

## The Oldest Goose

by Florian Coulmas

The Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare found out that, if recent demographic trends persist, there would be just 500 Japanese left in the year 3000. By that time it will probably become difficult to lobby for the continuing existence of DIJ (unless it has joined the ranks of German Historical Institutes abroad). While this may not be the most disquieting effect of the developments we are witnessing at the present time, the prospect provides an additional incentive to study them.

Japan is aging. It has aged noticeably since a few decades ago, and has aged relative to other countries in the region. In the 1940s, Japan's population was young, sporting a median age of just 22. Since then the median age has almost doubled to 42, the highest in the region by a large measure. What horizontal comparisons with other countries (Table 1) and vertical ones with the past (Table 2) reveal is that demographic statistics are a strong indicator of developmental and national well-being. Clearly, the demographic changes Japan experienced over the past six decades tell the story of a remarkably successful society. People don't die during the hazardous first years of their life, they don't die of disease, they don't die of war and violence, they don't die of smoking, alco-

hol and too much fat food, and so they get older by the day. Cannot this go on forever?

Since the beginning of the 1990s, Japan has been in what even optimists call a prolonged crisis. Once extolled as a model to be emulated by others, Japanese capitalism has produced a sluggish economy, a scandal-ridden bu-

23.7 per 1000 in 1950 to 9.2 per 1000 in 2000. The birth rate is now 1.3 births per woman, well below replacement level. Thus democratisation of longevity goes along with depopulation. Is Japan's development since the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, then, a classical case of success breeding its own undoing?

It is not hard to make the case, as some analysts do, that most of Japan's current ills are rooted in the changing age structure of its population. Take the economy, for example. During the 1990s, the working age population stopped growing, and recently began to shrink. Since the size of the work

Year	1950	2000	2050
Median age (years)	22.3	41.3	53.4
Life expectancy (years)	61.6	77.9	83.7
Percentage of 0-40 year-olds	13.4%	4.8%	4.2%
Percentage of the elderly (80 +)	0.4%	3.8%	15.5%
Percentage of the elderly (65 +)	4.9%	19.5%	35.7%

Table 2. Demographic changes in Japan (Source: <http://dataranking.com>)

reaucracy and a political system dominated by special interests; meanwhile demographic trends show no sign of reversal. Average life expectancy grows and the birth rate dwindles. The proportion of the elderly, defined as those aged 65 and over, was stable at about 5% of the total population from 1920, the year of Japan's first national census in modern times, until 1955. Then it started to grow rapidly, reaching 17.3% by the end of the century. In 2050, the elderly will make up more than a third of the population (36.5%). At the same time birth rates fell from

force is a component of gross domestic product, economic slowdown must be attributed, to some extent at least, to demography. The negative effects of a shrinking work force can only be offset by gains in productivity. Further, fewer people means fewer consumers, small-

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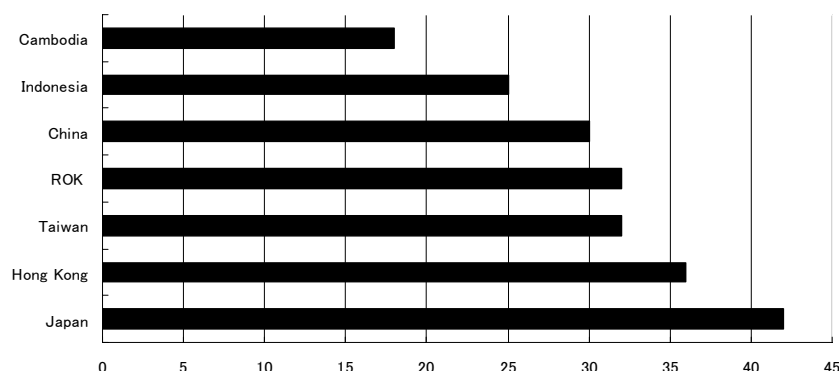


Table 1. Median age of some Asian countries (Source: <http://dataranking.com>)

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er corporate profits, lower tax revenues and, consequently, bigger budget deficits to which growing health-care and pension expenses further contribute. This mix is a formula for what might be called demographic-driven stagnation, if not recession.

Is societal aging becoming too heavy a burden for the economy? More labour import and higher female work-force participation are often mentioned in this connection as possible remedies, but both are problematic. If women work more, birth rates will likely be driven down even further, and more labour migrants will exacerbate the problem of social acceptance, quite apart from the fact that they, too, will grow old.

What seems clear is that old ways of thinking and doing must be abandoned; but is a 'hyper-aged' society (Makoto Atoh) capable of breaking out of the treaded path? It is often assumed that a society's high median age correlates negatively with its innovative energy. Intuitively this makes sense because the elderly are known to prefer time-tested ways to experiments. However, there is no evidence to support inferences from aging individuals to aging societies. Also we don't know whether there is any correlation between a population's age structure and its innovation potential, let alone whether there is an ideal age structure with respect to innovation. Today's knowledge society both fosters and requires a different age structure than industrial and agrarian society. Is there an ideal mix of experience and curiosity for managing intergenerational knowledge transfer in aging societies? This may be one of the key questions that must be answered in order to secure Japan's continuing welfare.

