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13

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Trade and business relationships between Japan and China – cooperation, competition and conflict

International Conference organised by the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) and the Fujitsu Research Institute (FRI) in Tokyo

by René Haak and Hanns Günther Hilpert

Despite striking differences, Japan and China are the largest and most significant economies in East Asia. Since China opened its borders in the late seventies, the bilateral flow of goods, capital, technology and management expertise has increased steadily and the economic relationship between the two countries is today in many respects the most important of its kind in East Asia. Nevertheless, the current relationship between the two countries is far from stable and free of conflict. Political mistrust and an inability to come to terms with the past have prevented full exploitation of the Sino-Japanese relationship.

China is due to become a member of the WTO shortly, which will give sustained impetus to the liberalisation of the export and import trade and to

the deregulation of the domestic economy and will have a positive effect on the country's economic growth. For foreign investors, competition will become more dynamic. Established companies will have to create new market and competition strategies and implement them rapidly. From product and production strategies through new forms of human resource management and financing to the creative aspects of marketing and co-operation management, companies all along the value creation chain will need to reposition to meet regional and global demands.

Against this background, on 18-19 January 2001 Dr. René Haak, Dr. Hanns Günther Hilpert and Mr. Dennis S. Tachiki organised a conference on "Japan and China: Economic Relations in Transition" in which they focussed attention on the different eco-

nomical and management questions arising within the complex relationship between these two countries. Overall, it was an opportunity for detailed examination and exchange of interdisciplinary ideas. The conference was divided into four parts. On the first day of the conference, the subject of the lectures and discussions was Japan's role in the integration of China internationally in the division of labour (section 1) and Japan's role in China's transformation and growth processes (section 2). Questions about Japanese organisational and management strategies in China were dealt with on the second day (section 3). A central focus here were aspects relating to management of international co-operation (section 4).

In his key note address, the American expert on China, Barry Naughton outlined the political and economic framework of the multilayered relationship between Japan and China. In the nineties – 1993 saw the crucial turning point – the pace of both the systematic transformation of China and the central involvement of the state in economic policy and development of Chinese infrastructure was stepped up. The economic implications of these changes in policy have been an unequal-



Second day of the conference (left to right): Prof. Ito Shōichi (Kwansei Gakuin University), Dennis S. Tachiki (FRI), Dr. René Haak (DIJ), Dr. Christian Hirt (Karl-Franzens-University Graz)

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German Institute for Japanese Studies
 Philipp Franz von Siebold Stiftung
 Managing editors: René Haak,
 Ulrike Haak
 Nissei Kōjimachi Bldg.
 3-3-6 Kudan-Minami
 Chiyoda-ku, Tōkyō 102-0074, Japan
 Tel.: +81-3-3222-5077
 Fax: +81-3-3222-5420
 E-mail: dijtokyo@dijtokyo.org
 Homepage: <http://www.dijtokyo.org>



ified success for China and its trade and economic partners. However there are problems with the political implications as there are those who have lost out as a result of the current phase of the transformation: the unprofitable state-run industries and the growing army of unemployed, for example. China is an authoritarian developing country and the latter have no influence over political leadership or at decision-making levels.

The key outcome of the first section of the conference in which Shaun G. Breslin, Kwan Chi-H., Kinoshita Toshihiko, Thomas M. H. Chan and Hanns Günther Hilpert spoke is that there is a characteristic difference between the development of bilateral trade and direct investment in the foreign trade between Japan and China. All the speakers agreed that in the two decades since China opened up, Chinese-Japanese trade has been extraordinarily dynamic in both the development of the absolute volume and of the structural composition. Measured by relative shares and trading intensities, this bilateral trade relationship has now become the most important in East Asia. Considering the complementary effect in the factor endowment for both economies, and the complementary specialisation derived from this in international division of labour, this is hardly surprising. However, the relatively small amount of Japanese direct investment in China is astonishing. Reservation on the part of Japanese investors is caused by the investment risks and impediments both general and specific to Japan posed by China (according to Kwan Chi-H.) or Japan's refusal to adapt their structures (according to Thomas M. H. Chan).

In the second section which followed, Markus Taube discussed Japan's multifaceted role as a model for political development, as a provider of developmental aid, as a licensor and as an investor in China's development and transformation processes. According to Taube, Japan's influence can be seen in particular in the integrated effect of the diverse influence and communications channels. Finally, Inada Juichi focussed on the significance of Japanese developmental aid and quantified its macroeconomical and sectoral effect in China. The implications of China's membership of the WTO were then considered. Using a quantitative model, Kawai Masahiro forecast a drastic fall in employment in agriculture, a far-reaching change in the structure of the processing industries, increased income and employment in the tertiary sector, all in all an increase in China's economic growth and deeper

involvement in international division of labour from which Japan is also likely to profit. Jean-François Huchet investigated the effects of the WTO membership on China's Corporate Governance System. Nakagane Katsuji summarised the contributions from the speakers and praised Japan's role in the development and transformation of China.

