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Grassroots Initiative against Historical Revisionism

New Developments in the Japanese Textbook Debate

by Sven Saaler

In the summer of last year a small locality in the southern most stretch of Tochigi Prefecture unexpectedly fell into the public eye. Fujioka, a community of less than 20,000, which does not even have its own homepage, became the center of the newly re-ignited Japanese textbook debate. Up to now, the name 'Fujioka' was familiar to experts on the textbook debates only as a family name – Fujioka Nokukatsu has been one of the main protagonists of the rightist-conservative camp for many years. However, the turn of events in Japan's history textbook debate in summer 2001 was most likely not a source of joy for Fujioka Nokukatsu.

In spring 2001, all domestic and foreign protests fell ineffectively flat against the approval of a new and clearly revisionist history textbook through the textbook approval process (*kyōkasho kentei*) of the Ministry for Education and Science (*Monbu Kagaku-shō*). However, completely unexpectedly, the adoption system (*saitaku seido*) for Japanese middle school textbooks turned out to be an effective means for various grassroots movements to express their displeasure, to prevent the use of the widely and vehemently criticized "new history textbook," and in so doing, to call into question the results of the approval process for textbooks by the Ministry of Education and Science. Since the inner workings of the adoption process for textbooks – in contrast to the approval process – were widely unknown up to that point even in Japan, in the following I shall provide a sketch of this process in the light of the events of Summer 2001 with reference to the implications of the participation of common citizens on educational and political decisions, and provide an outlook on the still smoldering textbook debate. In September 2001, the DIJ held a workshop on this issue (for details, see the DIJ homepage).

As is well known, two new textbooks entered competition in the adoption process for history and civics textbooks for use at Japanese middle schools. In addition to the seven textbooks already under consideration for each subject, the new submissions were the "New History Textbook" (*Atarashii rekishi kyōkasho*) and its complementary volume "New Civics Textbook" (*Atarashii kōmin kyōkasho*) both produced by the "Society for the Creation of New History Textbooks" (*Atarashii rekishi kyōkasho o tsukuru-kai*, or *Tsukuru-kai* for short). It was assumed that the "new textbooks" had a good chance to be selected for use in class at not a few schools, since the authors of the right-wing *Tsukuru-kai* had at their disposal widespread support from people within the worlds of politics, administration, finance, and the media.

However, the adoption process for middle school textbooks did not take shape as smoothly as the textbook approval process (*kentei seido*) at the Ministry for Education and Science, which approved the "new textbooks" in April 2001. Yet, even so, the Ministry demanded 137 corrections, amendments, deletions, and improvements – a record that the *Tsukuru-kai* need not fear being broken. Despite this, both textbooks finally received the Ministry's approval and, with it, the sanction of the Japanese state.

The Ministry's approval, however, was only the first step toward the dissemination of the textbooks and their revisionist image of history. In the case of textbooks for Japanese high schools, each school has the right to select which textbooks it will use, while, in contrast, the selection of textbooks for elementary and middle schools is made by a supra-communal adoption commission (*saitaku shingikai*). The role of these commissions and the complex procedures of the textbook adoption

process (*saitaku seido*) for elementary and middle schools suddenly stood in the center of public attention.

The *saitaku shingikai* are formed every four years as an advisory body of the education committees (*kyōiku iinkai*) of each communality. For the most part, the members of the commissions are named by the education committees in an extremely opaque and highly controversial process. Each *saitaku shingikai* is responsible for the adoption of textbooks for all subject areas for all schools within a regional adoption district (*saitaku chiku*), of which there are presently 544 in Japan. Some adoption districts encompass only one communality, if it has a certain size or population, while others encompass several communalities. In Tōkyō, each ward (*ku*) composes one *saitaku shingikai*, while, for example, the adoption district Shimotsuga in Tochigi Prefecture encompasses ten communalities, including the town of Fujioka.

The adoption commissions relieve the education committees of a great deal of work. Every four years between

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May and August they examine textbooks submitted for review in the 11 subject areas taught by elementary schools and the 14 subject areas taught by middle schools – altogether some 400 textbooks – and decide on a textbook for each subject. Normally, the decision of the adoption commission is communicated to the education committees of the communalities in each respective district for their acknowledgement, and the education committees pass on the decision to the Ministry for Education and Science. Since textbooks cannot be sold on the open market in Japan, the Ministry's central procurement sees to it that a sufficient number of the textbooks are sent directly to the schools from the publisher, in keeping with the law guaranteeing free access to educational materials (1963).

In light of this system, schools have few opportunities to exercise influence over the choice of the textbooks that will be used in their classrooms. The decision of the adoption commission is binding for all schools in all communalities in each respective adoption district. Principals, teachers and parents can only have influence over the choice of textbooks through membership in the adoption commissions, but how large their influence is in such a case is unclear, since the appointment of the commission members is extremely opaque. Moreover, earlier common practices such as schools giving recommendations to the adoption committees (*gakkō-hyō*, or *shibori-komi*) are being done away with in more and more prefectures.

In anticipation of the approval of the "new textbooks" by the Ministry for Education and Science, the Tsukuru-kai had undertaken considerable political and financial efforts to win or place supporters in the education committees and adoption commissions. Obvious opponents of the Tsukuru-kai textbooks, above all traditionally left-oriented teachers, were removed from the adoption commissions in many prefectures at the pressure of the Tsukuru-kai on conservative local politicians. The Tsukuru-kai made their targeted appeal to the decision-makers through mailings, direct distribution of the writings by the Tsukuru-kai and its members, as well as – the legally questionable – publication of the "new textbook" on the open book market. In Tochigi Prefecture, the Tsukuru-kai's textbooks appeared to have an especially good chance to be chosen by regional adoption commissions since, in contrast to most other prefectures, the teachers there are said to tend to be more conservative. The traditionally left-oriented teachers' union *Nikkyō-so*

could never really gain a foothold there.

