Thoughts on a Theory of Japanese-Western Cultural Contacts

by Stefan Höppe

There comes a time when habitual modes of thinking and perception become obsolete, giving way to new modes which may not necessarily be any better. Since Edward Said published his book *Orientalism*, the given wisdom in intellectual circles has been to reject all forms of the exotic and instead to look closely at the nature of the rose-tinted glasses which once made the other seem different and exotic. For good reasons, the idea of the “end of exoticism” has even been raised. Today the “other” is so clearly internalized, to the extent that it can no longer be located externally; and anyone who still tries to find it on the outside ends up only gazing into a mirror from which his own self grimaces back. The de-alienation of the other coincides with the de-alienation of the self because we live in a world which has lost its dimension of beyond or the other. This other, the once threatening difference that pervaded the familiar world of the self from the position of an impregnable realm beyond, has been transformed to being just an abstract, general sense of longing or fear, and in this pacified form it is the subject of countless seminars, workshops and symposia. It is potentially familiar and it practically embraces hermeneutic approaches, no longer offering any resistance. A new ideological battle cry has recently been allied with the wish to keep the form of the other as abstract as possible. This is the concept of “globalization”, which now threatens to take over from the idea of the “end of exoticism”. “Globalization” is the new magic formula because it bids farewell to colonial man and sets up a post-colonial view that now recognizes only one single colony: the world as a whole. Whereas colonial thinking was ethnocentric and suffered a growing guilty conscience in the past, post-colonial thinking works in terms of an imaginary center of world events which allows all the other, regional centers to appear decentralized. All of these centers are held together by international political and economic structures and are subsumed into the global body, and a regional center is only permitted to exist in so far as it does not hinder the functioning of the global body to which it belongs. At the same time the mass media guarantee that the whole world is always present at any given place. Now Zimbabwe can be adjacent to Cambodia and the Japanese archipelago can be directly in the Gulf of Mexico. The order in which the regions are presented to the viewer in a television program, for example, takes precedence over their real geographical location. In reality there is now only the panoramic whole and the perception of the one individual who is in a position to be Eurocentric, Japanocentric, Arabocentric or all of these together just as he pleases. From the point of view of the individual the other is read-

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Toppo Yoshifuji, 1861: A Sumo wrestler in Yokohama defeats a foreigner who claimed to be invincible.

ily available, and it is a matter of per- sonal taste or interest as to what con- crete shape of the other is bestowed on the acts of understanding, penetration or embodiment.

The arbitrariness of the concrete other is evident both in the multiculturalism debate and in textbooks on world economic relations, and it de- rives from an individualization of the act of understanding the other. Today the view is no longer towards the dif- ference of the other but rather to- wards the emotional make-up of one’s own culture or person. The hermeneutic structure of an under- standing of the other has become so individual as a result of the work done by the cultural sciences, and particularly by ethnologists, and it now substantially determines real- world encounters with the other be- yond any ultra-nationalist grudges. But this approach is gradually being replaced by another, the approach of tourism, which is the basis to the way in which the mass media and the ad- vertising industry deal with the other. Tourism has transformed the other into the goal of a journey and has turned the concrete forms of the other (indigenous peoples, traditional non- European art, ethnic customs etc.) into tourist attractions in which what was once autochthonous has been re- duced to just an experience which follows for the paying onlooker. The mass media and tourism have also opened up an awareness of the variety of peo- ples and cultures to a public which extends far beyond the specialist. It is no longer necessary to undertake time-consuming travel or reading in order to bring the “exotic” (that was once a privilege) into closest proxim- ity. The other culture is no longer se- pesent of the other, its de-alienation. The particularity of the other, its aura of national or cultural particu- larities. What remains afterwards is the event of direct contact with the “Jap- anese”. The concrete character of the first direct encounter with the other, “Japanese”, cannot be regained retro- spectively. This is the hidden origin of all those traces that have been left behind by cultural contact to this day, and also of the hollow vestiges of a utopia which underlay later attempts to give the geographical name “Ja- pan” a significant background and to clothe it as a term denoting the aura of national or cultural particu- larities. What remains afterwards is only the staging and restaging of this “first time”, when the other was still unmediated and unfamiliar. What re- mains is an ever more complex series of mediations of the supposedly dif- ferent with what is supposedly one’s own. It is necessary to deconstruct this staging and restaging and this series of mediations by means of texts and historical facts. At the same time a perspective on the history of the cultural contact adhered at a given time, and also of structural changes which can be observed over time. One of these changes concerns the increasing ab- sence of the other, its de-alienation.

