestic Shiretoko Peninsula, on the search for wild bears.

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