However, the adoption process proved itself to be extremely multifaceted and complex. On 13 July 2001, the district of Shimotsuga in Tochigi, the adoption commission decided on the Tsukuru-kai's textbooks for history and civics after lengthy discussions and a controversial vote. The Tsukuru-kai's first success in the adoption process for state school textbooks seemed assured. But, the decision of the adoption commission met resistance – in the educational committees (*kyōiku iinkai*) of the affected communalities, which in just a few days were flooded with hundreds of letters, phone calls, faxes and e-mail from citizens all over Japan protesting the decision. Unlike other grassroots movements in Japan, which tend to act mainly on the local level, an infrastructure encompassing the entire country arose through the use of the Internet coordinating protests in other districts, providing form letters and e-mails, and circulating petitions.

At first, the education committee of the communality of Fujioka reacted to the pressure from beneath and refused to accept the decision by the adoption commission of Shimotsuga district. As the official reason, it was said that Tsukuru-kai textbooks "transmit a distorted perspective of history, have developed into an international political problem, and moreover are too demanding and detailed for instructional use in middle schools." The other communalities of the district followed suit after a few days and the adoption commission had to reconvene. After a new vote was taken, the textbooks from Tōkyō Shoseki Publishers were selected in Shimotsuga.

The decision in Tochigi and the intensity of the protests against the initial decision in favor of the Tsukuru-kai's textbooks served without a doubt as a sign for all of Japan. In the end, the textbooks by the Tsukuru-kai were chosen in none of the adoption districts for state middle schools. The Tsukuru-kai textbooks were selected for use from 2002 to 2006 only for special schools (*yōgo gakkō*) in Tōkyō and Ehime prefectures by their respective prefectural administrations. In addition, nine private middle schools chose to use the "new textbooks." In the coming years, these textbooks will hardly surpass 500 copies in circulation, which is equal to a "market" share of 0.039%. However, in view of the financial backing that the Tsukuru-kai has, a discontinuation of the textbook is rather unlikely. Tsukuru-kai members such as Kobayashi Yoshinori have already announced "revenge" (*ribenji*) for the

next adoption process in four years (see for example the 26 September, 2001, edition of the magazine "Sapio"). The turbulent events of summer 2001 were certainly not the final chapter in the Japanese textbook debate.

CURRENT RESEARCH

Comparison of Corporate Governance Structures

The Japanese model of corporate governance, which is characterized by long-term perspective and stakeholder-orientation rather than shareholder-orientation, has often been quoted as one reason for the economic success of Japan. But on the other hand one has to acknowledge that the system is also characterized by insufficient (self-) control of the executive committees and a lack of transparency. The long crisis ushered in changes in the system of corporate governance mechanisms, although it is not clear yet in which directions these changes will go. Will there be a conversion to the Anglo-Saxon model with its focus on shareholders' interests and return ratios? Or will there ensue an orientation towards stakeholder interests (which, in the case of Germany, was explicitly stressed by the Government's Experts' Commission on Corporate Governance)? Or will Japan perhaps follow a third way?

To answer these questions at least to a certain extent, Andreas Moerke focuses his analyses on two fields: Bank-firm relationship and changes in the Japanese financial market; and incentive structures for the top management.

Japanese bank-firm relationships are characterized by the fact that a bank is generally assuming two conflicting roles: on the one hand banks are providing credits, yet on the other hand they act as shareholders. This influences bank behaviour, since a bank as a lender will try to lend out as much as possible in order to extend its business. This can be seen as one of the reasons for the huge amount of bad loans banks are now facing. Being a major shareholder, on the other hand, enables banks to dispatch personnel to the executive committees and exert influence on corporate strategies. Here is one opportunity for banks to prevent investments in risky (but potentially



profitable) projects. Furthermore, banks and the financial market as a whole, of course, are closely connected with other parts of the economy.

The project therefore focuses on the consequences the "credit crunch" has on these enterprises, as well as on the consequences the long-lasting crisis in the manufacturing sector has for the financial market. An in-depth analysis of the current situation is followed by an investigation of the changing financial situation of these enterprises, as well as of governance mechanisms. A crucial point is to answer the question as to whether or not the foreign banks and other financial institutions in Japan can successfully apply the corporate governance mechanisms of their home country, and which results will be achieved.

In contrast to part one, where an in-out relationship is the main focus, the second part of the research project (incentive setting) concentrates on mechanisms that are in effect inside a firm. Stock options are relatively new for Japan, coming into effect only in 1997. Andreas Moerke investigates how widespread stock options in Japan really are. He will compare the influence of stock options resting on corporate performance using empirical data from Japanese, German, and US enterprises.

These projects are designed for one year; first results are to be presented on a DIJ workshop in June 2002.

DIJ EVENTS

2nd Symposium "Assertions of Cultural Uniqueness in Asia" ("Asiatische Selbstbehauptungsdiskurse")

(Seoul, 14–17 November 2001)

As part of a series of symposia on "Assertions of Cultural Uniqueness in Asia," which had started with an event in Tōkyō in autumn 2000 (cf. Newsletter 12), the DIJ organized a second symposium in November 2001 in Seoul, in co-operation with the Goethe Institute Inter Nationes Seoul. The project has already been introduced to an English-speaking audience at the International Convention of Asian Scholars in August 2001 in Berlin (cf. Newsletter 14). The Seoul symposium was again held mainly in German with



scholars from Japan, China, South Korea, France, and Germany. Following up on the discussion in Tokyo and Berlin, this time the discourses in Korea also became a major focus of debate. Together with five South Korean participants, members of the audience promoted, discussed, and critically analysed Korean attempts at an assertion of cultural uniqueness.

The symposium started on 14 November with an opening address by the German ambassador to the Republic of Korea, Hubertus von Morr. Two keynote speeches by Choe Chung-Ho and Josef A. Kyburz followed. Choe (formerly of Yonsei University, Seoul) presented Korea as a model for the future, while Kyburz (CNRS Paris) discussed the cultural relationship between Japan and Korea. The actual discussion started the next day, preceded by an introduction by the two organizers able to attend, Mishima Ken'ichi (Ōsaka University) and Irmela Hijiya-Kirschner (DIJ Tōkyō, Freie Universität Berlin).