On the second day of the conference, the discussion centred on economic questions. Attention was drawn to the competitive relationship between Japanese, Chinese and European strategy on the Chinese market. In the third section, Christian Hirt discussed the role of Japanese businesses within the systematic transformation of China. Hirt's introductory remarks were subjected to further analysis by Marukawa Tomoo, who is particularly interested in the significance of Japanese direct investment (automobile, textiles and electronics industries) for China's industrial development: Japanese automobile manufacturers, knowing that considerable change to the value creation processes as well as more opportunities for influence resulted in greater financial input and therefore more risk for the company, were more reluctant to invest large sums directly in the eighties and early nineties than their American and European competitors. Japanese involvement in the market concentrated initially on conferring licences. Today, Japanese industries are catching up. From the point of view of Japanese management, the current investment in the Chinese market is opening up the market.

Tejima Shigeki presented a more comprehensive view of Japanese direct investment in the processing industries. Against the background of the recent falls in Japanese direct investment in China, he illustrated the different problems experienced by Japanese industries in China. The difficulties that Japanese firms experience on the dynamic Chinese market, particularly in personnel management, were also the subject of the talk by Ito Shōichi. Ito concluded that there are problems for Japanese companies particularly in finding and developing staff. Looking at the growing local market, the increasing localisation of management is a not-insignificant success factor for Japanese subsidiaries in China. In the ensuing discussion, Hu Xinxin, who for years has been researching the problems of Japanese businesses on the Chinese market in depth confirmed Ito's conclusions.

Japanese general trading companies (*sōgō shōsha*) are a type of business

specific to Japan. Hanns Günther Hilpert's talk documented their activities and strategies on the Chinese market and discussed the question of their special role in Chinese-Japanese commerce. Initially, the *sōgō shōsha* in China were active as foreign traders, then in the nineties, the focus shifted to preparing, paving the way for and assisting the investment activities of Japanese businesses in the processing sector. Most recently, the *sōgō shōsha* have principally been building up stand-alone retail and wholesale businesses or product specific distribution networks.

The final fourth section on the second day of the conference began with a lecture from Douglas B. Fuller about the business strategy of the electronics industry in Taiwan and the associated challenges for Japanese businesses on the Chinese market. Fuller stressed that above all Taiwan has achieved importance particularly in the area of chip electronics and should be taken seriously. Dieter Specht presented for discussion various innovative forms of virtual co-operation as strategic tools for the organisation of Japanese-Chinese business co-operation. Specht considers that virtual co-operation is a method of improving the performance of Japanese businesses in China.

In his talk, René Haak discussed the Japanese-German business networks in China. In 2000, there were a total of 19 Japanese-German co-operative business efforts in China, demonstrating discernible business success in various cases, showing the success of this particular form of business co-operation. With the combination of complementary strengths and by sharing costs and risks, numerous Japanese-German co-operative efforts, "third country co-operation", were more able to compete on the highly competitive Chinese market. Finally, Harald Dolles discussed the significance of trust in Chinese-German and Japanese-German business co-operation. The different types of trust were identified as the key variable for success in Chinese-German and Japanese-German co-operation.

DIJ-FRI Conference: Japan and China: Economic Relations in Transition (Tokyo, 118-19 January 2001)

The conference was conceived and organised jointly by the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) and the Fujitsu Research Institute (FRI). Organisers were Dr. René Haak and Dr. Hanns Günther Hilpert from the DIJ and Dennis S. Tachiki from the FRI. We would like to thank the Friedrich-Ebert-Stif-





Speakers and participants at the conference – Fujitsu Research Institute, Tōkyō

tung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation) and the German Embassy in Tōkyō for their generous support. It is intended to publish the proceedings at the end of 2001.

Speakers:

Keynote Address: Barry Naughton (University of California at San Diego).
Section 1: China's integration in world trade

Shaun G. Breslin (University of Warwick), Kwan Chi-H. (Nomura Research Institute), Kinoshita Toshihiko (Waseda University), Thomas Man Hung Chan (Hong Kong Polytechnic University), Hanns Günther Hilpert (German Institute for Japanese Studies).

Section 2: Development, economic growth and transformation in China: Markus Taube (Gerhard-Mercator-University, Duisburg), Inada Juichi (Senshū University), Kawai Masahiro (World Bank), Jean-François Huchet (Centre d'Études Françaises sur la Chine Contemporaine, Hong Kong), Nakagane Katsuji (University of Tōkyō), Gebhard Hielscher (Friedrich Ebert Foundation).

Section 3: Management strategies for the Chinese market:

Christian Hirt (Karl Franzens University, Graz), Marukawa Tomoo, (Institute of Developing Economies), Tejima Shigeki (Nishōgakusha University), Ito Shōichi (Kwansei Gakuin University), Hu Xinxin (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences), Hanns Günther Hilpert (German Institute for Japanese Studies).

Section 4: Co-operation:

Douglas B. Fuller (Industrial Performance Center, Massachusetts Institute of

Technology), Dieter Specht (University of Technology Cottbus), Long Ke (Fujitsu Research Institute), René Haak (German Institute for Japanese Studies), Harald Dolles (University of Bayreuth), Gomi Norio (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.).

CURRENT RESEARCH

Japan and China

Strategic Management in a Dynamic Environment

The People's Republic of China is gaining increasing importance as a market and production base for an internationally active automobile industry. The automobile sector, and its related components industries at the same time represent one of the most important mainstays of the country's economic and technological development. In the strategic management of internationally active automobile manufacturers, investments currently being made in the Chinese market are characterized by globalisation and intensified international competition. The development of advanced internationalisation strategies and the formation of a market orientation in the corporate learning process are thus the core tasks for Japanese management in today's China.