Cultural mediators such as Engel- bert Kaempfer (1651–1716) or Philipp Franz von Siebold (1796–1866) brought knowledge of Japan to Eu- rope even during the period of nation- al seclusion, and knowledge about Europe reached Japan as a result of trade relations with Holland, and thus both a Western image of Japan and a Japanese image of the West clearly ex- isted. The first Japanese-Western cul- tural contacts after 1853, however, was characterized by a sudden and unexpected understanding and were thus not cor- respondingly reflected upon. Rather they took place as a direct experience. The other was suddenly there, and it was no longer something of a categorical imperative in the West, known as Japonism, had its counterpoint in Japan in a fashionable enthusiasm for everything Western. People dressed like the exotic other and assumed its lifestyle, becoming surrounded by the accessories of the other everyday culture. This was cul- tural contact as crossdressing. “Exoti- cism” initially means nothing more than the wish to move beyond oneself and to change into something different – at the level of fashion just as at the level of knowledge and learning. Mimick- ing the other is probably the most ob- vious attempt to tame the difference of the other. The disparticularization of exotic behavior comes only with a much lat- er stage of reflection on the cultural contact, when it was understood how the other has become a firm cliché and has en- tered into opposition, or even into ir- reversible distance, to the clichés of the other culture and national identity. A striking example for this stage of reflection are the Nihonjinron discourses, which have led Japanese- Western cultural contact into a chain of dichotomies. The predominant con- cept of difference here is purely theo- retical and has nothing in common with real-world experience.

The basic supposition of an anti- hermeneutic theory of understand- ing the other would state that cross- dressing is historically the first stage of a cultural encounter and the recip- rocal assignment of identity is the last, being the point at which the oth- er has disappeared behind the cliché that has been made of it and is no longer present as a concrete encoun- ter. The “presence of the other” means that the encounter still has the character of an event, albeit increas- ingly mediated, but the trace of that “first time”, when the other still seemed unfamiliar, remains. The cli- ché, on the other hand, absorbs the di- rect cultural contact and makes it possible to conjure up the other with-
out having to meet it. Anyone watch-
ing a television program about Japan
or eating sushi in a Japanese restaur-
ant is dealing with something ready-
made, and with quotations. This is no
different for the Western tourist in
Japan who looks at a Japanese temple
as if it were the photograph from his
travel guide. The shock of the direct
encounter is missing, that direct
throw of a stone into water, which
leads to circles of ripples. Where the
ripples come to a standstill, the quiet
waters of re-presentation set in, and
the event of cultural contact enters
stasis and no longer deserves to be
called “cultural contact”. Cultural
contacts must have the character of
events by definition.

Between 1995 and 1998 a team from
the East Asian Seminar at the Freie Univer-
sität Berlin, led by Professor Irmela
Hijiya-Kirschnereit, produced an an-
notated bibliography entitled “Kultur-
beziehungen zwischen Japan und dem
Westen seit 1853” [Cultural Relations
between Japan and the West since 1853]. I have written this article to coin-
cide with the publication of this bibli-
ography, with the aim of briefly sketch-
ing my thoughts on a general theory of
cultural contact, and to identify two
criteria which were significant for the
members of the team when selecting
the texts to be annotated. The question
as to the core structure of the other relates to the subject of a
text, and the question as to the degree
of reflection relates to the text type. As
far as the first point is concerned, we
included texts about the Nitenjutsu
discourses, but not the discourses
themselves, although it would have
been possible to find material on the
history of Japanese-Western cultural
contact there. As far as the second
point is concerned, we only included
texts which either describe an actual
instance of cultural contact or look at
general laws and habits in Japanese-
Western cultural contact. Texts which
themselves play a part in the event
character of cultural contact (travel
writing, novels etc.) were not included.
Since this means that the actual core of
an anti-hermeneutic theory of under-
standing the other, the performative
nature of intercultural encounter, was
not significant in our choice of texts,
the bibliography contains nearly no
theoretical entries. But perhaps I was
able to show in this short article how
necessary such approaches are and
what is to be gained from making the
concept of cultural contact and not the
understanding of the other culture the
centerpiece of theoretical considera-
tions.