The individual papers were arranged in five thematic blocks, the first of which covered "accelerated modernity and the living environment." Chon Song U (Hanyang University, South Korea) discussed in his presentation on the communitarian movement in Korea a possible "communitarian" rationality. Gu Xuewu (Center for European Integration Studies, Bonn) presented on the diverging strategies employed by Liberalists and Nationalists in the People's Republic of China.

Another block, chaired by Lee Eun-Jeung (University Halle-Wittenberg), covered different "types of affirmation of cultural uniqueness." While Joachim Kurtz (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg) looked critically at the Chinese adaptation of Fichte, both subsequent speakers argued in favour of an affir-

mation of cultural uniqueness in the case of Korea: Kim Moon-Hwan regarding cultural aspects, and Han Sang-Jin (both Seoul National University) regarding philosophical or Neo-Confucian aspects.

A third panel chaired by Isa Ducke (DIJ) discussed various aspects of "politics of everyday discourses," including historical and philosophical questions. Sven Saaler (DIJ) outlined the emergence of the Pan-Asian movement "from below" and the adoption of this ideology "from the top" during the Meiji and Taishō periods. Mishima Ken'ichi covered the historical background of the adoption of German rhetorical strategies into the Japanese discourse of self-assertion, and questioned the shifting definitions of "East" and "West." Irmela Hijiya-Kirschner's presentation on advertising as a medium of national cultural self-assertion in Japan illustrated the everyday, contemporary use of national symbols as well as their amalgamation, particularly with culinary consumption.

A further discussion unit was dedicated to "history views and education." Steffi Richter (Leipzig University) discussed the textbooks of the "Tsukurukai" organisation as a medium for identity construction, while Ōnuki Atsuko (Gakushūin University, Tōkyō) concentrated on the political instrumentalization and the selective use of constructivist theses by this organisation.

In a final panel on nationalist influences in the research on the history of science, Matthias Koch (DIJ) und Iwo Amelung (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg) presented the situation in Japan and China, respectively. In both cases, claims of scientific achievement are used as a means of demarcation vis-à-vis the "West" as well as other Asian countries.



The conclusion of the symposium was drawn by Alex Demirovic (Wuppertal University), who characterized the various strategies of affirmation of cultural uniqueness as leadership techniques of the elites, with intellectuals, publishers, and the media playing important roles as transmitters. On a macro-level, Demirovic linked the issue to worldwide globalisation trends and the parallel emergence of regional identities (e.g., in the EU). He urged listeners to examine not only the dividing factors of such an assertion, but also its connecting aspects, in the sense of a promotion of regional identity (in Asia). A follow-up conference on the same topic is currently being planned for autumn 2002 in Erlangen and Berlin.

DIJ Symposium on Regional Monetary Cooperation in East Asia

(Tōkyō, 7 December 2001)

The recent conclusion of various swap agreements between Japan and other East Asian countries within the framework of the Chiang Mai Initiative of May 2000 shows that the trend towards strengthened regional monetary and financial cooperation in East Asia has gained renewed momentum. The process of regional cooperation is set to make further headway, according to a recently published report by the ASEAN+3 East Asia Vision Group, entitled "Towards an East Asian Community". The DIJ contributed to the ongoing debate on this issue with the DIJ Symposium "Regional Monetary Cooperation: Is East Asia Following the European Model?", organized by Hanns Günther Hilpert and Christian Schröppel of the DIJ and supported by the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation.

As a result of the presentations and the discussion it was concluded that, while major differences between the European and the Asian setting have to be considered carefully, East Asia can draw a number of important lessons from the European experience of monetary integration. With members of several embassies as well as a number of academics in the audience of approximately 30 people, the event provided an opportunity to exchange views in an open and relaxed atmosphere.

Following the welcoming address by Prof. Irmela Hijiya-Kirschnereit (Di-

rector, DIJ Tōkyō) and greetings by Nikolai Putscher (Financial Counselor, Embassy of Germany), Martin Schulz (Fujitsu Research Institute) pointed out the importance of macroeconomic harmonization for achieving the European Monetary Union, while Haramiishi Kenji (Institute for International Monetary Affairs) gave an assessment of the Chiang Mai Initiative and possible next steps to strengthen regional cooperation. In the second session, Prof. Helmut Wagner (University of Hagen) described and analyzed the pitfalls of the enlargement of the European Monetary Union to Central and Eastern European countries. Prof. Ōgawa Eiji (Hitotsubashi University) and Kwan C.H. (METI – Research Institute for Economy, Trade and Industry) presented on major issues related to the internationalization of the Yen and possible exchange rate regimes in East Asia. In the third panel, Prof. Kondō Takehiko (Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University) and Prof. Murase Tetsuji (Kyōto University) provided an outline for the creation of a common Asian or Asia-Pacific currency. The commentators, Cornelis Keijzer (Delegation of the European Commission in Japan), Orii Keisuke (JBIC Institute), Prof. Kinoshita Toshihiko (Waseda University), and Christian Schröppel (DIJ), helped to stimulate the discussion by giving their views on the presentations. Hanns Günther Hilpert (DIJ) summarized the discussion and outlined the main conclusions drawn by the participants of the symposium.

NEW DIJ SERIES

"Japan and Europe. Historical Relations and Comparative Studies"

The German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) has launched a new publication series entitled *Japan and Europe: Historical Relations and Comparative Studies* 日欧交流史・比較研究. This scientific publication series is Japan-related and thus multidisciplinary as well as interdisciplinary. The research spectrum includes the humanities, the social sciences, and economics. Japan-related contributions from the natural sciences, the engineering sciences and the medical sciences are also most wel-

come, but would perhaps best be approached mainly from the perspective of the history of science and technology.