René Haak is currently conducting research within the DIJ research focus "Japan in Asia" on the strategies and organisation concepts of Japanese

management in the Chinese automobile industry. First research results were published in the journals *Industrie-Management* (06/2000), *Zeitschrift für Wirtschaftlichen Fabrikbetrieb ZWF* (01/02/2001) and *Japanmarkt* (04/2001). A DIJ Working Paper on Japanese internationalisation strategy and organisational concepts is planned. A presentation of first research results will be held in the frame of his teaching assignment "International Management – Strategies of German and Japanese Companies in Asia" at the University of Technology Cottbus. Some lectures are also scheduled at the University of Mainz, Bayreuth, Eichstätt and at the European Business School in Oestrich-Winkel.

Government Funding for Political Parties in Japan

Public funding for political parties began in 1994 as a key element in the package of political reforms passed that year. Election results and the number of seats in the Diet determine the level of government subsidy to which a party is entitled. Proponents of political reform laws sought to give parties a more important role in the political system by providing them with sufficient means to organize election campaigns, thus making them less dependent on large campaign contributors. Modelled after the political finance systems of most Western European countries, especially Germany which has used public subsidies since 1959, government subsidies in Japan were intended to bring about more transparency and accountability in the political system, as well as to contain political corruption.

Five years after the introduction of this system, Verena Blechinger (Social Science Section) conducts a preliminary evaluation of its effects on the Japanese political system. How has government funding affected the financial situation of political parties in Japan? Has the availability of government funding changed the relationship between parties and interest groups, especially large business contributors? Or are government subsidies merely considered as a welcome supplement to party coffers in times of decreasing donations due in part to the economic crisis? Initial findings suggest that government funds have become increasingly important for political parties. However, this seems to be caused by decisions by business to contribute less



rather than directly resulting from the new regulations.

By comparing Germany and Japan, the project also analyzes the general implications of government subsidies for parties on political systems. In this context, it focuses on the question whether public funding is an effective means to reduce political corruption and to increase transparency and accountability. Initial findings were presented at the conference of the International Political Science Association in August 2000 and were published in *European Review* (Volume 8, 4, 2000).

DIJ PUBLICATIONS

Silke Vogt, Neue Wege der Stadtplanung in Japan – Partizipationsansätze auf der Mikroebene, dargestellt anhand ausgewählter *machizukuri*-Projekte in Tokyo. [New Ways of Urban Planning in Japan – Citizens' Participation with Special Reference to *machizukuri* Projects on the Neighbourhood Level in Tokyo] München: iudicium 2001 (= DIJ Monograph Series, Volume 30), 312 pp. (ISBN 3-89129-841-2)



Japanese urban planning (*toshikeikaku*) historically took place as a “top-down process” from administration to citizens. Because of the influence of Western countries, however, and the strengthening of democracy, since the 1960s the Japanese understanding of urban planning has changed to become a “bottom-up process” called *machizukuri*.

Field investigations (scientific observation, questionnaires and interviews) in two wards of Tōkyō, Suginami and Setagaya, analyze and

categorize the great variety of citizens' participation projects in Japan. In a comparison between the two planning cultures, the main difference can be seen in the fact that participation in Germany is still legally very restricted and aims at results, whereas most Japanese *machizukuri* projects take place on a self-generated basis, and the learning process and conviviality are often just as if not more important than results.

To realize an effective cooperation between all actors in urban planning, in both Germany and in Japan, further changes and improvements in participation possibilities are necessary. The administration has to share competence, and citizens have to take more responsibility instead of relying on their traditional comfortable role as consumers. The final chapter makes some proposals, regarding the way in which each country can and should learn from the positive experiences of the other.

Birgit Poniatowski, Infrastrukturpolitik in Japan – Politische Entscheidungsfindung zwischen regionalen, sektoralen und gesamtstaatlichen Interessen. [Public Works Policy in Japan – Political Decision-making in View of Regional, Sectoral and National Interests]. München: iudicium 2001 (= DIJ Monograph Series, Volume 31), ca. 410 pp. (ISBN 3-89129-842-0)

The total public funding allocated in Japan for public works each year is enormous when compared to the amount other industrialized countries generally invest in the improvement of their public infrastructure. Vast amounts of public funds are used to build roads, dams, community centers and other public facilities, taking into account not only the regular budgetary expenditure, but also the large economic stimulus packages the Japanese government has put in place on a nearly annual basis throughout the 1990s. Considering the widely varying impact of infrastructure investment, not all of it positive with regard to demand, efficiency and environmental concerns, a fundamental question arises as to who decides the projects to which this money is allocated.