Irmela Hijiya-Kirschnereit (ed.): Kulp-
turbeziehungen zwischen Japan
und dem Westen seit 1853. Eine
annotierte Bibliographie [Cultural
Relations between Japan and the West
since 1853; An Annotated
Bibliography]. München: judicum
1999 (= Bibliographical Series, Vol.
6) xxiv/1173 pp. (ISBN 3-89129-
398-4)

CURRENT RESEARCH

Changes in the Japanese Pension System

Japan’s social security system faces a
rapidly aging population, increasing
unemployment among the elderly, the
individualization of life-style patterns
and a ballooning public sector debt.
Frequently, the “privatization of social
security” is regarded as the best solu-
tion to these challenges. In light of the
ongoing reform discussion, Harold
Conrad from the Social Science Sec-
tion at the DJJ focuses on the current
changes within the Japanese pension
system. The latest pension reform,
which passed the Diet in March this
year, and the planned introduction of
new occupational 401(k)-pension plans next year will have enormous
consequences for the well-being of
pensioners in the coming years. In or-
der to assess these effects, the recent
pension reforms must be evaluated in
terms of their impact on the sustaina-
bility of pension finances, minimum
income adequacy, distributive effects
and economic efficiency. The results of
this research will be available in Eng-
lisht in autumn 2000.

Alienizing Asia: Assertions of Cultural
Uniqueness in Japan, China and Korea

There has emerged over the past two
decades in East Asia, as well as in other
regions such as the Islamic world, a
tendency to assert or reassert a sense of
local identity clearly demarcated from
that of the West. These efforts are, with-
out exception, bound to a notion of dif-
ferent values, but comparisons are nor-
mally undertaken not so much to gain
greater self-knowledge or anthropo-
logical awareness but to promote the
“values” themselves. In present-day
China, for example, cooperation be-
tween the Communist Party and the
“Neo-Confucians” is becoming ever
closer, and in Japan, politicians, admin-
istrators, and leading intellectuals refer
to their discretion to the “ancient Japa-
nese” or “Asian” modes of thought.
Similar developments can be wit-
nessed in Korea. Some of the central
concepts within these discourses are as
follows: Asian “inwardness” versus
Western “outwardness”; family ori-
entation, filial piety and subordination
within a hierarchy versus the cold
frontier that the West maintains.

The project proposes to do com-
parative research on the above devel-
opments in various societies (begin-
ing with China, Japan, and Korea,
then possibly extending into South-
east Asia and the Islamic world). The
focus will be on the various discours-
es of the past twenty years. How have
they been constructed? How are and
have they been mediated through
politics and the media from a purely
intellectual level to that of everyday
discourse? Which organizations exist
or have been formed to pursue the
goals of cultural self-assertion? What
must also be considered is the phe-
nomenon of the “double audience”,
the different attitudes presented by
certain intellectuals inside or outside
their countries, as well as the inter-
play between defensive and offensive
definitions of culture etc. Questions
of methodology will also be granted
particular attention.

The project, to run for four years,
was devised by Michael Lackner (Si-
nology, Universities of Göttingen and
Erlangen), Mushima Koji’chi (Social
Philosophy, University of Ōkaga), and
Irmela Hijiya-Kirschnereit (Japanolo-
y, DJJ). It will be supported by a re-
search grant from the Japan Society
for the Promotion of Science (JSPS).
The project is part of the DJJ’s special re-
search focus of “Japan in Asia”.

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**DIJ Events**

**DIJ Economics Workshop**

Economic Relations between Japan and China: Current State and Perspectives
(Tokyo) 15 June 2000

During a half-day workshop the DIJ Economic Section presented the initial results of this year’s primary research topic “Japan and Chinese re-
lations”. The discussion addressed Ja-
pan’s economic relations with main-
land China. This is a very timely issue considering the expected acceptance of China as a member of the WTO. The issue also fits well into the general DIJ
project of “Japan in Asia” and the on-
going research focus of the DIJ Eco-

nomic Section on the internationaliza-
tion of Japan’s economy.