The principal task of the German Institute for Japanese Studies is to carry out research on modern Japan and German-Japanese relations in the fields of the humanities, the social sciences, and economics, as well as to communicate research results from Japan to Germany. In this sense the new DIJ publication series shall focus on German-Japanese relations concerning political, economic and cultural affairs, and at the same time take into account the European integration that is currently taking place. Regarding research on historical relations and comparative topics, a restriction solely to issues relating to Japan and Germany has made sense in the past and promises to remain fruitful and productive in the future.

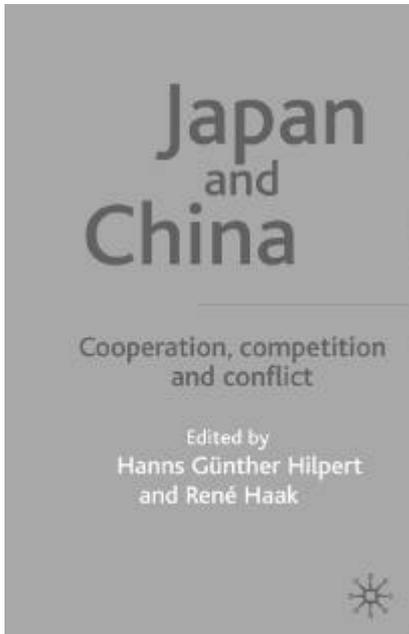
In the western part of the Eurasian continent, the European Union is taking shape and emerging as a kind of would-be, self-contained political, economic and cultural actor vis-à-vis Japan, Asia and the rest of the World. This new entity seems to be developing a new post-national identity. Recently, with respect to relations between Japan and the countries that constitute the European Union, one can observe in various sectors a new form of denationalisation. The new DIJ publication series shall stay abreast of these changes and take into consideration any future developments. However, the US has been and will remain a point of comparison for both Japan and Europe.

The new DIJ publication series shall also constitute a discussion forum for those doing historical, contemporary, and comparative research on German-Japanese and European-Japanese relations. Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research, *Beziehungsforschung* (research on the history of international/diplomatic relations), and *Einflussforschung* (research on the foreign influence of domestic developments), as well as comparative research, are all on an equal footing and can also be dealt with in an integrated fashion. Our primary concern is to bring together fragmented research efforts in the field of German/European-Japanese relations and comparative studies, to offer a joint platform and to stimulate further research. The new series will appear irregularly. Potential contributors may contact the editor, Matthias Koch, at any time by mail or directly via e-mail: koch@dijtokyo.org.



DIJ PUBLICATIONS

Hanns Günther Hilpert; René Haak (eds): **Japan and China: Cooperation, Competition and Conflict**. Basingstoke, New York: Palgrave, 2002. 231 pp. (ISBN 0-333-97038-1).



All through the 1990s Japan and China experienced diverging courses of economic fortune. The economic superpower Japan, following the collapse of its stock and real estate markets, went through a decade of enduring economic stagnation and most of Japan's industry has not been able to keep pace with the high growth and rapid productivity gains of its main competitors in the US. In contrast, China has sustained high economic growth rates of around ten percent per annum and Chinese firms have gained dominant world market shares in an increasing number of industrial sectors. As a result, China's developmental gap with the leading industrialized countries narrowed substantially, and China has achieved stature as a center of regional political and economic power.

Both in international business and in international economics, it is widely recognized that the current rise of China has wide implications for the international economic and political order in general and for the East Asian region in particular. From this broadly accepted assessment the obvious conclusion follows that Japan, more than any other major industrialized country, is facing the challenge of an economically and politically successful China. China's industry, with its low sales prices and its improving product quality, is set to become a major competitor in global manufacturing products' markets, including the Japanese domestic

market, which is quite a worrying prospect for Japan's economic and political elites. On the macro level, China is challenging Japan as East Asia's center of economic gravity in terms of production and markets. Considering the increasing economic and political importance of China, the crucial question arises: What kind of relationship between Japan and China will evolve? Will it tend to be cooperative or conflictive?

Economic relations between Japan and China have been the centerpiece of the research program of the Economic Section of the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) over the last years, focusing especially on foreign trade, strategic management and human resource development. Hence, this publication brings together up-to-date research by a number of renowned Asian and European scholars and presents documentation, analysis, and an evaluation of the various micro- and macroeconomic aspects of the Sino-Japanese relationship. By elaborating comprehensively on trade, investment, economic cooperation, management activities and strategies, among other topics, the book closes a gap in the landscape of Sino-Japanese literature, which is usually more concerned with history, politics and security. It will certainly prove useful as an essential tool for academics and those doing business in East Asia.

CONTRIBUTIONS: I. Hijiya-Kirschneireit: Foreword · H.G. Hilpert and R. Haak: Introduction · C.H. Kwan: The Rise of China as an Economic Power: Implications for Asia and Japan · H.G. Hilpert: China and Japan: Conflict or Cooperation? What does Trade Data say? · K. Nakagane: Japanese Direct Investment in China: Its Effects On China's Economic Development · D. Bhattasali and M. Kawai: Implications of China's Accession to the World Trade Organization · M. Taube: Japan's Role in China's Industrialization · J. Inada: Japan's ODA: Its Impacts on China's Industrialization and Sino-Japanese Relations · Y. Kameyama: Will Global Warming Affect Sino-Japan Relations? · R. Haak: Japanese Business Strategies towards China – A Theoretical Approach · T. Marukawa: Japanese FDI and China's Industrial Development in the Automobile, Electronics and Textile Industries · Y. Zhu: The Role of the Overseas Chinese in the Sino-Japanese Economic Relationship.

Ulrich Möhwald: **Changing Attitudes towards Gender Equality in Japan and Germany**. München: Iudicium (Japan and Europe. Historical Relations and Comparative Studies), 2002. 146 pp. (A 5) (ISBN 3-89129-870-6).