To answer this question, the book provides an analysis of both the formal process and the informal influence structures characteristic of political decision-making in public works in Japan. All levels of government, i.e. central, prefectural and local, are covered



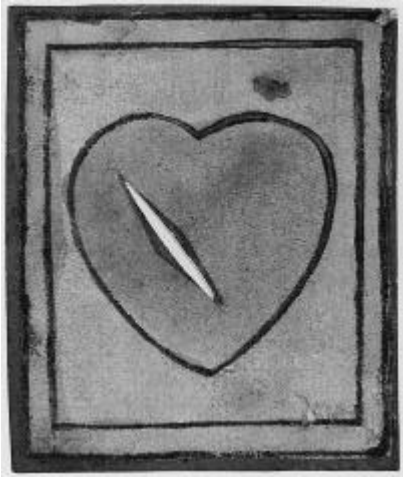
by the study, which employs a network approach in order to take account of all relevant actors. The analysis focuses on the annual budgetary process, the arena in which use of public funds for particular infrastructure programmes and projects is actually authorized, and on the medium to long-term planning instruments for various types of public works.

The results are analyzed from three perspectives: The respective roles of bureaucrats and politicians in policy-making; the degree of centralization of the political decision-making process; and the effects of specific political institutions on the mechanisms of political decision-making.

Christoph Geissmar-Brandi, Irmela Hijiya-Kirschner and Naoki Sato (eds.): **Gesichter der Haut, unter Mitarbeit von Richmod Bollinger.** [The Faces of Skin, with assistance of Richmod Bollinger]. Hamburg: Stroemfeld Verlag 2001, 180 pp. (ISBN 3-86109-157-7)

Skin is a surface, but it is also a medium through which we read all bodies/objects. A system of rules of communication inheres in how we perceive skin: what is beyond or beneath the surface of skin is not immediately perceivable, and therefore lies outside that system of communication. As a site for stimuli, skin forms a kind of communication in and of itself. These stimuli have their own history: within the European tradition, for philosophers, physiologists and psychoanalysts, for anyone who is interested in the senses, these stimuli have occupied a crucial role in the disposition, perception and existence of the human beings.





Anonymous, The holy heart, prior to 1470

The word "skin" covers a variety of meanings, and can be found in a variety of different states or forms. It can appear as rag, crust, or armor, as translucent, opaque, soft, or reflecting; in the form of leather, parchment, live skin, film, canvas, screen, shadow, cloth, roll, and last but certainly not least, as paper. In other words, skin is always an analog surface that can be impregnated, a medium that can be imprinted with meaning.

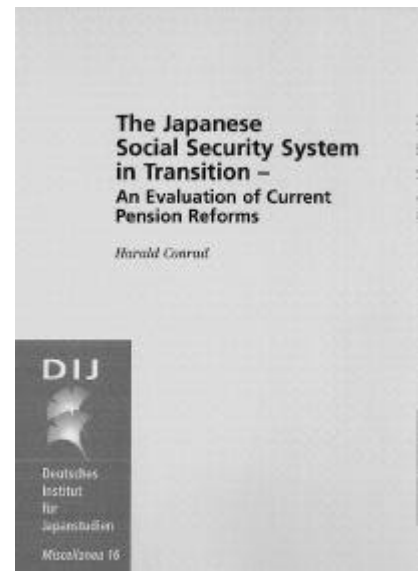
This multiplicity and multifacetedness in the concept of "skin" is well captured by the title of this book *Gesichter der Haut* [The Faces of Skin]. The widely differing themes covered in this loose collection of essays is thus symptomatic of the central topic. The essays were written by scholars from Europe and Japan who gathered in Tōkyō in July 1999 for a symposium to discuss the manifold forms of and meanings accorded to images. Seen from a historical perspective, the perceptions that surround skin represent ways of reading others that is shared by various cultures, both in the West and for example in Japan. These perceptions thus form a kind of connecting platform from which the more particular variations can be observed.

Gesichter der Haut represents the proceedings of this highly experimental symposium organized by the National Museum of Western Art (NMWA) and the DIJ. The temporary laboratory provided by the occasion produced a puzzle: a number of pieces are still missing, but the connections and continuity in the combined analysis of the image-value of skin have been identified. The book is an attempt to analyze and discuss strategies of visual interpretations of the world around us. In its comparative perspective, this volume enhances understanding of the meaning and power of images both in Japan and in the West.

CONTENTS: Wie es dazu kam ... (*Editorial*) • Gesichter der Haut – Einleitung (*C. Geissmar-Brandt*) • Horizonte einer Theorie der Haut in der Kunst (*A. Tanigawa*) • Der Ort des *wabi* – zu einer Theorie der Haut in der japanischen Kunst (*N. Satō*) • Die Tiefe der Oberfläche. Zur Kulturgeschichte der Körpergrenze (*C. Benthien*) • Haut und Kleidung – Die Haut als Gegenstand der Mode (*A. Fukai*) • Zeichen der Unterscheidung von "Selbst" und "Anderen" – Darstellungen der Haut in der japanischen Malerei (*S. Ikeda*) • Hautfarben. Zur Maltechnik des Inkarnats und der Illusion des lebendigen Körpers in der Malerei der Neuzeit (*A. Lehmann*) • In der Haut des anderen. Iwaaki Hitoshis Comic-Roman "Parasitentiere" (*Kiseijū*) als Herausforderung an das unteilbare "Individuum" (*S. Inaga*) • Haut, zwischen Kruste und abgezogenem Lappen (*U. Panhans-Bühler*) • Die Maske als Instrument. Warum Menschen sich ein zweites Gesicht schaffen (*K. Yoshida*) • Das Kreuz mit der Distanz. Passion und Landschaft in Pieter Bruegels *Wiener Kreuztragung* (*C. Kahane*) • Die kranke Haut und die Offenbarung des Heiligen. Grünewalds Kasseler *Kreuzigung* in den Augen von Huysmans (*C. Kitazaki*) • Die andere Haut. Perspektiven einer historischen Anthropologie von Bild und Medium in der abendländischen Kultur der Frühen Neuzeit (*G. Wolf*) • Rückblick und Ausblick: Kommentar zum Symposium (*T. Katō*) • Kommentar zum Symposium (*L. Ledderose*) • "Haut an sich und für sich" (*I. Hijiya-Kirschner*)