Already teachers are younger than students in certain sectors of education, a trend that is bound to accelerate. What does this imply for the relationship between generations more generally? In a society in which for centuries the young deferred to the elderly, any change affecting the seniority principle, be it in the family, at the workplace, in political organisations, or in education, will have complex consequences pertaining to the entire social fabric. Japan is one such country, but not the only one.

Demographic issues that have come to prominence here are on the horizon in other East Asian countries, too. The flying-geese model (*sangyō hatten no gankō keitairon*), originally introduced in the 1930s by economist Kaname Akamatsu (1896–1974), has long inspired research about catching-up economies in East Asia. It has lost

some of its lure since Japan has been overtaken by other East Asian economies in terms of growth rates. However, it may yet find new and unexpected applications. Japan is ahead of its neighbours demographically, but other Asian countries are moving in the same direction. Before long Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and then China will be confronted with problems similar to those Japan has to tackle now. If only for that reason, the various economic, political and educational strategies Japan develops to deal with its own aging are a matter of urgent interest to many. At DIJ we will keep an eye on them, curious to find out whether the oldest goose can still lead the way.

(Florian Coulmas)

## DIJ EVENTS

### International Conference

#### **The Automobile Industry in Japan and Germany – Strategic Challenges and New Perspectives in the Age of Globalization**

(Tōkyō, 12 October 2004)

The competitiveness of Japanese and German automobile manufacturers and suppliers in recent years has been the subject of intense discussion. As the key sector in both Japanese and German industry, it occupies a significant position in the debate about the capabilities of Japan and Germany as industrial countries and, indeed, about the competitiveness and ability of the Japanese and German industry as a whole



Professor Matsushima (Hōsei University)

to survive in the future. Competition on world markets has become more dynamic over the last ten years, and management in Japanese automobile companies is permanently charged with putting in place strategies that will ensure that their company will lead the market. Certainly automobile companies such as Toyota, Nissan and Honda have delivered clear evidence of their capabilities in recent years.

The demands required from Japanese automobile manufacturers are constantly increasing, particularly their customers' desire for personalized vehicles, and the trend towards ever shorter product lifecycles are making their job increasingly difficult. In recent years, manufacturers have responded by offering many more models and variants of their vehicles. Greater product complexity, together with rapid adjustment to market requirements, demand flexibility implemented with an eye on costs, quality and delivery reliability. The Japanese



Professor Specht (BTU Cottbus)





*Professor Horaguchi (Hōsei University)*

manufacturers are taking all this into account as they pursue strategies to secure and increase competitiveness. They need to use technology and cost leadership to achieve market leadership on both the national and the global marketplace.



*Professor Tachiki (Tamagawa University)*

To examine this, an international conference was held. It was conceived and organized by René Haak (DIJ) and Lorenz Granrath (Fraunhofer Representative Office Japan), in cooperation with the Research Institute of Innova-

tion Management, Hōsei University, and with support from the German Embassy in Japan. At the conference, held in the Sky Hall of the Hōsei University, scholars and managers from Japan, Germany, the United States and Australia discussed aspects of the automobile industry in Japan and Germany – especially the strategic challenges and new perspectives in the age of globalization. Questions addressed included: How is the Japanese automobile industry structured following the significant alliances and take-overs of recent years? Which strategies are the Japanese and German automobile manufacturers pursuing in new and interesting markets like China? How are the component suppliers positioning themselves? Where are their strategic strengths and weaknesses? What are the main problems in the field of technology and production management? The proceedings of the international automobile conference are to be published. You can also find the proceedings at the DIJ homepage (<http://www.dijtokyo.org/>).

## International Symposium

### Recent Developments in the Automotive Supplier Industry in Japan and the EU

(Tōkyō, December 10, 2004)

**G**lobalisation of the transportation manufacturing industry, especially the automobile industry, has led to consolidation and changes in the value chain, leaving only two independent carmakers in Japan and three in Germany.



*Professor Klepzig during his lecture*

Original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) change their purchase practices and alliance strategies, and they focus on a limited number of key suppliers. This process leads to consolidation in the supplier sector, as well as to the relocation of production to low-cost countries. The question, however, is whether this can guarantee the makers' sustainable success because, in the process of relocation, not only short-term cost-cuts but also long-term expenses, such as costs of education, creation of social infrastructures etc. have to be taken into account. Automotive clusters in highly developed countries – as already existing in some European regions, such as the German states of Saarland or Saxony – may still be the better choice for small and medium enterprises to resist the trend of relocation and stay competitive.



*Professor Tsuji talking about the Aichi region*



*Speakers and Listeners*

The symposium on "Recent Developments in the Automotive Supplier Industry" dealt with some of the points mentioned above, not only from a theoretical perspective, but also from the practical standpoint. It was organized by Andreas Moerke (DIJ) together with Fabrizio Mura (EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation) and Christian Blank (Industrial Investment Council) and supported by the Japan Auto Parts Industries Association (JAPIA). In each session, research lectures were accompanied by presentation from practitioners.

The keynote speech was given by Kitani Tetsuo (McKinsey & Company)







*At the reception desk*



*Conversation during the coffee break*

and covered the development of the automotive industry as a whole. Kitani expects a change in the value chain over the next years. This will lead to increased outsourcing of integration work for total systems and modules to suppliers, and development of systems with increasing specific know-how.