Hanns Günther Hilpert started the workshop with a macro-economic analysis of Japanese-Chinese eco-
nomic relations. He demonstrated the
already high level of integration and
intensity of this relationship by refer-
ring to trade and investment ties. Jörg
Raupach-Sumiya followed with a dis-
cussion of potential economic rivalry
and increased competition between
companies of both nations. He devel-
oped industry-specific scenarios for a
growing Chinese competitive threat in
selected industries. Teijima Shigeki,
Professor of Economics at the Nisho-
gakusha University, Tokyol an-
alyzed structural and regional fea-
tures as well as future perspectives of
Japanese foreign direct investment in
mainland China in the manufacturing
industries. Jochen Legewie talked
about the organization and manageri-
al coordination of Japanese subsidiar-
ies in mainland China with a focus on
human resource management. René
Haak presented the results of his em-
pirical study of Japanese-German
business cooperation in third coun-
tries by using China as his case. He
pointed out problem areas and future
trends.

The 35 participants from the aca-
demic and the business community en-
gaged in a lively and somewhat
charged discussion that revealed the
high level of interest and explosive na-
ture of this subject. An issue that
aroused particularly heated debate was
the question of whether Japan and
China are heading toward increasing
confrontation and rivalry, or whether
the forces of growing economic inte-
gration and mutual interdependence
will deepen cooperation and a wealth-

**DIJ Lecture Series**

Wirtschaftsbeziehungen zwischen
Japan und China: Perspektiven für
die Zeit nach dem WTO-Beitritt Chinas
(Economic Relations between
Japan and China: Perspectives for
the Period Following China’s Entry
to the WTO)

(Barlin, 30 August 2000)

DIJ in cooperation with the Japa-
nese-German Center Berlin (JDZB)

China in the WTO: Strategies deut-
scher und japanischer Firmen im
WTO (Doing Business in China: A
Comparison of Strategies by Ger-
man and Japanese Firms)

(Hamburg, 31 August 2000)

DIJ in cooperation with the German
Asia-Pacific Business Association
(OAV)

In these presentations, the Economics
Section of the DIJ presented the results
of current DIJ research on Japan in
Asia that focuses on China to a broad
audience in Germany. The DIJ, in co-
operation with local organizations,
held two half-day symposia in Berlin
and Hamburg. Cooperating organiza-
ations included the Japanese-German
Center Berlin (Japanisch-Deutsches
Zentrum Berlin), the Hamburg Cham-
ber of Commerce (Handelskammer
Hamburg) and the German Asia-Pa-
cific Business Association (Ostasia-
tischer Verein). At all events, the lec-
tures of the DIJ researchers Jochen
Legewie, René Haak, Hanns Günther
Hilpert and Jörg Raupach-Sumiya
were complemented by presentations
by other researchers and representa-
tives from the business community
in Hamburg: Tim Hüren, Bayer AG; Eu-
gen Teske, Ernst Komrowski & Co.; in
Berlin: Hattori Kenji, China-Japan In-
vestment Promotion Organization; Kino-
shtoa Toshibko, Waseda Univer-
sity). In Berlin, the former German
Ambassador to China, Konrad Seitz,
also commented on the presentations.

**DIJ Publications**

Junko Ando, Die Entstehung der Mei-
ji-Verfassung. Zur Rolle des
deutschen Konstitutionalisms im
modernen japanischen Staats-
Wesen. [The Origins of the Mei-
ji Constitution: the Significance of
German Constitutionalism for the
Modern Japanese State], München: Jü-
tidium 2000 (= DIJ Monograph
Series, Volume 27), 273 pp. (ISBN 3-
89129-508-1)

In the current debate about revisions to
the Japanese constitution, references to
US prescription are often made. These
are reminiscent of the way the Meiji
constitution has been judged to be a
mere adoption of the Prussian consti-
tution abetted by German legal advi-
sors. The author of the above work,
however, questions this generally ac-
cepted view in her analysis of the re-
sentment and assimilation of so-called
German constitutionalism in the for-
mation and later interpretation of the
Meiji constitution. In her examination
of the constitutional advice offered by
the four most eminent German legal
advisors (Rudolf von Gneist, Lorenz
von Stein, Hermann Roesler, and Al-
bert Mose), Ando draws on sources
which, in part, have hitherto received
little attention from other international
research. It is therefore within the con-
text of her critique of source materials
that Ando offers a reinterpretation of
Roesler’s draft constitution that
counters previous claims by Johannes
Siemes. In addition, Moesse’s contribu-
tion as an advisor during the writing of the Meiji constitution is now made ex-
plicit for the first time.