Harald Conrad, The Japanese Social Security System in Transition – An Evaluation of the Current Pension Reforms. München: iudicium 2001 (= DIJ Miscellanea Series, Volume 16), 111 pp. (ISSN 0941-1321)

Of all the industrialized countries, Japan has the largest and most quickly growing concentration of people aged 65 and older. The sharp increase in the aged population will have immense economic and social consequences, especially in the pension and health care arena. As in many other countries, the public pension system in Japan, which is basically financed on a pay-as-you-go basis, i.e. current workers pay for current retirees, faces severe financial pressures. Consequently, the revamping of pension arrangements has become an urgent issue occupying the top of the political reform agenda in Japan. The government is striving to secure financial sustainability of the



public pension system through a number of parametric reform measures such as the curtailment of earnings-related benefits, an increase in the entitlement age and changes in the system of indexing benefits. At the same time, it hopes that these benefit cuts can be offset through a promotion of occupational pension schemes.

The paper evaluates recent and proposed pension reforms in regard to the economic, demographic and social background of the country. The analysis of the public pension system centers on issues of financial sustainability, distributive effects, minimum income adequacy and political risks. Since the official policy aims to strengthen occupational pensions, this study takes a closer look at their current diffusion and evaluates the (possible) changes in their regulatory framework. More general conclusions about the possible future outcome of Japanese pension reforms are derived by comparing the Japanese case to pension reforms in the United Kingdom.

The volume is available from the DIJ in Tōkyō or from the Berlin office. The nominal fee is DM 20, € 10 or ¥1000, payable in international reply coupons to be enclosed in the order.

DIJ Bulletin

The 2001 Bulletin is now available; offering a complete report of the activities of the German Institute for Japanese Studies. The German language publication can be obtained directly from the DIJ in Tōkyō or from the liaison office at the Free University of Berlin (c/o Japanologie – Projekte, Podbielskiallee 56, 14195 Berlin; e-mail: dijfub@zedat.fu-berlin.de).





BOOK REVIEWS

Nakayama, Jun (ed.): Poketto pu-roguresshibu Doku-Wa Wa-Doku jiten. Shogakukan Taschenwörterbuch Deutsch-Japanisch Japanisch-Deutsch. [Pocket size Dictionary German-Japanese Japanese-German]. Tokyo: Shogakukan, 2001, 1023 pp. (ISBN 4-09-506071-9)

If you ever meet a Japanese person who “stiffly insists on his senses” (p. 809) and refuses to do anything but to “pay you like according to the request” (p.895), do not „think of that to wonder“ (p.974); the person in question is most likely not a “freshly baked” (p.446) graduate of German Studies – this person simply has the wrong dictionary.

To find out what this dictionary actually lacks, you don't need “good eye” (p.894); the title says it all. To call 761 pages of German-Japanese entries (about 68.000 words according to the editor) and 200 something pages of Japanese-German entries (about 20.000 words according to the editor) “Pocket size dictionary German-Japanese Japanese-German” is already a mistake. The correct title should be “Pocket-size dictionary German-Japanese with a Japanese-German supplement” or even better “Pocket-size dictionary German-Japanese with a Japanese-German glossary”, since in most cases the Japanese terms are supplied with only *one* German word anyway.

Also, to claim that this dictionary comprises 68.000 or 20.000 words is – to say the least – misleading, because these numbers do certainly not refer to the number of headwords. The number

of headwords in the German-Japanese part – names like Petra, Klaus and Dietmar, inflected forms and compounds included – adds up to about 25.000, the number of entries in the Japanese-German part to about 14.000.

As the editor points out correctly, this dictionary is small. It also comprises new words, business German and other technical terms. It also offers useful everyday language and a vast range of *four-letter words*, although – in German – “your ass goes cold” and not “with cold” (p.50).

The editor, however, forgot to mention the following points:

1. Some entries fail to give you all common meanings of a word. The word “Glied” – to give only one example – does not simply mean *limb* or *member*, but also *penis*.

2. The dictionary is full of grammatical mistakes: “das Kuchen” (p.1014), “der Wunder” (p.974), “das Erfolg” (p.896) and “den Wut an ihn auslassen” (p.976).

3. You find a wide range of uncommon expressions, such as “die Augen in die Hand nehmen” (p.63), “Tu mir die Liebe und ...” (p.394) or “bei (oder mit) jemandem huckepack machen” (p.315) etc. etc.

4. The dictionary lacks vital information on the usage of words. Given English equivalents sometimes make things even worse, because the verb *kennen* for example is not the same as the term *wissen*, even if there is only one expression in English (know).