This book deals with the change and structure of attitudes concerning gender roles and gender equality in Japan and Germany after World War II. Examining the Japanese case gives us insight into long-term processes of changes in gender-related attitudes in highly industrialized societies, because gender-related attitudes have long been the subject of opinion polls, with cross-sectional data for the late 1940s and early 1950s, and time series data since the early 1970s. Nevertheless, in the case of Japan, we have to take into account a number of peculiarities that set her apart from other highly industrialized societies. It is common wisdom that Japanese modernization proceeded from economic, political, social, moral and religious traditions that were quite different from the Western ones, and that have still strongly persisted well into the post-World War II era. We therefore might expect considerable variation if we compare the development of gender-related attitudes in Japan with that in Western societies. Such a comparison, with Germany, is attempted in this work.

The approach adopted in this paper is strictly exploratory. It mainly deals with the exploration of patterns of gender-role attitudes and values on the micro level. Its aim is to understand the processes of change in the two societies, as well as the similarities and differences between them based on the interpretation of empirical evidence. Of particular interest are combinations and mixtures of attitudes and values relat-



ed to gender roles by various population subgroups and the features of these subgroups. In order to gain a broader understanding of the processes of change in gender-related values and attitudes, it first analyzes the long-term development of gender-role attitudes in postwar Japan based on the results of various Japanese opinion polls. Then it undertakes an analysis of the items related to gender equality in the 1991 survey by the German Institute for Japanese Studies. The fourth section deals with the development and structure of gender-role attitudes in Germany, mainly based on the data from the German General Social Survey and the 1988 *ISSP Survey* on 'Family and Changing Gender Roles.' Finally, it compares Japanese, West German and East German gender-role consciousness, based on the German and Japanese data of the 1994 *ISSP Survey*.

Harald Suppanschitsch; Jürgen Stalph: Japanische Sprache und Schrift. Eine Bibliographie des in deutscher Sprache veröffentlichten Schrifttums. Mit zwei Anhängen: I. Rezensionen, II. Ainu-Sprache [Japanese Language and Script. A Bibliography of Material Published in German Language. 2 Appendices: I. Reviews, II. Ainu Language]. München: Iudicium (Bibliographische Arbeiten aus dem Deutschen Institut für Japanstudien der Philipp Franz von Siebold Stiftung; 7), 2001, x/360 pp. (ISBN 3-89129-399-2).



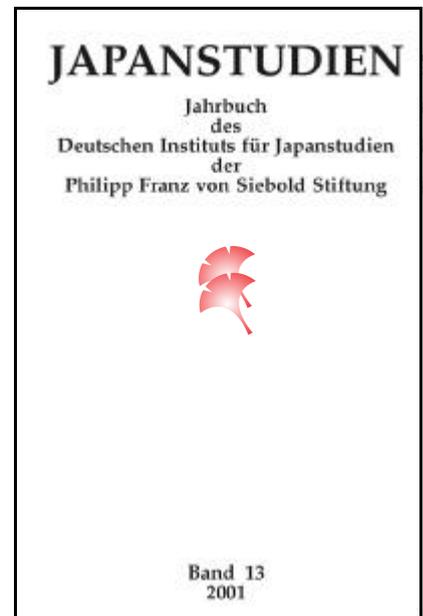
Listing 2,150 titles in alphabetically arranged categories, this bibliography presents an overview of works in German on the subject of Japanese, including aspects as wide-ranging as the pho-

netics of old Japanese and the semiotics of modern T-shirt-slogans. Listing everything that appeared between 1794 and 2000, this bibliography, together with *Dictionaries and Glossaries: A Partially Annotated Bibliography of Japanese-German and German-Japanese Works of Reference* (Bibliographical Series, vol. 5), attains the first complete coverage of German-language publications on Japanese. The bibliography is indexed by title, author and subject. The appendices offer some 300 pertinent book-reviews and 62 works on the Ainu-language.

Japanstudien – Jahrbuch des Deutschen Instituts für Japanstudien der Philipp Franz von Siebold Stiftung, Band 13 [Japanstudien – Yearbook of the German Institute for Japanese Studies, Volume 13]. München: Iudicium 2001, 539 pp. (ISBN 3-89129-376-3).

In December 2001, volume 13 of the DIJ yearbook *Japanstudien* was published. This year's volume focuses on the topic „Living Conditions in Japan: Markets, Lifestyles, Forms of Dwelling“. Housing and living conditions not only reflect basic human needs, they also are an expression for the complex and varied lifestyles in a society and culture. Economic, social, demographic and environmental developments have brought along significant changes in terms of lifestyles and forms of dwelling – changes which are receiving growing academic attention and are reflected, for instance, in the increase of research in the field of urban studies. The eight contributions in volume 13 of *Japanstudien* relating to the major topic discuss such questions from a multi- and inter-disciplinary perspective and approach a wide range of issues related to changing forms of living and lifestyles in Japan. Moreover, *Japanstudien* includes five articles on various other topics, as well as ten book reviews of German, English and Japanese publications.

CONTRIBUTIONS: I. Hijiya-Kirschner: Vorwort [Foreword] · H. Conrad und S. Saaler: Wohnen in Japan: Markt, Lebensformen, Wohnverhältnisse [Living Conditions in Japan: Markets, Lifestyles, and Forms of Dwelling] · S. Teasley: Nation, Modernity and Interior Decoration: Uncanny Designs in the 1922 Peace Commemoration Tōkyō Exposition Culture Village Houses · R. Mathias und K. Schmidpott: Wohnverhältnisse der städtischen Mittelschicht 1905–1970: Bilder und Wirk-