The first of the three sessions focused on the relations between OEM and suppliers. Aoki Katsuki (Kantō Gakuin University) presented an in-depth analysis of financial data and drew conclusions for the changing purchase policy of Japan's car makers. Jürgen Bischoff (Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation IPA) gave an overview of a study "Future Automotive Industry Structure 2015" that was conducted by Fraunhofer IPA and Mercer Consultants. One main finding of the study is the expected growth of the supplier industry – although it will differ in different economic spheres. Richard Kracklauer (Sachs Automotive Japan) presented how his company reacts to the changing relations with Japanese car manufacturers.

The second session dealt with relocation of production facilities to low-cost countries, and the effects these relocations have. For Japan, Sei Shōichirō (Kantō Gakuin University) on the one

hand pointed to the danger of the hollowing-out of Japan by outsourcing to China, but stressed on the other hand the opportunity to keep the production in Japan in the case of rationalisation and cost-reduction. Furukawa Sumiaki (Yamaguchi University) presented his research on the situation in Europe, according to which existing production sites experience enormous pressure from those countries that joined the European Union last year. Kawamura Hideaki (Ernst & Young) referred to a study they had made, arguing that China and Eastern Europe will be the growing markets in the next years.

The last session explored the questions of whether industrial clusters can be a new model for

production, and can be a counterbalance to the tendency of relocation. Heinz Jürgen Klepzig (University of Applied Sciences, Augsburg) argued that clusters could be positive for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> tier suppliers, as long as the participating companies are economically stable, and share a common vision on the structure and functioning of the respective cluster. The lecture was followed by a practitioner's speech: Gert Herrmann (previously Takata-Petri) shared with the auditorium the positive experiences his company made in the automotive cluster of Saxony. Tsuji Masaaki (Ōsaka University) added the Japanese perspective, referring to OEM-supplier relationship in the Toyota group and describing the Aichi region as an automotive cluster.

With about 100 listeners from enterprises as well as research institutions, and positive reactions from the listeners, it was concluded that the event was fruitful for both sides. Also does the media coverage – with, for example, an article in a Jiji Press publication – shows that the way chosen to organize the event was widely accepted. To enable a broader range of people with interest in the topic to access the information, the presentations have been uploaded to the DIJ homepage ([www.dijtokyo.org](http://www.dijtokyo.org)).

As a part of the "Germany in Japan 2005–2006" Year, a follow-up event on the automotive supplier industry is planned. For further information, please contact Andreas Moerke ([moerke@dijtokyo.org](mailto:moerke@dijtokyo.org)).

## International Workshop

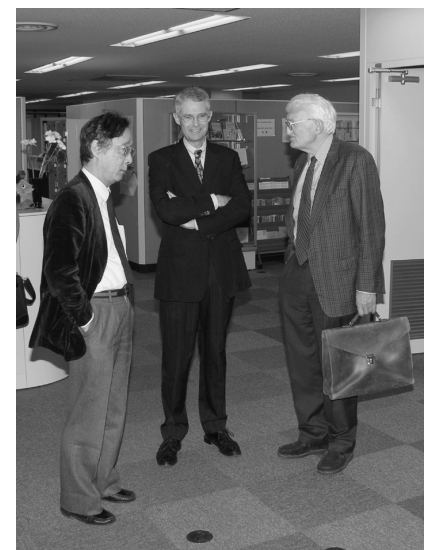
(Tōkyō, November 16–17, 2004)

On 16–17 November, Jürgen Habermas, one of the recipients of the 2004 Kyōto Prize, held a seminar at DIJ. It brought together philosophers and social scientists from China, Korea and Japan to discuss "The Normative Core of Modernity and its Cultural Contextualization."



*Professor Habermas*

The two-day workshop was centered upon Dr Habermas' lecture in which he addressed himself to the seemingly academic question of whether the



*Professor Mishima, Professor Coulmas, Professor Habermas*



Kantian project of the constitutionalization of international law still has a chance. As it turned out, the little word "still" connected the topic with present-day realities. Couched in a learned review of Immanuel Kant's essay, "Toward Perpetual Peace," Habermas discussed a question which, after two hundred years, has lost nothing of its urgency: How can peace be accomplished?

Shall international relations be subjected to a legal regime (as supporters of the United Nations Organization argue) or can a peaceful international order be secured only by virtue of the power exercised by a benevolent hegemon, as super-power politicians (who can and do violate international law with impunity) insist? Habermas' answer was clear. The notion of a unipolar world is misleading. While it accurately reflects the distribution of military and political power in the world today, it fails to appreciate the fact "that the complexity of a differentiated and highly interdependent world society can no longer be mastered from a centre." It is because of these complexities that the Kantian project of the constitutionalization of international law still holds the best hope for peace.

Parts of our intellectual heritage, it became clear from Habermas' lecture, can help us cope with the demands of the present age. The question to what extent this is true and what aspects of tradition continue to be productive was a leitmotif of the six papers that followed, all of which, in one way or another, used Habermas' work as a reference point. They were presented by Cui Xinjian (Beijing), Cao Weidong (Beijing), Yazawa Shūjirō (Tōkyō), Kim Sang-Joon (Seoul), Han Sang-Jin (Seoul), and Mishima Ken'ichi (Tōkyō), the organizer of the workshop.