5. The formal mistakes you find on every other page suggest that this dictionary might not have been checked properly. “Trauen” (p.810) instead of *trauern*, “nic-ht” (p.931), “auseinander” (p.809), “Erforg” (p.896) and so on and so forth.

Before people actually sell a dictionary and make users of their dictionary “have hurtful experiences” (p.810) I strongly recommend that they consult a German native speaker. Last but not least we live in the 21st century and – as the editor points out – a time of “globalisation”.

If you, dear reader, by any chance happen to come across this dictionary: “give a shameful laugh” (p.930) and “let it come out of your mind” (p.576). The editor is advised to “be yourself more careful in the future!” (p.809).

(Katja Cassing)

Frederick R. Dickinson: War and National Reinvention. Japan in the Great War, 1914–1919. Cambridge (Massachusetts), London: Harvard University Press 1999 (Harvard East Asian Monographs 177), 363 pp. (ISBN 0-674-94655-3)

In this study “War and National Reinvention. Japan in the Great War, 1914–1919”, Frederick R. Dickinson has directed his attention to an aspect that is often discussed in German political history of the modern period, namely the role played by foreign policy-making in domestic politics. In Germany, ever since the “Fischer Controversy” of 1959/61, and Hans-Ulrich Wehler's studies in the late 1960s, the issue of the “primacy of foreign policy or of domestic politics” (*Primat der Innen- oder Außenpolitik*) during the epoch of the German Empire (1871–1918) and indeed in modern German history in general has received wide attention as a topic of scholarly research. In contrast, and regrettably, the role played by Japan's foreign policy in domestic politics has only been taken up in depth by a very few studies. In this highly recommendable study, Dickinson addresses this lacuna, and analyses Japan's foreign policy during the years of World War I as a vital component of domestic politics and the “heated domestic debate over the national essence” (p. 4).

As is well known, Japan joined the Entente powers in 1914 to fight Imperial Germany in World War I, but hardly participated in any actual warfare. However, World War I was of critical importance for the political development of Japan, as Dickinson stresses in Chapter 2. It brought tremendous change not only to Japan's foreign and security policy, but also to Japanese domestic politics, and the relation between these two spheres. As Dickinson says, “The wartime years would have a decisive impact upon Japanese politics, economy, and society. They would, as well, determine the character of the Japanese state in the twentieth century” (p. 34).

Japan utilized World War I to increase its influence in China, Manchuria and Siberia while the energies of the European powers were focussed on European matters. In much the same way, the ‘elder statesmen’ – like Yamagata Aritomo and Inoue Kaoru, and some of their protégés like Terauchi Masatake, Tanaka Gi'ichi, and Gotō Shinpei – also tried to utilize World War I as a ‘Divine Aid’ to preserve their own power in domestic politics. In Bismarckian manner, these men wanted to use the war as an exter-

nal focus. As army general and later Prime Minister Terauchi Masatake put it in an appeal quoted by Dickinson (p. 73), they wanted to "cease the minor matters of domestic strife, argue about things such as lessening taxes some other day, and redirect internal discord outward".

To illustrate these tendencies, the author carefully analyses the politics and implications of Japan's Twenty-One Demands towards China of 1915 (chapter 3); the general confusion with-in Japan's China policy after the Chinese Revolution of 1911 (chapters 4 and 5); the discussion about an alliance with Russia in 1916 (chapter 4); the discussions about the Siberian Intervention in 1917 and 1918 (chapter 5); and the Japanese policy on the conference of Versailles (chapter 6). Most of these topics have received attention from scholars of diplomatic history and the history of foreign relations, so that Dickinson can concentrate on the implications for domestic politics. He shows that discussions of foreign policy issues had less to do with conflicting views on foreign policy as such: they were much more "a battle for power, not substance" (p. 107). Foreign policy conflict was utilized to gain or preserve power in domestic politics, or within the wider framework of nation-building.

With his analysis, the author describes a complex system of institutions, interest groups, and single actors in Japan's domestic politics. In his conclusion, Dickinson distances himself from, "the 'binarism' that long characterized our understanding of Japanese society" and stresses the "great complexity in Japanese life" (p. 243). He keeps a safe distance from one-sided, oversimplifying theories, and points out the close interdependency of foreign policy and domestic politics, as well as the instrumentalization of foreign policy for debates in domestic politics and the purpose of 'nation-building' as defined by Hobsbawm or Anderson.

In the final chapter, the author also mentions the issue of continuity in Japanese expansionism, an issue that arises naturally out of his discussion, and one that has not received sufficient attention either in Japanese historiography or Japan-related research in the West. It would have been desirable if the author had elaborated more on racial conceptions in Japan's foreign policy, conceptions that clearly play a defining role during the Taishō period especially. Some quibbles: the Japanese equivalents for technical or political terms in Dickinson's text are sometimes missing, which makes it difficult

for the interested non-specialist reader to find out further details in the Japanese literature: one example, the "Basic Plan of National Defense", *Teikoku Kokubō Hōshin*. Sometimes, a certain lack of reference to Japanese historiographical terms leads to errors, as in the Seiyūkai politician Hara Kei's "agenda comprised [of] five elements", which actually was a four-point agenda, *yondai seikō*.