lichkeiten [Living Conditions of the Urban Middle Class 1905–1970: Ideals and Realities] · C. Brumann: *Machiya* vs. *manshon*: Notizen vom Kyōtoer Häuserkampf [*Machiya* vs. *manshon*: Analyzing Kyōto's Townscape Disputes] · W. Klausner: Anders Wohnen auf der Etage – neue Entwicklungen im japanischen Wohnungsbau [“Living Differently”: New Trends in Japanese Apartment Development] · C. Hein: *Toshikeikaku* and *Machizukuri* in Japanese Urban Planning: The Reconstruction of Inner City Neighborhoods in Kōbe · U. Nennstiel: Singles in Japan: Motor gesellschaftlicher Veränderungen, Protagonisten neuer Lebensformen? [Singles in Japan: Engines of Social Change and Protagonists of New Forms of Living and Dwelling?] · K. Fujita: Urban Development and Financial Centers in the Global Economy: Tōkyō, Frankfurt and New York · G. Vogt: Alle Macht dem Volk? Das direktdemokratische Instrument als Chance für das politische System Japans [“All Power to the People”? The Instrument of Direct Democracy as an Opportunity for Japan's Political System] · F. Robaschik und N. Yoshino: A Comparative Analysis of the Japanese and the German Public Banking Systems · M. Koch: Neubewertung der Kernenergie in Japan zu Beginn des 21. Jahrhunderts? [Reconsidering Japan's Nuclear Policy at the Beginning of the 21st Century] · D. Chiavacci: Die soziale Konstruktion des japanischen Reisemarktes in der Edo-Zeit [The Social Construction of the Japanese Travel Market During the Edo Period] · O. Loidl: Anmerkungen zu Yamana Jirō (1864–1957) und seinem Konzept der “Gesellschaftserziehung” [Notes Concerning Yamana Jirō (1864–1957) and his Concept of “Social Education”] · REZENSIONEN [BOOK REVIEWS].

Kan-Nihonkai Gakkai Dai-7-kai Gakujutsu Kenkyū-taikai

(Toyama, 10/11 November 2001)

The 7th International Symposium of the Association for the Japan Sea Rim Studies (Kan-Nihonkai Gakkai Dai-7-kai Gakujutsu Kenkyū-taikai) took place in Toyama on 10 and 11 November 2001. The Association for the Japan Sea Rim Studies was founded in 1992 in order to deal with questions of regional integration and cooperation and to promote academic and cultural exchange between countries and regions around the Japan Sea.

This year's symposium consisted of 4 panels (history and exchange, foreign policy and diplomacy, economics, and the environment) with 22 presentations by Japanese, Korean, Chinese and Russian scholars. The keynote speech with the title "Regional Exchange in North-East Asia in the New Millennium" was delivered by Chi Myong-kwan, board director of the South Korean broadcasting station KBS, president of the Japan-Korea Cultural Exchange Council and Director of the Institute of Japanese Studies of Hallym University in South Korea. Chi emphasized the increasing need for exchange on the non-statist level in view of current events, such as the renewed history textbook debate, which threatened to damage exchange and bilateral relations in the region. According to Chi, however, civil society appears to have prevailed, and the recovering exchange activities already have led to a new climate of peace and cooperation in Northeast Asia.

Sven Saaler represented the DIJ on the conference and gave a presentation in the panel "History/Exchange" about "The 'German Advance to the East' as a turning point for Japan's foreign policy during World War I," in which he interpreted Japan's Siberia policy of 1917/18 as the first example of a Japanese attempt to build a regional hegemony in the region around the Japan Sea, thereby tracing the origins of this effort to the Taishō period.

The interdisciplinary and internationally organized symposia of the Association for the Japan Sea Rim Studies are usually well received and contribute to the deepening of regional exchange. One-hundred fifty researchers, mainly from Japan, Korea and China, attended this year's conference.

Philologies and Area Studies – Responding to the Challenges of Change

(Kyōto, 10 December 2001)

One generation ago, classical national philologies such as Germanistik (German language and literature studies), Romanistik (Romance languages and literatures studies) or Anglistik (English studies), but also East Asia-related disciplines such as Japanology and Sinology have opened up, after a partially painful process of identity negotiations, in the direction of a number of new approaches and methodologies such as structuralism, Marxism, sociological and psycho-analytical theories. The adaptation of these approaches differed from field to field. Thus, German language and literature studies had to attempt at "overcoming" its orientation within national categories as a consequence of an ideology-critical discussion of its history, whereas in Romance philology, a semiotic orientation became dominant. In some cases, the authority of native speaker philology was critically questioned.

In spite of all regional, national and disciplinary differences, however, one aspect persisted as a common basis beyond challenge, i.e., the central role of language command and thus of knowledge of text. The canon, too, in spite of or even because of it being constantly criticized, continued to exist as a topic to be discussed.

During the past decade or so, in which these disciplines were submitted to a wholesale redefinition, both of these preconditions became obsolete. Neither in cultural nor in post-colonial studies does language acquisition play a central role. Likewise, the canon is no longer criticized but is simply abandoned. The corpus of texts, formerly the object of subtle and complex hermeneutic operations, gives way to other forms of expression such as fashion, cityscapes, film, gender-specific discrimination, racisms, etc. As a vague tendency we may diagnose a withdrawal from the fad of sociologization towards a predominance of "cultural" studies. Anything goes, with the exception, it seems, of linguistic entanglements. Thus, a distancing from languages appears to be an irreversible development in former philological disciplines, albeit in combination with a growing hegemony of English.

Against this backdrop of problems, a symposium planned and moderated by social philosopher Mishima

Ken'ichi (Ōsaka University) was dedicated to an exchange of information and experience in order to draw a more differentiated picture of the situation in various cultural, regional and disciplinary contexts. This should serve as a basis for theoretical considerations aiming at a new profile for the former philologies. The first part of the symposium therefore thematized the present state of a number of disciplines. Commonalities as well as differences were outlined. Mishima, in his introductory remarks, ironically titled "From the perspective of a non-member of the trade," presented a number of mercilessly penetrating observations on tendencies of decentering and defocusing in the former philologies during what he called the "permanent transition period" of present times. In his contribution titled "The intercultural dimension of cultural studies in foreign language philologies. Concepts, methods, and perspectives of development," Hans-Jürgen Lüsebrink (Universities of Saarbrücken and Montréal) presented theoretical proposals as to how to confront the aporias and challenges of de-nationalization, de-territorialization and globalization in contemporary societies and cultures. From the perspective of General and Comparative Literature Studies, Josef Fürnkäs (Keiō University) pleaded, "For a transcultural study of literature – How a new approach in the study of literature can be developed from the anticipated death of national philologies". Irmela Hijiya-Kirschnereit (DIJ Tōkyō, Freie Universität Berlin) sketched "Tendencies of language abandonment in Western (or German) Japanology and Sinology," highlighting the internal discussion of the field which can be read even from such details as the various new denominations of the respective fields. She also hinted at some of the problematic consequences of an adaptation to relatively short-term demands from 'society' and the positioning of the field in the academic landscape. Engelhard Weigl (Universities of Adelaide and Tōkyō), in his statement on "Tendencies of language abandonment in Australian studies of German language and literature" made the surprising observation that in spite of a continuous but quiet reduction of the field, a re-orientation hardly seems to be taking place. In contrast to this situation, Ōnuki Atsuko (Gakushūin University, Tōkyō), in face of the death of conventional German studies, stressed Japanese efforts at a radical re-construction of the field in the context of European studies, as well as within a new theoretical framework.