**Lectures:** Mishima Ken'ichi: Introduction · Jürgen Habermas: The Kantian Project of the Constitutionalization of International Law. Does it Still Have a Chance? · Cui Xinjian: On the Construction of Contemporary Chinese Modernity in the Context of Culture · Cao Weidong: The Historical Effect of Habermas in the Chinese Context – A Case Study of 'The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere' · Yazawa Shūjirō: East Asian Networks in the Informational Age · Kim Sang-Joon: Modernity and (Confucian) 'Moral Politics' · Han Sang-Jin: The Paradoxical Consequences of Modernity and the Quest for a Neo-Communitarian (Post-Confucian) Alternative · Closing Discussion.

## Workshop

### Linguistic Landscaping in Changing Language Regimes – The Case of Japan

(Tōkyō, December 11, 2004)

The aim of the workshop was to discuss how Japan's growing linguistic diversity is reflected by language on signs in the public space. "Verba volant, scripta manent" (Spoken words fly away, written words remain) was the motto with which Florian Coulmas, Director of the DIJ, opened the workshop. He pointed out that the language on a sign instantly tells you where you are on earth. In this sense, the language on a sign is not merely a means of providing information, but is a message itself.

The appearance of languages other than Japanese on public signs in Japan and their implications for the (multi-) lingual state of the nation at the onset of the 21st century were discussed by Shōji Hiroshi, National Museum of Ethnology, Ōsaka (Kokuritsu Minzokugaku Hakubutsukan). He pointed out that the growing visibility of languages such as Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Portuguese in Japanese public spaces are highly indicative of ongoing changes in the hitherto largely monolingual self-image of Japanese society.

Kim Miseon (Kwansei Gakuin University) gave one example of an area's visual linguistic diversification through signs. She discussed the linguistic landscape of Ōsaka's Ikuno Ward, where Korean signs make up an important part of the overall environment. Other topics discussed were official guidelines concerning the use of foreign languages on public signs; the high visibility of English and English-looking expressions on commercial signs; and the importance of Braille signs and textured pavement blocks for visually disabled persons.

The workshop concluded with a presentation by Inoue Fumio (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies). Taking up the underlying notion of change in Japan's language regime, he demonstrated that there are quantitatively measurable tendencies, which work in favour of increased visibility of foreign languages and scripts within the linguistic landscape of Japan.

In general, the workshop revealed that the study of the linguistic landscape is a promising new field of sociolinguistic research, which deserves to be given further attention both in Japan and elsewhere.

## DIJ PUBLICATIONS

René Haak and Dennis S. Tachiki (eds.): *Regional Strategies in a Global Economy – Multinational Corporations in East Asia*. München: Iudicium, 2004 (Monographien aus dem Deutschen Institut für Japanstudien, Bd. 38). ISBN 3-89129-848-X, 294pp., € 41.—



Both proponents and opponents of globalisation assume it is a process that sweeps across national borders. Indeed, over the last twenty years, the key features of globalisation provide prima facie evidence for this conventional wisdom. Dramatic developments in information and communications technology, the rise of global companies and production networks, the unstoppable internationalisation of financial markets, and the deregulation and privatisation of service sectors are all important examples of how this process unfolds in its raw form. Nevertheless, the increase in regional economic activity is another striking feature of this process. As multinational corporations extend their global reach, regional networks also emerge in the global trading system. Globalisation therefore does not only mean a global convolution of economies, but could also lead to a spatial concentration of economic activity. All through the 1990s and at the beginning of the new century, East Asia experienced numerous structural changes leading to interesting market developments. South Korea's rise to developed country status, the integration of the Southeast Asian economies, and the rise of China have made this region the manufacturing centre of the global economy. Considering the economic importance of



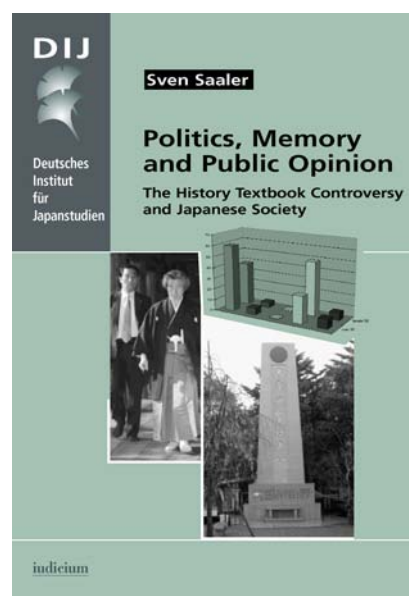


Japan and the other East Asian nations in the world, the crucial questions that arise include: What are the linkages between the global strategies of multinational corporations and their regional business operations? Why do sub regional strategies emerge, especially recently to take advantage of China as a production base and market? Are the modern business practices in a multinational corporation's home country easily transferred to their overseas operations, and do local employees readily absorb them? Finally, which strategic directions are Japanese, American, East Asian and European enterprises going in this crucial world business area? To answer these questions, this book edited by René Haak and Dennis S. Tachiki takes a closer look at several structural features of the East Asian economy and the corporate and business strategies of multinational corporations. The volume assembles up-to-date research by a number of European, Australian and Japanese scholars, and presents analysis of various business aspects of regional strategies in a global economy. It will be a useful tool for students, scholars and managers doing business and research in East Asia.