The four German advisors’ interpre-
tations of German constitutional-
ism reveal not only their commonality but also their considerable differences. Indeed, Roesler and Moesse held quite opposing views, with Roesler a con-
servative monarchist and Moesse a po-
litical liberal. This obviously allowed
the Japanese insight into certain inter-
pretative latitudes within German con-
stitutionalism itself. Certainly, Moesse’s contribution helped ensure that the Meiji constitution was more liberal than it would have been under Roesler’s influence alone. In addition, Ando’s work proves incorrect any no-
tion that the Meiji constitution is sim-
ply a “Prussian clone.” The Japanese had to decide on one of the interpretations presented by the German advisors, and their decision was influenced by their own traditional ideas of power and how to rule: on the one hand, the Con-
fucian concept of tokuchi, and on the other, the views on the nature of imper-
ial rule (tennōkōshin), influenced by the Kokugaku and Mito gaku schools. This is how a constitution came to be written which in form corresponded technically to European standards but which in its interpretation was molded by two ambivalent indigenous concep-
tions of how to govern.

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schen Instituts für Japanstudien der
Philipp Franz von Siebold Stiftung

Band 12 · 2000

CONTRIBUTIONS: I. Hijiya-Kirsch-
nereit: Vorwort [Foreword] · N. Liscu-
tin and R. Haak: Zwischen Burger und
Sushi – Essen und Ernährung im mo-
dernen Japan. Eine Einführung [Be-
tween Burgers and Sushi – Food and
Nutrition in Modern Japan] · K. J.
Cwiertka: From Yokohama to Amster-
dam: Meidi-ya and Dietary Change in
Japanstudien – Jahrbuch der German
Institute for Japanese Studies, Volume 12:
“Between Burgers and Sushi – Food and
Eating in Modern Japan” · T. Aoyama:
Literary Wirklichkeitserfahrungen am Leit-
tafeln des Essens in Sodeki’s Wagahai wa
I am a Cat [I am a Cat] Tells us About
Reality] · T. Aoyama: Literary Daugh-
ters’ Recipes: Food and Female
Subjectivity in the Writings of Sei-ko
Mari and Koë Aya · K. Schmidt-Thom-
hertlichkeitserfahrungen am Leit-
tafeln des Essens in Sodeki’s Wagahai wa
I am a Cat [I am a Cat] Tells us About
Reality] · T. Aoyama: Literary Daugh-
ters’ Recipes: Food and Female
Subjectivity in the Writings of Sei-ko
Mari and Koë Aya · K. Schmidt-Thom-

It is in the light of these new research
agendas in the humanities and the so-
cial sciences that a reconsideration of
the Japanese case promises new in-
sights. Special attention is paid to the
foreign or the Other in this process.

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way that the idea of a nation-state produced the concept of a national language, involving a policy of ho-
mogenization and the “unification of the written and the spoken language” (genbun itchi), literature, above all, fic-
tion was redefined and institutionalized
in new ways. At the same time literary theory and literary history were set up within the newly founded framework of academic institutions and served to formulate notions of a national cultural tradition. These new notions are also highlighted in the paradigmatic study of national reli-
gion and the formation of new media and
art.

It is these areas of intellectual life and culture which formed the focus of attention of an international confer-
ence organized by the editor in coop-
eration with the Japanese-German
Center Berlin as part of a research project of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences titled “Chal-
lenge of the Other” in October 1995, co-
sponsored by the European Science
Foundation’s Asia Committee.

The majority of the papers presented on this occasion are collected in this volume to document a discussion which meanwhile may well be said to have gained momentum.

