

Mariko Asano Tamanoi demonstrates how the Japanese state's most powerful modern ideology, the notion of "nation as family," pulls at itself from within. She analyzes the tragic stories of Japanese colonists in Manchuria, during the fifteen years of war, who were left behind, and their struggles with identity and repatriation. Her analysis reveals how the metaphor of family squelches discourses of plurality and conflict of interest. The Japanese government cannot acknowledge that returning colonists were tragic victims of Japan's own imperialism. Tamanoi captures the tragedy of this troubled ideology in interviews with colonists who returned shortly after the war (*hikiage-sha*) and with children who were abandoned as orphans (*zanryū koji*), and in television shows which depict the returnees as aliens and as innocent victims asking for forgiveness.

Susan O. Long's title, "Someone's Old, Something's New, Someone's Borrowed, Someone's Blue," captures the unravelling of the nation as family from another standpoint: the problem of caring for the elderly and the struggle to reconcile limited resources with long-standing social ideals. Long offers brief but revealing glimpses into the lives of elderly being cared for by "borrowed caregivers": a spouse, a son, two daughters and, in one case, a foreign bride (*gaijin yome*). The essay demonstrates the ad hoc nature of elderly care in Japan—both its limiting and liberating elements.

As with many edited volumes, the essays in this volume are diverse in their interests and method. However, the high quality of the essays and the presentation of original research not previously published makes this volume valuable.

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**THE MODERN FAMILY IN JAPAN: Its Rise and Fall.** By *Chizuko Ueno*. Melbourne: Trans Pacific Press; Portland: Exclusively distributed by International Specialized Book Services, 2009. xxiii, 283 pp. (Figures, tables.) US\$34.95, paper. ISBN 978-1-876-84362-5.

Numerous publications in the Japanese Society Series from Trans Pacific Press are English translations of well-known, originally Japanese, works. The 2009 publication entitled *The Modern Family in Japan. Its Rise and Fall* is the second translation of a work by University of Tokyo professor of sociology and feminist scholar Chizuko Ueno in this series. Originally published in 1994, it is now already 15 years old as it appears on the English-language market, and the data used within are over 20 years old. The book has not been updated, which Ueno defends, as she believes her writings to be still valid today. This is certainly true of her general statements, but as many good works on Japanese families have come out since the early 1990s, it undervalues the changes that have occurred within Japanese families in the last 15 to 20

years. The question remains unanswered as to why this particular book was chosen for translation into English, as Ueno, a highly prolific writer, has published widely, with an impressive total of 27 books as of 2009.

The book itself is a compilation of 13 previously published articles, essays, commentaries and afterwords, which Ueno wrote between 1986 and 1993. The chapters are well translated and mostly a good and easy read, with one exception (chapter 8). The only difference to the Japanese original is the addition of a new 10-page foreword and a brief preface by the author herself. The foreword, written by Ayako Kano, professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Pennsylvania, is an excellent choice. It is through this very concise and insightful text that the person Chizuko Ueno, the development of her research, as well as the diversity and background of the accumulated texts become clear. Kano does also an excellent job in summarizing the main arguments of each article in the book, and thus makes it hard for a reviewer to add anything more to it. She also situates the articles in the academic discourse of the time, a very valuable and knowledgeable analysis, and thus a must-read before getting into the book itself.

The book is divided into five parts, entitled "The ambiguous transformation of the modern family," "Modernity and women," "The development of home science," "Postwar economic growth and the family" and "The paradox of sexism." It combines three of Ueno's areas of interest, namely, feminist thought, modern Japanese history and literary criticism, applying mostly a macro-sociological approach and different methodologies. The main foci are the changes of Japanese families throughout modern history and, in particular, their diversification and pluralization. Another focus is on housewives and mothers, positively through the way they build interpersonal bonds beyond community and occupation, and negatively through their limited lives as housewives abroad. Furthermore this reader particularly enjoyed the way Ueno emphasizes issues of stratification of Japanese society, and women and housewives in particular, throughout the essays, an aspect that has been the subject of increased interest in academic discourse on Japan only in recent years.

The main part of the book is part 2, in which Ueno analyzes the utilization of the household system (*ie seido*) in the Meiji period, understanding it as an "invented tradition," a social construct, rather than a timeless cultural construct. Furthermore, the author investigates the development of the academic discourse on the relationship between women and modernity, touching upon feminist debates and the shifts in discourse, from seeing modernity as liberating for women versus as oppressive. In chapters 6 and 7, Ueno focuses on the technological advances in regard to domestic labour, which she calls the "energy revolution in the kitchen," and the significant influence on the housewife's labour and her changing role in the household.

Part 4, “Postwar economic growth and the family,” stands apart from the rest. In this otherwise more sociological book, we are presented with here with an analysis of fiction and literary criticism in regard to representations of mothers, which paints a devastating picture of the unhappy Japanese family. This section includes chapter 8, which is the most difficult to grasp without prior knowledge of the debate and the literary works themselves.

The remaining chapters focus on the so-called “collapse” or “disintegration” of the Japanese family from within, often through diverse marital problems (ch. 9) and the issue of separate surnames for married couples (ch. 10). Ueno understands the current legal surname rule as a modern invention, similar to the *ie* system, and questions the whole idea of legal marriage. Finally, in chapter 11 Ueno focuses on old age, and the history of the treatment of old age in Japanese society, showing that society has shifted from positively to negatively valuing it. She advocates reversing this, so that old age is again highly regarded.

Overall, this book is very readable and provides a broad-ranging account of and important insight into Japanese families since the Meiji period. While it does not offer much that will be new to the specialist, it is highly recommended for introducing Ueno’s fundamental writings on diverse issues surrounding Japanese families to a broader audience not versed in Japanese.

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**GOING GLOBAL: Culture, Gender, and Authority in the Japanese Subsidiary of an American Corporation.** *By Ellen V. Fuller. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2009. xvi, 210 pp. (Tables.) US\$22.95, paper. ISBN 978-1-59213-689-6.*

In *Going Global: Culture, Gender, and Authority in the Japanese Subsidiary of an American Corporation*, Ellen V. Fuller successfully elucidates ways people exhibit or follow the authorities within the organization where intricate relationships among men and women and cultures (Japanese and American) influence people’s attitudes and behaviour. Fuller examines the case of a Japanese subsidiary (called Transco, in this book) of a transnational company. A globalized company, its experiences with and perceptions of different types of people—Japanese women and men in management, bilingual secretaries, and expatriated managers—are vividly presented.

As many studies of women and employment in Japan have revealed, women have not advanced into the core of many Japanese organizations when compared to their male counterparts. However, the situation for women seems to be better in Japanese subsidiaries of foreign companies. Many women have also chosen to work for Japanese subsidiaries as Ronald Dore