**Contents:** List of Abbreviations · List of Figures · List of Tables · I. Hijiya-Kirschneit: Foreword · **Introduction** · R. Haak: Strategy and Strategic Management in Multinational Corporations – Terminological and Conceptual Principles · **Regional Strategies** · M. Hess: Global Production Networks – Dealing with Diversity · J. Kurihara: Japan's Electronics Companies – In Search of Strategies for the 'New Economy' Era · U. Schüle: Exchange Rate Fluctuations and Internationalization Strategies of Multinational Companies · **Subregional Strategies** · T. Marukawa: Towards a Strategic Realignment of Production Networks – Japanese Electronics Companies in China · H. Horaguchi: Japanese Foreign Direct Investment in China: From Export-oriented Production to Domestic Marketing · V. Gattai: Entering the Dragon – Lessons from Italian FDI in the People's Republic of China · **Technology Transfer** · A. Blair and C. Freedman: Are Japanese Multinationals Different? – Technology Transfer in East Asia · R. Haak: Market and Technology Leadership in the Chinese Car Industry – Japanese and German Strategies in a Dynamic Environment · D. S. Tachiki: The Globalisation of Information Systems in Japanese Companies – Convergence or Divergence? **Human Resource Management** · C. Hirt: International Human Resource Management Strategies

Emerging from Global Integration and Local Differentiation · T. Bartram, R. Harbridge, B. Tan and D. Smith: The Management of Asian Employees in an American Multinational Companies – The Role of Supervisory Social Support and the Empowerment of Employees · **East Asia** · R. Haak: A View on Changes and Challenges in East Asia · Contributors to this Volume.

**Sven Saaler: *Politics, Memory and Public Opinion. The History Textbook Controversy and Japanese Society*. München: Iudicium, 2004 (Monographien aus dem Deutschen Institut für Japanstudien, Bd. 39) ISBN 3-89129-849-8, 202pp., € 28.—**



This volume explores the political and social backgrounds of the ongoing history textbook controversy in Japan. In Chapter 1, the resurgence of the conservative interpretation of history since the 1990s, known as historical revisionism, is identified as the major reason for the renewed debate. Chapter 2 demonstrates that, as a consequence of a strong connection between revisionism and politics, perspectives on Japan's recent history underlying the "culture of memory" as it is manifested in the public sphere—in memorials, museums and ceremonies—are increasingly similar to those advocated by historical revisionism. This is particularly true regarding the interpretation of the Asia-Pacific War (1931–1945), which in Japan is often depicted as a defensive war or as a war waged for the "liberation" of Asia.

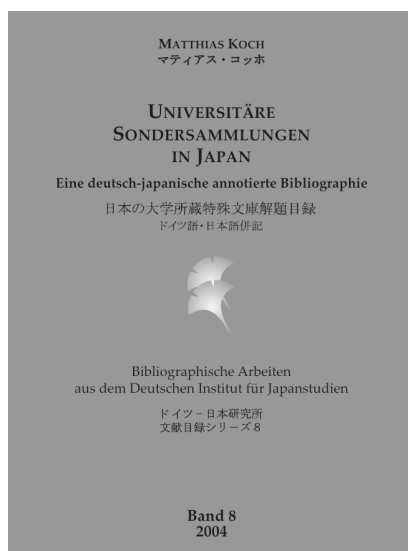
But however forcefully expressed, these views fall short of reflecting a consensus on history in Japanese society at large. In Chapter 3, a number of opinion surveys inquiring into the "historical consciousness" of the Japanese

are analysed. The results of these surveys indicate that revisionist views face an uphill battle in Japanese society, and rather have to be considered a minority position at present. The explosive character of the history textbook controversy above all reflects, on the one hand, the discrepancy between the historical views of the political class and those presented in the public sphere and, on the other hand, those predominant in the wider society. The anticipated next round of the history textbook debate, in the 60th anniversary year of the end of the war, will not be adequately understood without some knowledge of the background to the debate and the issues related to it.

**Contents:** Foreword by the Director · Preface · Introduction · **1. Historical Revisionism in Contemporary Japan** · 1.1 The Revival of Historical Revisionism · 1.2 The Formation of the Tsukurukai · 1.3 The Tsukurukai's Aims and Agenda · 1.3.1 The Pilot Project: Kokumin no Rekishi · 1.3.2 The Tsukurukai's "New History Textbook" and "New Civics Textbook" · 1.4 Textbook Approval and Selection 2000/2001 · 1.5 The Tsukurukai and Politics · 1.5.1 Historical Background: The Debates of the mid-1990s · 1.5.2 Contemporary Political Debates · **2. Historical Revisionism and the Politics of Memory** · 2.1 The Yasukuni Problem · 2.2 The Historical Narrative of the Yūshūkan · 2.3 Historical Interpretations Underlying Other Memorials · 2.3.1 Chidorigafuchi · 2.3.2 Shōwakan and Heiwa Kinen Tenji Shiryōkan · 2.3.3 Daitōa Seisen Taihi · 2.4 The Debate over a New National Memorial to Commemorate the War Dead · 2.5 Commemoration, the Nation, History and Memory · **3. History and Public Opinion** · 3.1 Historical Consciousness · 3.2 Changes in Views of History within Japanese Society · 3.3 The Quest for an Historical Consensus in Movies, Novels and Museums · 3.3.1 Academic History and the Mass Media · 3.3.2 Historical Novels · 3.3.3 Memoirs and Autobiography · 3.3.4 Museums · Conclusions and Outlook · References · Appendix.