CONTRIBUTIONS: Irmela Hijiya-
Kirschner: Introduction · Kamei Hidetoshi: The Elements in the For-

mation of Modern Japanese Litera-
ture: The Problem of the Protagonist and Structure · Janet Walker: Visiting Flower Meiko (Famous Places) and the Negotiation of Cultural Identity in Texts by Futabatei Shime and Negai Kafu Michael C. Brownstein: The

Study of Japanese Literature in Mid-
Meiji · Wolfgang Schamoni: The Rise of “Literature” in Early Meiji: Lucky Genres and Unlucky Ones · Tanaka Katsuhiko: The Discovery of a Na-
tional Language (kokugo) in Meiji Ja-
pan · Narita Ryusuke: The World of Shokur Sokai: Yashamaru Yoshio: Na-
tional Religion, the Imperial Institu-
tion, and Invented Tradition – The Western Stimulus · Sakai Naoki: Translation and the Figure of Nation-
al Culture · H. D. Harootunian: En-
during Custom: Memory, Repetition and Aura and the Claims of Native

Knowledge.

The volume is available from the DIJ in Tokyo and from its Berlin office. The nominal fee is € 10 or ¥ 2000, paya-
ble in international reply coupons to be

enclosed in the order.

13th Annual Confer-
ence of the Associa-
tion of Japanese Busi-

ness Studies (AJBS)

(Ôhô/Kanagawa, 9–11 June 2000)

This year’s annual conference of the Association of Japanese Business Stud-
ies (AJBS) took place from 9–11 June and was organized by scholars and staff of Keio University’s new Sho-ken Fujisawa Campus. Around 150 aca-
demics and Japan-oriented economic

management from all over the world convened in the small Pacific coastal town of Ôhô in Kanagawa Prefecture to debate developments in the Japa-
nese economy and problems facing the

Japanese corporate sector. The DIJ, the Society for Japanese Studies (DIJ) was represented with contributions by Jo-
chen Legewie, who talked about the

Americanization of Japan, and Jörg Raupach-Sumiya who presented a paper on the reform of Ja-
pan’s system of corporate governance.

80 papers presented in five parallel tracks covered a wide range of issues within the field of Japanese business and economic studies. Two issues evolved as the central themes of the conference. First, will a new Japanese management model live up to the chal-

lenges of globalization in product and capital markets? And second, can Japa-
nese companies develop a globally oriented strategy for human resource management that will overcome their deficits in respect to internationaliza-
tion? The keynote speaker of the con-
ference, Takahashi Hideaki, the Execu-
tive Vice President of Fuji Xerox Corporation, underlined in a highly impressive manner the relevance of these issues for Japan’s competitive-
ness from the perspective of the busi-
ess community. Still, doubts remain about whether Mr. Takahashi took with him convincing solutions or con-
cepts from this conference. Despite the

large number of well-founded and em-
pirically based analyses, path-breaking designs for a future-minded Japanese management model were in short sup-
ply. Certain deficits in the organization and conception of the tracks and indi-
idual sessions limited the possibility for discussion and exchange – quite of-
ten the themes of the papers in an indi-

vidual session were not related. Also, related papers were presented in parallel

sessions. A little bit more care in respect to the composition of individu-
al sessions would have been desirable. This notwithstanding, the annual AJBS conference again emerged as the trend-
setting site for Japanese business and management studies, a site that regu-
larly brings together experts and schol-
ars to discuss topical developments.

Workshop on the
Chinese-Japanese
Relationship

Swedish Institute for International Affairs and European Institute of

Affairs Studies (Stockholm, 17–19 August 2000)

About 30 researchers of leading uni-

versities and research institutes in Eu-

rope, North America, Russia, China

and Japan participated in this work-
shop on the Chinese-Japanese relation-
ship organized by Marie Söderberg of the European Institute of Japanese Studies, Stockholm School of Econo-

mics. They either presented or dis-

cussed 17 papers in total that were di-

vided into four sections covering historical concerns, external factors, se-

curity issues and economic relations be-
tween China and Japan. This wide range of academic approaches led to lengthy and fruitful discussions cover-

ing various aspects of the past, present

and future of the Sino-Japanese rela-
tionship. Participants differed on the particularities but agreed that in gener-
al, relations between China and Japan will continue to be characterized by el-

ements of rivalry and complementarity. Among the complementary elements, participants predicted that economic aspects are most likely to increase in importance and prevail in the long run. Hanns Günther Hilpert and Jochen

Legewie represented the DIJ by giving

two papers in the economic section.