The second part of the symposium, which took place at the Goethe Institute Inter Nationes Kansai in Kyōto with an audience of mostly academic specialists, was dedicated to an in-depth panel discussion. At the outset, Takahashi Teruaki (Rikkyō University, Tōkyō), President of the Japanese Society for German Studies, gave a general comment on all the papers. The discussion revolved around the change of self-definition in the respective fields, their relationships to the public, and the pragmatic consequences of present developments. In a lively debate, theoretical concepts formed one cluster of topics, while questions of the politics of academia as well as practical problems in connection with the function of language teaching were also thematized. The discussion opened into considerations for a re-configuration of textual studies as a basic discipline in area studies that will provide a fundamental portal to research on a culture through the “cultural technique of reading”.

Annual Conference of the German Association for Social Science Research on Japan

(Berlin, 13–16 December 2001)

The Annual Conference of the German Association for Social Science Research on Japan (VSJF) was held at the Japanese-German Center Berlin with the title “The Media in Japan.” Among the 143 participants of the conference, four researchers from the DIJ also presented their work in various sections and workshops.

Two workshops were scheduled ahead of the conference itself: the “Second Workshop on Order and Organisation in Japanese Economy,” and “Gender Studies on Japan.” The latter, organised by Ilse Lenz (Bochum), Mae Michiko (Düsseldorf), and Karin Klose (Bochum / Düsseldorf), celebrated its 10th anniversary with the topic of “Concepts of Power and Gender Relations in East Asia.” DIJ researcher Andrea Germer gave a presentation titled “Between Empowerment and Co-optation: Maternalistic Concepts in Japan” which offered a historical and theoretical overview over heterogeneous conceptualisations of maternalist thought, each based on the demand for women’s participation in society.

The main conference offered different viewpoints on issues in “media in Japan,” organised in five sections: cultural studies/media & popular culture, economics, sociology, political science & education, and urban & regional studies. Hanns Günther Hilpert (DIJ) chaired one of the panels on economics. Speakers included Harada Takeshi (Japanese Consulate), Gunther Schnabl (Tübingen/Stanford), Franz Waldenberger (Munich) as well as Andreas Moerke from the DIJ economics section. Moerke argued that a short-term solution of the economic crisis as promised by the Japanese government is impossible because the amount of the “bad loans” is not known, nor were concerted measures taken by the institutions in charge.

In the politics section of the conference, Patrick Köllner (Institut für Asienkunde, Hamburg) discussed the personnel politics of public broadcasting agencies in Germany and Japan, while Verena Blechinger (DIJ) argued that Japanese members of parliament tend to use the Internet for self-portrayal rather than for interactive exchange with their voters.

The next annual conference will take place on 21–24 November 2002 in Wittenberg with the topic “Japan in the 1990s.”

BOOK REVIEW

Bert Becker (ed.): Georg Michaelis. Ein preußischer Jurist im Japan der Meiji-Zeit. Briefe, Tagebuchnotizen, Dokumente 1885–1889 [Georg Michaelis. A Prussian Jurist in Meiji Japan. Letters, Diary Notes, Documents 1885–1889]. München: Iudicium (Eine Publikation der OAG Deutsche Gesellschaft für Natur- und Völkerkunde Ostasiens Tokyo), 2001. ISBN 3-89129-650-9. 678 pp., hardback, € 30,-, SFr 52,-.

Like many other compatriots who served as advisers or teachers in Meiji Japan, Georg Michaelis (1857–1936) would have hardly been remembered in Germany if he hadn’t become Imperial Chancellor for fifteen weeks in 1917. As a young man Michaelis spent almost four years in Japan (1885–1889) teaching German law at the Doitsugaku Kyōkai Gakkō, a private school for higher education based on German sciences. Michaelis’ employment belonged to an era when, after the deci-

sion to model Japan’s first modern constitution on the Prussian constitution, German influence on Japan was increasing.

In later life, Michaelis told his grandchildren that his experiences in Japan had been a decisive preparatory step toward his later career. His letters, mostly to his mother, notes in his diary, and other documents written in those days have been edited by Bert Becker.

Michaelis gives a vivid and extensive account of his impressions of Japan and its people, as well as of his life and work at the Doitsugaku Kyōkai Gakkō, of his contacts within the small German colony in Tōkyō and Yokohama, and of his commitment to the activities of the German protestant church and of the German East Asia Society (OAG). His letters provide firsthand information on the Doitsugaku Kyōkai Gakkō, its German teachers, and their dealings with the school’s Japanese students. Becoming vice-principal of the school in the summer of 1887, Michaelis also contributed effectively towards realizing the acceptance of the German method of education in law. Thus, from 1888 on, the Ministry of Justice employed graduates of the Doitsugaku Kyōkai Gakkō, some of whom became judges without further examinations.