**Matthias Koch: *Universitäre Sondersammlungen in Japan: Eine deutsch-japanische annotierte Bibliographie* [Special Collections in Japanese University Libraries: A German-Japanese Annotated Bibliography] 日本の大学所蔵特殊文庫解題目録:ドイツ語・日本語併記 (Bibliographische Arbeiten aus dem Deutschen Institut für Japanstudien, Bd. 8). München: Iudicium, 2004. ISBN 3-89129-400-X, LI, 854pp., € 122.—**





With this bilingual (German and Japanese) bibliography, the DIJ presents a long awaited and much needed basic reference work, a true desideratum even from the Japanese perspective. It is based on a survey of 627 university central libraries in Japan, and contains annotations in German and Japanese on 734 special collections in 142 university libraries, covering more than forty disciplines. The sources in the special collections date from the Heian period to the present time, and comprise a great variety of subjects in the humanities and in the social and natural sciences. The Japanese annotations were written in cooperation with Suguri Masako. Thanks to Claus D. Harmer, the bibliography can also be accessed via the Internet at <http://tksoa.dijtokyo.org>.

A user of this bibliography might sometimes wonder how some of the special collections made their way to Japan. The private libraries of the legal scholars Andreas von Tuhr, Julius Hatschek and Friedrich Thaner, for example, belong to the reparation objects Japan received from Germany after the end of World War I. A remarkable number of former Japanese owners of special collections from the second half of the nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth century were pioneers in their fields of learning and spent several years abroad, many of them in Germany. After their return, they frequently came to hold the first university chair of their respective disciplines at one of the new Imperial Universities (Teikoku Daigaku) and were the founders of the first scholarly associations of their respective fields. For example: Fukuda Tokuzō (economic history), Onozuka Kiheiji (political science), Shimazono Junjirō (medicine), and Kōmoto Jūjirō (ophthalmology). In this respect, the annotated bib-

liography is also a documentation of German-Japanese (academic) relations. It is hoped that this work, whether as a printed book or an electronic database, will stimulate scholarly research in and on Japan.

It would be desirable for the wealth of information contained in this publication to be made available to English-speaking users. Anyone interested in undertaking a translation of this bibliography into English please contact the author ([koch@dijtokyo.org](mailto:koch@dijtokyo.org)).

## CONFERENCE REPORTS

### VSJF Annual Meeting

(19.–21. November 2004, Berlin)

The annual meeting of the Vereinigung für sozialwissenschaftliche Japanforschung (VSJF) – [The German Association for Social Science Research on Japan] 2004 was organized by Susanne Kreitz-Sandberg (University of Düsseldorf) and Claudia Derichs (University of Duisburg-Essen) under the title “Gender Dynamics and Globalisation: Comparative Perspectives on Japan and Asia” and offered what promised to be a particularly interesting programme. The thematic expansion to include Asia brought to the discussions on Japan a wider external perspective than in previous annual meetings. In many panels English served as the working language.

Gender was, for the first time, the general theme of a VSJF meeting, but it had been well established as a research focus on Japan in the so-called gender workshops held in conjunction, and prior, to each annual meeting since 1992. The founders of the workshop, Ilse Lenz (University of Bochum) and Michiko Mae (University of Düsseldorf), as well as some of its participants, were involved in the conception of this conference. Lenz, Mae and Annette Schad-Seifert (University of Leipzig) started the conference with their session on Gender as a theoretical and empirical challenge for cultural studies and social science research. In the following two sessions and four working groups, and an open panel discussion, gender relations in Japan and other Asian countries were presented with a focus on cross-cultural and international influences. Various aspects of gender were discussed with regard to political leadership, the media, the workplace, sports, education and social systems. The panel on “Ja-

pan Within Asia – Asia Within Japan: Women’s Strategies and Discourses” was organized by Ulrike Wöhr (Hiroshima City University) and Andrea Germer (DIJ). In her presentation on “Sexuality and Nation: Asia in Japanese Feminists’ Historiography,” Germer discussed the works of two historians, Takamure Itsue and Yamazaki Tomoko, who had already dealt with the nexus Asia, women and sexuality before the 1980s. Wöhr followed with her paper on “Japanese Feminists Between Accepting War Responsibility and Reconstructing Victimhood”, an analysis of feminist historical debates on the “comfort women” issue in 1990s Japan. In her presentation “Invisible Women Who Come and Go: Survival Strategies of East Asian Immigrant Women in Japan”, the third speaker, Jung Yeonghae (Ōtsuma Women’s University Tōkyō) discussed Asian migrant women’s status in contemporary Japan, focusing on international marriages. One of the striking points of this annual meeting was the international cast of presenters; it included researchers from Japan, the Philippines, Israel, and the USA. These presenters provided a wide range of gender related topics and a differentiated and comparative view on gender and globalisation in Asia.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Gerald Horne: *Race War! White Supremacy and the Japanese Attack on the British Empire*. New York and London: New York University Press, 2004. xx, 407pp.**

Tōkyō’s claim that during World War II Japan stood up against European racism and colonial rule in Asia is usually dismissed as self-serving propaganda. Gerald Horne demonstrates that this is too simplistic a view. Tōkyō’s battle cry, “Asia for the Asians!” was neither unfounded nor fell it on deaf ears. For it was not difficult for Japan to expose the system of white supremacy, the “glue that held colonial empires together.”