9th International

Conference of the Eu-

ropean Association for

Japanese Studies (EAJS)

(Lahvi, 23–26 August 2000)

The European Association for Japa-
nese Studies (EAJS) held its triennial
This year’s economic section organized by Art Kokko (Stockholm School of Economics) and Franz Wal- drenberger (Munich University) went far beyond previous EAJS conferences in Budapest and Copenhagen measured in both quantitative and qualitative terms. The papers covered a broad spectrum of topics and were so numerous that they forced the organizers to have parallel sessions. Nearly half of the presentations were given by current (or previous) members of the Ger- man Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) and the European Institute of Japanese Studies, Stockholm School of Economics. Members of the DIJ also were responsible for the two panels within the economic section, “The Business of Families in Japan” (organized by Verena Bleichling, DIJ, and Friederike Bosse, Institute of Asian Af- fairs, Hamburg) and “Japan-China Relations” (organized by the economic section of the DIJ). Overall, the discussion showed that the Japanese economic and business model has lost much of its strength. Yet despite the strong need for organizational changes in Japanese firms, such changes can be seen only recently and only in some areas.

In the section “Anthropology and Sociology”, Susanne Kreutz-Sandberg (DIJ) presented a paper at a panel on “Central State Control and Subver- sive Strategies Among Children and Youths for Dealing with the Education- al System and Creating Space for Themseleves”. This is a very important book for international trade policy, in particular for bilateral American-Japanese trade policy. The reason the book may attract considerable attention among people looking at Japan’s trade lies not only in the unemotional and compre- hensive analysis of Japanese imports, of Japan’s inward foreign direct invest- ments (FDI) and of the American Rela- tionships between Japan and China” (organized by the economic section of the DIJ). Overall, the discussion showed that the Japanese economic and business model has lost much of its strength. Yet despite the strong need for organizational changes in Japanese firms, such changes can be seen only recently and only in some areas.

In the section “Anthropology and Sociology”, Susanne Kreutz-Sandberg (DIJ) presented a paper at a panel on “Central State Control and Subver- sive Strategies Among Children and Youths for Dealing with the Education- al System and Creating Space for Themseleves”.


ists in the US. Second, Japan’s protectionist trade and industrial policy should not be an example to be followed by emerging industrial countries. Third, a more intensive integration of Japan into the world economy is of great importance for international policy.

What can be concluded for practical trade policy from this analysis? At the bottom line Lincoln is not different from other Japan trade experts. He is ultimately at a loss to explain the lack of progress. The current lengthy, tenacious and most difficult process of market opening via the WTO and by bilateral negotiations is without any realistic alternative. However, the trade policy towards Japan could be improved by hiring more experts and planning better public relations.

As a result of economic stagnation in Japan and the new strength of the US economy, bilateral trade conflicts faded in the second half of the nineties. But in a changing environment, such past conflicts may arise again quickly, particularly with record-high trade deficits with Japan in the late nineties. For this likely scenario, this study offers a precise quantitative analysis of the problems of market access to Japan. It also summarizes the basic thinking of American trade policy towards Japan. The weakness of the book is that it overlooks recent change in Japan on the micro-economic level. As the study was apparently finished in 1998, no reference is made to the current restructurings at the firm level or of the dissolution of Japanese company groups (keiretsu). However, industrial restructuring and the upheaval in Japan’s financial markets have improved market access opportunities in Japan by means of cooperation or outright acquisition to a extent that previously could not be imagined. From the perspective of late summer 2000, Edward J. Lincoln might assess market access opportunities for foreign companies in Japan in a somewhat less pessimistic way.