These minor points notwithstanding, however, Dickinson's study is a well-written work that excellently contributes to our understanding of the complex patterns in the history of modern Japanese politics, the effects of which can still be found in the country's politics today. Dickinson's study should give new impetus to historical research in the field both outside and within Japan.

(Sven Saaler)

OTHER MATTERS/ OUTLOOK

Personnel News

Prof. Dr. Irmela Hijiya-Kirschner was appointed Board Member of the newly founded DESK program (German and European Studies at Komaba) at the University of Tōkyō.

On 23 April 2001, she was awarded the Eugen-und-Ilse-Seibold prize of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft by its President, Professor Winnacker, in a public ceremony held at the German Museum in Bonn. The official speaker was Swiss author Adolf Muschg. The Seibold prize was instituted in 1997 and is awarded every two years, alternating between the natural sciences and the social sciences and the humanities, for scholarly work in or about Japan and Germany respectively.

Dr. Jochen Legewie, research fellow since October 1996 and head of the economics section and Deputy Director of DIJ since October 1999, left the Institute in February 2001. As part of the DIJ's research projects "Japan in Asia" and "Internationalization of the Japanese Economy", he concentrated his research on internationalization strategies of Japanese manufacturers within Asia. He especially focused on analysis of the automobile industry in Asia, with emphasis on the role of Japanese

automobile makers in regional political and economic integration. In the area of international management he analyzed the role of expatriates: the management of Japanese and German subsidiaries in Asia.

Besides organizing several workshops and symposia in Japan and Europe, Dr. Legewie was the organizer of two international conferences in Tōkyō: "Regional Cooperation in Asia: Will Japan Stand Up to a Leadership Role?", with Verena Blechinger; and "Economic Crisis and Transformation in Southeast Asia: Strategic Responses by Japanese and European Firms", with Hendrik Meyer-Ohle. He also served as co-editor of one monograph in German dealing with current trends in the Japanese economy, and three conference volumes to the above mentioned topics in English and Japanese.

On 1 March 2001, Mr. Legewie joined DaimlerChrysler and was immediately assigned to Mitsubishi Motors in Tōkyō.

Dr. Susanne Kreitz-Sandberg completes her contract of five years as a researcher in the DIJ's Social Science Section in May 2001. Kreitz-Sandberg worked in the field of comparative education and youth studies. She edited a book on "Youth in Japan and Germany – Social Integration in Comparison", which will be published with Leske + Budrich next month (see Newsletter 14). This is the result of various conferences and workshops that Kreitz-Sandberg organised together with colleagues and Japanese educational sociologists on inter-disciplinary topics, covering a wide range of subjects such as methods in Japanese Studies, reforms in the present educational system and so-called youth problems. Kreitz-Sandberg earned the Tamaki-Prize with an article on suicide of Japanese and German adolescents, published in *Japanstudien* 8. Questions of gender and education occupy Kreitz-Sandberg not only in her research but also with regard to her own daughters, who were born in Tōkyō. She plans to continue Japanese studies and education, and her efforts to combine professional and family life even after leaving the DIJ.

Dr. Richmod Bollinger, research fellow in the Humanities Section and assistant to the director, left the DIJ at the end of April 2001. Over the past three years, her main tasks were in the field of organizing conferences (Der Weltliteratur auf der Spur. Übersetzungssymposium. [In Search of World Literature. On Japanese-German/German-Japanese Translation], November 1998 and



Geschichter der Haut. [The Faces of Skin], July 1999), editing DIJ publications (Gesichter der Haut [The Faces of Skin], Stroemfeld Verlag, Frankfurt am Main 2001), updating bibliographical databases, research in electronic media, and project management. Dr. Bollinger has accepted a position as Sales Manager for MCI Worldcom, a global telecommunications company in Frankfurt.

Dr. Verena Blechinger, Head of the Social Science Section, was appointed Deputy Director of the DIJ in April 2001.

Dissertation Fellows

Moritz Bälz, Law, Japanese Studies, Philosophy, Max-Planck-Institute for Foreign Private and Private International Law, Hamburg: "Corporate Divisions in Japanese Law" (March 2001 – June 2001).

Reglindis Helmer, Japanese Studies, Film Studies, Ph.D. Candidate at Humboldt University Berlin: "The Rhetoric of Self-sacrifice in Japanese Aviation Movies of the Pacific War Era: Three Films by Yamamoto Kajirō" (April 2001 – September 2001).

Melek Ortabasi, Comparative Literature, University of Washington, Seattle: Japanese Cultural History as Literary Landscape: "Aesthetics, Scholarship, and National Identity in Yanagita Kunio's Native Ethnology" (April 2001 – July 2001).

DIJ Forum

On 22 March 2001 the focus was on Japanese-Chinese security relations. "Japanese-Chinese Security Relations. The Japanese Way of Engagement" was the title of the paper of Professor Reinhard Drifte (University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK). The Japanese-Chinese relationship is one of the most important variables in the formation of a new strategic environment in the Asia Pacific region and one that has global implications, said Drifte. The management of China's rise to great power status by Japan will be of crucial importance for regional and global stability and for the access to the most populous market of the future. Professor Drifte critically examined the assumptions and operational feasibility of Japan's dualistic China policy, gen-

erally referred to as engagement policy. Japan intends to steer China towards a peaceful and sustainable path by assisting it with economic policy tools such as trade investment, technology transfer, Drifte explained. But Japan also hedges against any Chinese strategic breakout or policy failure through the bilateral military deterrent with the US as well as political front building in Asia. Professor Drifte concluded that Japan has to find a balance between reinforcing China's assumption of international relations being a "zero sum game" through the containment element of engagement policy, China merely trying to win time for a more forceful regional policy later, and the roller coaster of US China policy.