Race wasn’t a matter of secondary importance, but a key factor of the war. Horne provides so much evidence that it would be tiring to read if it weren’t so depressing. White racial arrogance was everywhere: in Hong Kong, Burma and Singapore, in India, in extraterritorial Shanghai, not to mention Australia and London’s African dominions.



Many in Asia hailed Japan's onslaught as a harbinger of a new order. Feeling a sense of "joy at the British defeat" they viewed Japan's own imperial designs rather lightly in the beginning. And in spite of the atrocities committed by the Imperial Japanese Army, Asian leaders such as Lee Kuan Yew, Mahathir Mohammad and Ho Chi Minh in retrospect concurred that the Japanese occupation led to the fall of the British Empire, which "few non-whites regretted."

Japan's resistance against white supremacy, Horne reminds us, goes back to Versailles. There Tōkyō called for the League of Nations covenant to recognize racial equality, a request which was rejected, with American approval, by Great Britain and France. However, Tōkyō continued to point the finger at racial discrimination whenever the occasion arose and thus made many friends in colonial Asia, including China, and not just in Asia.

One of the most fascinating chapters of this important book describes how a strong pro-Tōkyō movement arose among Blacks in the United States. Many of them had a high opinion of Japan and the Japanese because "they were the first coloured nation to refuse to take orders or to be bluffed by white Europeans and Americans in generations." Many Blacks saw no reason to come to the aid of an empire built on racism. The Black experience in the Pacific War was encapsulated in the words one soldier wanted on his tombstone: "Here lies a black man killed fighting a yellow man for the protection of the white man."

The strength of this book is that it leaves no claim unsubstantiated, and reveals the many contradictions that race inserted into the complexities of the war: a segregated US military fights fascism; a white supremacist empire promotes democracy; and combating racial supremacy in Asia, Tōkyō allies itself with Nazi-Germany, the ultimate racist regime.

Power politics were central to the Pacific War, but it was obfuscated by racism. It is a lasting legacy of the war that it ushered in the downfall of white supremacy, both in the British Empire and in the US, and that was largely attributable to Japan rather than what London or Washington set out to accomplish.

Horne's case that World War II in Asia was very different from that in Europe, because it was more racially charged, is well taken. Surprisingly, he only indirectly links racism with the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. While not the dominant motivation, racism was a contributing fac-

tor that led to the deployment of these weapons of mass destruction. Perhaps Horne thought it too obvious to mention, since a committed racist had made the decision. To illustrate the mindset of the US political elite at the time, he quotes Harry S. Truman who unabashedly said that he hated the Chinese and the Japanese: "I think one man is as good as another so long as he's honest and decent and not a nigger or a Chinaman".

(Florian Coulmas)

**Takeuchi, Tsuneo: *Kankyō kōzō kaikaku – Doitsu no keiken kara* [Structural Environmental Reform – From the German Experience]. Tōkyō: Risaikuru Bunkasha, 2004. ISBN 4-4340-4806-6, 176 S., 1,600 Yen.**

竹内恒夫著、『環境構造改革—ドイツの経験から』、リサイクル文化社、2004

In 2003, a twenty-person delegation from Japan visited Burghausen, a small town in Germany, to learn about its "Energy Concept 2005" – and, thanks to this book, it will not be the last visit. The book could shape the future Japanese image of the "environmentally developed country," Germany (*kankyō sen-shinkoku Doitsu*). Written by a former bureaucrat from the Environment Agency (since 2001 the Ministry of the Environment), it was published in Autumn 2004 and immediately sold well. With many illustrations and tables (but not the manga-type drawings that make many popular scientific books in Japan look like children's books), a reasonable price and format, it addresses the general public, but is aimed particularly at those involved in environmental protection in any form in regional administrations (*jichitai*).

While Takeuchi notes in his foreword that Japan itself was, in the 1970s, a pioneer of environmental protection, and that German specialists, too, came to learn from it, he argues that since then it has remained at that level, and now has to learn from Germany how to reach the higher levels. Starting with an overview on the development of ecological policies in Germany, including the impact of the green movement, the rise of the Green Party, and the relevance of the environmental tax, he continues with eight case studies that make up the main part of the book.

For these case studies, he selected municipalities with environmental policies and an emphasis on sustainability. These were: Münster, Munich, Düsseldorf, Karlsruhe, Burghausen, Stuttgart, Hamm, and Heidelberg. Each chapter describes the institutions created, and measures taken by the

municipal administration that make this town or city a model for environmental protection. Occasionally, Takeuchi draws a direct parallel to Japan, but in most cases he limits himself to a call for decentralisation, since only more decision-making freedom for local governments would enable them to take similar measures.

Although Takeuchi rarely describes the details of the implementation of environmental policies, his almost unreservedly positive description will probably lead many more local administrations to look to Germany for inspiration, a trend likely to be reinforced by the promotional activities in the year of "Germany in Japan 2005/2006." Sadly, however, the large number of typing errors, especially in German names and words (but not limited to these), will make their background research more difficult.