(Hans Günther Hilpert)

Dissertation Fellows


DfJ International Symposium

Japan and Prussia

(October 7 – 8 September 2000)

Prussia, and later a German Reich dominated by Prussia, was both a model and a partner for Japan in the nineteenth century, playing a leading role in many areas of the country’s ambitious modernization program. Since German reunification, there has been renewed interest in the history of Prussia and Brandenburg both within Germany and abroad. Saitama Prefecture has responded, for example, by...
establishing a “twinbed” partnership with the new federal state of Branden- 
burg. Against this background, the DIJ, together with the Japanese-Ger-
man Center Berlin (JDZB), the Ger-
man-Japanese Society Potsdam (DJG), 
and the Konrad-Adenauer-Foun-
dation, Potsdam (KAS), will hold a two-
day international symposium (7–8 
September 2000) to discuss historical 
relations between Japan and Prussia and review the extent of historical re-
search on this subject. What will also 
be examined are the roots to this nine-
teenth century bilateral relationship 
as evidenced in such widely diverse 
areas as science, law, economics, and 
art. The organizers of the symposium 
would expect discussions not to judge 
deterministically (“How the Prussian 
model inevitably led to Hiroshima,” 
for instance) but instead to analyze the 
options which led to cooperation be-
twix between these two countries and how 
these choices affected the course of 
history.

Program
The Acquisition of Japanese Items in 
Prussia in the 17th and 18th Centuries: 
Dr. Claudius MÜLLER (Museum of Eth-
nology, Berlin)

The Reception of Japan in Prussia until 
the mid 19th Century: Prof. Dr. Rein-
hard ZÖLLNER (Erfurt University)

The Prussian Expedition to East Asia: 
Prof. Dr. Bernd MARTIN (Freiburg Uni-
versity)

The Iwakura Mission in Prussia: Dr. 
Ulrich WATTENBERG (GMD, Berlin)

Japan and the Prussian Army: Dr. Ger-
hard KREBS (Berlin)

The Foundation of the Seminar for East 
Asian Languages at the Royal Fried-
rich-Wilhelms University, 1887: Dr. 
Astrid BROCHLOS (Humboldt Uni-
versity, Berlin)

Japan and the Prussian Constitution: 
ANDO Junko (Dusseldorf University)

Japan and Prussian-German Historical 
Studies: Dr. Margaret MEHL (University-
y of Stirling)

Relations between Prussia and Japan in 
the Arts: Dr. Hartmut WALRAEVENS (Na-
tional Public Library, Berlin)

German Missionaries in Japan: Prof. 
Rolf-Harald WITTE (Sophia Universi-
ty, Tokyo)

Wilhelm Hoehn and the Creation of 
Japanese Police Forces: Dr. Herbert 
WORM (Hamburg University)

Japan and the German Expatriate 
Community in Japan, as seen in the 
Reports by Georg Michaelis: Dr. Bert 
BECKER (Konrad Adenauer Founda-
tion, Potsdam)

Prussian-Japanese Industrial and Eco-

comic Relations: Dr. Michael RAUCK 
(Gräfelfingen)

Japan and the Prussian Education Sys-
tem: Jörg MÜLLER (Christian Pedagog-
ic Institute, Eppingen)

The Berlin Architects Ende & Böck-
mann and their Contributions to the 
Planning of the Capital TOKYO Prof. 
HORLICHT Masaaki (Shoka Joshi Uni-
versity, Tokyo)

The Japanese Image of Prussia in His-
torical Perspective: NAKAI Akio 
(Tokyo)

Private Initiatives for the Promotion of 
Economic and Cultural Contacts: An-
nette HACK (Berlin)

(A detailed conference report will be 
published in the next DIJ Newsletter.)

DIJ Social Science Workshop 
(Tokyo, 28 December 2000)

DIJ International Conference 
Japan and China – Cooperation, Com-
petition and Conflict 
(Tokyo, 18–19 January 2001)

For detailed information on the con-
ferences, please consult our website 
(http://www.dijtokyo.org).

DIJ Forum
ISHIDA Hiroshi, Professor, University of 
Tokyo: Class Structure and Social Mo-
bility in Japan and Industrial Nations 
(20 September 2000)

BERND MARTIN, Professor, Freiburg Uni-
versity: A Common Past Full of 
Crimes: Japanese–German Collabora-
tion in the Development of Bacterio-
logical and Chemical Weapons and the 
War in China (17 October 2000)

EZRA VOGEL, Professor, Harvard Uni-
versity: Japan and Asia in the New 
Century (10 November 2000)

Schedule of DIJ 
Events

DIJ Cultural Studies Workshop 
Asiatische Selbstbehauptungsdiskurse 
[Alienizing Asia: Assertions of Cultur-
al Uniqueness in Japan, China and Ko-
rea] 
(Tokyo, 30 November – 2 December 
2000)

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