At the same time, in his letters Michaelis proves himself a self-confident representative of the educated classes of Germany. A conservative Prussian nationalist he was convinced of German superiority. With regard to Japan and Japanese he doesn’t restrain himself from mocking comments on this non-Christian, uncivilized nation that, as he repeatedly emphasizes, would never play an important part in Asia. Moreover, his offensive remarks on Jewish people, above all on Prussian jurist Albert Mosse, show a plain anti-Semitic attitude intensified by his envy of Mosses influential position as legal adviser to the Japanese government. Altogether, as the editor rightly points out in his introduction, Michaelis’ thinking and attitude reflect the typical spirit of the time in Germany. The readers may also take into account that the letters were written by an ambitious young man who obviously tried to entertain his widowed and ailing mother with amusing descriptions of his experiences abroad, and who was eager to show what had become of her son.

But through the years Michaelis’ initial poor opinion of Japan gradually changed into better understanding. In the end he developed a certain liking for things Japanese; thus, towards the



end of his stay, he even regretted having to leave the country behind.

While his unpleasant remarks sometimes put one off from reading his informative letters, it is well worth reading Michaelis' reports of his journeys. He is never so enthusiastic about anything Japanese as he is when writing about the country's nature. His detailed descriptions of his journey to Hokkaidō and to the Kuril Islands together with Alexander von Siebold and Julius Scriba are unique and most informative. Michaelis not only describes Ainu and their life, but he also mentions his encounter with the English natural scientist John Henry Leech (Michaelis writes "Leesh"). In this context, it would have been more convenient for the reader if the editor had put the conversions of the Japanese linear measure *ri* into kilometres directly behind the *ri*, rather than adding them to the annotations.

With this volume Becker presents a thoroughly annotated collection of source material. Apart from some inaccuracies regarding historical data on Japan, there are quite a lot of German expressions explained in the annotations, even though they are still used nowadays. Becker's comprehensive introduction includes detailed information on Michaelis and his family as well as additional explanations of Michaelis' account to gain added perspective on his experiences and descriptions.

As a compilation of valuable contemporary documents, this volume is recommended, along with the diary of Erwin Bälz and the collection of Albert and Lina Mosse's letters, to all those interested in German influence on Japan.

(Junko Ando)

OTHER MATTERS/ OUTLOOK

Personnel News

In October 2001, Matthias Hoop became head librarian of the DIJ library. He was a research fellow at the East Asian Institute of Free University of Berlin (1993–97). Recently, he worked as a freelance translator for various magazines, publishing companies, and institutes. Book publication: *Doppelspiel der Narration. Text, Autor und Protagonist in der Erzählung "Kozō no yume" von Tanizaki Jun'ichirō*, 1994.

Dr. René Haak was appointed Economics Group Manager of the German Institute for Japanese Studies in November 2001.

After five years as a research fellow, Dr. Verena Blechinger left the DIJ at the end of January 2002. Dr. Blechinger was also head of the DIJ's Social Science Section from October 1999 and Deputy Director of the Institute from April 2001.

Her areas of research at the Institute were the Japanese political system, especially government-business relations, and political finance. Building on her dissertation on political corruption, she also worked on political reform in Japan. In July 1998, she organized an international DIJ conference in Tōkyō on the topic of "Political Reform in Japan – Entering a New Era of Japanese Democracy?" The papers presented at this conference built the basis of an edited volume on Japanese political reform in the 1990s which will be published in the DIJ Monograph series later this year.

Participating in the DIJ research focus on "Japan in Asia," Dr. Blechinger analyzed the influence of domestic interest groups, especially from big business, on foreign policy decision making processes in Japan. Together with Jochen Legewie, she organized an international DIJ conference in October 1998 on the topic of "Regional Cooperation in Asia." The revised conference contributions were published in the co-edited volume "Facing Asia – Japan's Role in the Political and Economic Dynamism of Regional Cooperation" (DIJ Monograph Series Vol. 24).

Besides co-organizing and participating in various workshops and conference panels on Japanese domestic politics, political finance, and interna-

tional relations, Dr. Blechinger initiated and conducted for four years the *DIJ Social Science Study Group*, a monthly forum for young researchers and Ph.D. candidates in the field of social sciences.

Since October 1999, she has been a visiting lecturer at the Institute of Political Science, Münster University, Germany, where she is teaching regular intensive courses.

Since April 2000, she has been an editorial board member of *Social Science Japan Journal*, a refereed journal jointly published by the Institute of Social Science, University of Tokyo, and Oxford University Press.

After leaving the DIJ, Dr. Blechinger will continue her work on a postdoctoral thesis required for university professorships in Germany (habilitation). In this research, she will explore other dimensions of the relationship between political parties and interest groups. Her research focuses on the transition of longterm ruling parties in opposition. As basis for comparison, she will look at the five parliamentary democracies in the G-8 group of advanced industrialized democracies, Germany, Japan, the UK, Italy, and Canada.

Dissertation Fellows

Michael Wachutka, Japanese Studies, Ph.D. Candidate at Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen: "Iida Takesato (1827–1900) and the 'Great Japan Academic Association' (Ōyashima-gakkai)", November 2001 – October 2002.

Christian W. Spang, History, Ph.D. Candidate at Albert-Ludwigs-Universi-



"Japan's mountain" Mt. Fuji was the center of interest in Prof. Toby's lecture at the DIJ Forum.



ty, Freiburg i. Br.: "Karl Haushofer and Japan. An analysis of the reception of his transcontinental-block theory in Germany and Japan 1909–1945," December 2001 – September 2002.

DIJ Forum

Ronald Toby, Professor of Korean and Japanese history at the University of Tokyo, and Professor of History, East Asian Studies, and Anthropology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: "The Foreign Side of Fuji: Internationalizing the Mountain in Early-Modern Discourse" (13 December 2001).

J. Victor Koschmann, Professor of Japanese History at Cornell University: "Hakone Conference Revisited: Modernization and the Civil Society School in Postwar Japan" (21 February 2002).

Social Science Study Group

As Dr. Verena Blechinger has left the institute at the end of January, the DIJ Social Science Study Group she founded will be continued by Dr. Harald Conrad und Dr. Isa Ducke. As before, the study group is scheduled for every last Wednesday of the month at the DIJ. It is meant as an informal forum for young scholars and Ph.D. candidates in the field of Social Sciences. Please refer to the DIJ homepage for the current program.

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