(Isa Ducke)

## LIBRARY

### Donation to the DIJ Library – Enlargement of the Bandō Collection

In December 2004 the DIJ Library was pleased to receive a donation from the Museum of Hameln (Germany). The donation consisted of items formerly owned by Mr. Rolf Ewert, who inherited the sources from his great-uncle Rudolf Ewert. Rudolf Ewert was one of approximately 5,000 Germans who were placed under arrest as Japanese prisoners-of-war (POWs) after the fall of the German colony of Tsingtao (China). From 1914 to 1920 these POWs were interned in several camps in Ja-



Happy Faces at the prospect of Boiled Potatoes with Onion Sauce (Picture from the Ewert Collection)







*Parcels are given out in the Marugame POW Camp (Picture from the Ewert Collection)*



*Time to go to Bed – Accommodation in the Marugame POW Camp (Picture from the Ewert Collection)*

pan. Because of the stimulating cultural exchange between them and the neighbouring Japanese population, especially in the case of the Bandō POW camp, this period of time represents an important step in German-Japanese relations.

The donation wonderfully supplements the DIJ's Bandō Collection that was acquired in 1998 (see DIJ Newsletter No. 5, October 1998). The donated

materials comprise several maps, two photo albums with pictures from the Marugame POW camp, and a number of publications that were either not part of the DIJ collection at all or only as incomplete copies. The DIJ Library considers itself lucky to be chosen to receive this donation and we would like to once again express our gratitude.

The conditions of the donor, that the materials shall be used for research

and be exhibited, are being fulfilled by the DIJ Library's current project "Virtual Exhibition of the Bandō Collection", which will be presented on the DIJ's homepage from October 2005 as part of the initiative "Germany in Japan 2005/2006". This electronic exhibition, with a detailed database at its core, will provide digital pictures of the documents, and will make the DIJ's Bandō Collection accessible to the public for the first time. A more detailed presentation of the project will follow in the next newsletter.

## OTHER MATTERS/ OUTLOOK

### International Conference

**Carriers of Innovation: Developing Products, Processes, and Policies for Competitive Advantage in a Global Economy**

(Tōkyō, 20.–21. May 2005)

René Haak (DIJ), Dennis Tachiki (Tamagawa University) and Shigeki Tejima (Nishōgakusha University) are jointly organizing an international conference that will focus on "Carriers of Innovation: Developing Products, Processes, and Policies for Competitive Advantage in a Global Economy". Further details and the conference programme, will shortly appear on the DIJ homepage. Inquiries can be sent to René Haak ([haak@dijskyo.org](mailto:haak@dijskyo.org)).

### Personnel News

**Dr Peter J. Hartmann** (Nuremberg) joined the DIJ Comprehensive Japanese-German Dictionary project on 1 January 2005.

**Dr Gabriele Vogt** joined the DIJ Social Science Section as a research fellow in January 2005. Previously, she had completed a postdoctoral appointment at the University of the Ryukyus with a research project on Japanese social movements in the field of environmental protection, and an appointment at Cornell University with a comparative research project on civil society in democratic states. In 2002, she received her doctorate from the University of Hamburg with a study on the renaissance of the Okinawan peace movement and its



dimensions in domestic and foreign politics. This study has been published with Iudicium. At the DIJ she will contribute to the institute's research project on "challenges of demographic change". In continuation and expansion of her studies she will thereby concentrate on the issue of challenges of demographic change for Japan's non-governmental organizations.

**Dr Monika Schrimpf**, who has been employed as a research fellow in the Humanities section of the DIJ since September 2002, has left the Institute in December 2004 to start a new job at the "Lehrstuhl für Religionswissenschaft II" at University of Bayreuth, Germany.

Monika Schrimpf's research was concerned with the Study of Religions. Her focus was directed on new religious movements, and in particular on the groups Shinnyo-en and Perfect Liberty Kyōdan. During her time at the DIJ she conducted fieldwork on these two religious groups, and presented the results of her research in publications and conferences held in the context of Japanese Studies as well as Religious Studies. Her particular interest was directed on 'therapeutical' aspects of new religious movements, and on their members' attitudes towards religious plurality in Japan. In March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004, she held a workshop at the DIJ on the topic "Consultation, Counseling, and Healing in Japanese New Religious and New Spirituality Movements" (see DIJ Newsletter 22, June 2004). The papers and the discussion were centred on the question of whether, and how, new religious and spiritual movements could contribute by assisting their members in the ups and downs of life, and helping them to cope with crisis.

## DIJ Forum

**Steven R. Reed**, Professor, Chūō University: "Japan's New Party System" (December 7, 2004).

**Ulrike Schaede**, Professor, University of California, San Diego, "Private Debt and Social Welfare in Japan: Consumer Finance, the 'Middle-Risk Gap', and Japan's Social Contract" (January 11, 2005).

**Sepp Linhart**, Professor, University of Vienna, Institute of East Asian Studies: "The Japanese Family Revolution" (March 3, 2005).

**Dirk Holtbrügge**, Professor, Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg: "Japanese-German Technology Cooperation: The Case of Siemens-Fujitsu" (March 7, 2005).

**Shirahase Sawako**, Professor, Tsukuba University, "Marriage in Japan in an Era of Declining Fertility Rates and Aging Society" (March 31, 2005).

**Aoki Masahiko**, Professor, Hitotsubashi University, Graduate School of International Corporate Strategy (ICS, Kokusai Kigyō Senryaku Kenkyūka): "Are National Models Still Viable in the Era of Globalization?" (May 26, 2005).

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