The role of women in Japanese society was theme of the speech of Professor Meguro Yoriko from the Sophia University, Tokyo, on 11 April 2001: "Gender Equality and Women's Identity in Japan". Professor Meguro was evaluating Japanese society from a gender perspective by focusing on the identity of young middle-aged women in relation to the nature of policies and practices. Nominal equal opportunities in various sectors, together with economic development, contributed to changes in attitudes and behaviors of women to the extent that it looks as if they have freedom to choose their ways of life. At the same time, the "women and men are equal but different" ideology and the "breadwinner-housewife" family system remained to be the foundation of major policies. Practices in the work place also continued to discriminate against women. Studies show that a good majority of women even with a high level of education prefer to stay housewives and be good mothers when they have husbands who are sufficient providers. "Their choice reflects the reality of the system under which being a breadwinner's dependent promises the least cost for secure living", Professor Meguro concluded. One outstanding outcome of the inconsistency between the policies to promote gender-equality and the ones to maintain gender discrimination is found in the lowered fertility, which is now a critical issue in Japan.

"Defining and Locating Japanese Literary Modernism" was the title of the lecture, Professor Janet Walker (Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey) held on 17 May 2001. Professor Walker stated at the beginning that discussions of Japanese literary modernism were often focusing on the avant-garde poetry movements of the 1920s and 1930s such as Surrealism, Dada-

ism, and Futurism whereas her talk concentrated on Japanese modernist fiction of the period between 1900 and 1940, defining it through comparisons with European modernist novels of roughly the same period. In both Japan and Europe, modernity deepened the view of self as well as revolutionized the relation between self and landscape. Texts of Natsume Sōseki, Mori Ōgai, Shiga Naoya, Virginia Woolf, Thomas Mann and Italo Svevo were considered and compared in respect to their construction of landscape and engagement with the unconscious.

Call for Papers

DIJ Yearbook: *Japanstudien*, Vol. 14, 2002

Placing Japan in Paradigmatic Perspective

In the humanities, the social sciences, and economics the formulation of general theses and theories has, in the past, generally presupposed an Occidental model. One only has to think of key concepts and terms such as "feudalism", "democracy", "middle class" or "novel" to realize that in many disciplines, the terminology bears a Eurocentric stamp. What happens when such terms, or a model such as Modernization Theory, are applied to Japan? How can and do these Western-derived theories and terms work in this case? To put it differently, could we not detect here a possibility for refining and/or modifying conventional conceptualizations? Japan-related research might thus even be able to contribute to theory formation.

Japan-related research, on the other hand, also relies on indigenous traditions of knowledge with complex claims to influence in present-day scholarship in Japan. What about categories developed out of these autochthonous or seemingly "indigenous" models? Might they be able to be employed to form interfaces between recent theoretical approaches and paradigms believed to be "traditionally" Japanese? Again, the question arises as to what Japan as a case study can contribute to generalized knowledge and theory.

Meta-questions such as these are of fundamental concern for a multi-disciplinary research institute like the DIJ dedicated to research on modern Japan, and positioned at the crossing point between area studies and respective general disciplines. This is why "Placing Japan in a Paradigmatic Per-



spective" was taken up in a DIJ Symposium in 1997 with topics such as "Locating Japan in an Age of Globalization" as well as questions such as "Is Japan a Civilization *Sui Generis*?" Of particular relevance were questions concerning political decision-making in Japan in its relationship to theories of political science and a discussion of Japan as a case study in law and economic studies. Japanese specificities in disciplines such as linguistics and literary studies were also thematized. In all of these fields, however, much is left to be explored as to the possible contributions of Japan-related research to general theory. Other disciplines not yet covered come to mind as well such as Gender Studies, Cultural Geography, Cultural Anthropology, History of Medicine, Film Studies, Aesthetics, Architecture etc.

Abstracts of approximately 500 words should be submitted to the DIJ by 31 July 2001. For further information, please refer to our homepage (<http://www.dijtokyo.org>).

Schedule of DIJ Events

DIJ Forum

John W. Treat, Professor, Yale University: The Boogie Woogie Constitution and Postwar Literature: The Creolization of Culture in Occupied Japan. (Tōkyō, 5 June 2001)

DIJ Forum

Ulrich Teichler, Professor, Kassel University: University Graduates' Employment and Work – A Comparison between Japan and Europe (Tōkyō, 19 June 2001)

For detailed information on the upcoming events, please consult our homepage <http://www.dijtokyo.org>.

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Tōkyō 102-0074
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Fax 03-3222-5420
E-mail: dijbibli@dijtokyo.org

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Note

In the DIJ Newsletter 11 the token fee for volume 14 of the DIJ Miscellanea Series was given incorrectly. The volume 14 "Canon and Identity" is available from the DIJ in Tōkyō or from its Berlin office for the nominal fee €10 or ¥ 1000, payable in international reply coupons to be enclosed in the order.

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