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Japan

Anne Allison (ed.)

Published in print: 1953 Published Online: May 2016 Publisher: NYU Press
DOI: 10.18574/nyu/9781479889389.001.0001
ISBN: 9781479889389 eISBN: 9781479830893
Item type: book

In *Japan: The Precarious Future*, a group of distinguished scholars of Japanese economics, politics, law, and society examine the various roads that might lie ahead for this East Asian nation. Will Japan face a continued erosion of global economic and political power, particularly as China's outlook improves exponentially? Or will it find a way to protect its status as an important player in global affairs? Contributors explore issues such as national security, political leadership, manufacturing prowess, diplomacy, population decline, and gender equality in politics and the workforce, all in an effort to chart the possible futures for Japan. Both a roadmap for change and a look at how Japan arrived at its present situation, this collection of thought-provoking analyses is essential for understanding the current landscape and future prospects of this world power.

Refuge of the Honored

Yasuhito Kinoshita

Christie Kiefer (ed.)

Published in print: 1993 Published Online: May 2012 Publisher: University of California Press
DOI: 10.1525/california/9780520075955.001.0001
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Faced with the decline of the traditional family and the explosive growth of the over-sixty-five population, the Japanese are looking for new ways to care for their elders. This study documents the birth of a major social phenomenon in Japan: the planned retirement community. In the mid-1980s, the author of this book spent a year living in Japan's first such community, Fuji-no-Sato. His collaboration with a cultural gerontologist provides here a detailed study of a retirement community in a non-Western culture. Fuji-no-Sato is a social community with no

visible traditions. The book shows that its residents' preference for long-established relationships creates the need for the invention of relationships which have no precedent in Japanese society, and reveals much about Japanese culture, and about the "graying of society" that plagues the newly industrialized countries of Asia. Its lessons about sensitivity to the elderly's values and the need for clear communication have applications in other cultures as well.

Transnational Activism, the Local, and Japanese Civil Society

Simon Avenell

in Transnational Japan in the Global Environmental Movement

Published in print: 2017 Published Online: September 2017
Publisher: University of Hawai'i Press
DOI: 10.21313/
ISBN: 9780824867133 eISBN: 9780824873721 hawaii/9780824867133.003.0008
Item type: chapter

This chapter reiterates the central argument that the experience with industrial pollution in 1960s and 1970s Japan nurtured an "environmental injustice paradigm" which, in turn, fueled transnational mobilizations in the coming decades. The chapter highlights the role of rooted cosmopolitans who served as the connective tissue between local movements and struggles abroad. Significantly, the chapter notes that the movements explored throughout the study were part of a broader Japanese grassroots reengagement with Asia from the 1970s onward, involving women's advocacy groups, movements of minority groups, and nongovernmental organizations working on health and development issues. The chapter suggests that these transnational movements played an important role in introducing new ideas and practices into Japanese civic activism which contributed to the development of civil society. These border-crossing movements have been largely invisible in historiography to date because of a general focus on events unfolding within the nation.

Translator's Introduction

Ethan Mark

in Grassroots Fascism: The War Experience of the Japanese People

Published in print: 2015 Published Online: November 2015
Publisher: Columbia University Press
DOI: 10.7312/
ISBN: 9780231165686 eISBN: 9780231538596 columbia/9780231165686.003.0006
Item type: chapter

This introductory chapter discusses the common misconceptions surrounding Japanese wartime behavior during and after World War

II. More specifically, it questions the distinction between the Japanese state—thought to be responsible for the nation's role in the Second World War—and that of the Japanese people, who are often treated as passive victims within the historical narrative. Such a view obscures the underlying complexity surrounding the Japanese wartime behavior and instead creates an image of a nation backwards in its thinking as it is swept into a Westernized power struggle. But rather than observe Japan's history from the actions of the leaders of the state, this book focuses on the “common people” of Japanese society, and how the complex socio-cultural interactions taking place as a whole have come to shape a “bottom-up” characterization that presents Japan as both victim and victimizer.

Occupational Rehabilitation

Lee K. Pennington

in *Casualties of History: Wounded Japanese Servicemen and the Second World War*

Published in print: 2015 Published Online:
August 2016
ISBN: 9780801452574 eISBN: 9780801455629
Item type: chapter

Publisher: Cornell University Press
DOI: 10.7591/cornell/9780801452574.003.0007

This chapter talks about the postwar transformation of Japanese disabled veterans into casualties of history. Despite the accolades of the late 1930s and early 1940s, public acclaim for wounded servicemen faded once Japan began to experience Allied bombing raids from late 1944 onward. Ordinary men, women, and children became casualties of war; as a result, praising war-wounded men for their sacrifices became a risky public affair. After the war ended, the Japanese society began to prepare for foreign occupation. When Allied occupation forces started implementing the reforms for demilitarizing Japan, they decided to abolish the wartime systems of preferential treatment for military casualties. The chapter traces the emergence of new state-directed social welfare services that replaced the ones introduced by the Welfare Ministry, such as the Livelihood Protection Law and the Law for the Welfare of Physically Disabled Persons.

Transpacific Complicity and Comparatist Strategy

Naoki Sakai

in *Globalizing American Studies*

Published in print: 2010 Published Online:
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Publisher: University of Chicago Press
DOI: 10.7208/
chicago/9780226185088.003.0009

Item type: chapter

Japanese nationalism has gained its peculiar belligerence against the background of the loss of hope. The loss of hope reflects many aspects of Japanese society today, two of which are an increasing income disparity and the loss of upward social mobility. During Japan's Lost Decade of dismal economic growth, higher unemployment, and the retreat of traditional leftist organizations including the Socialist Party and the General Council of Labor Unions of Japan, not only national television networks and national newspapers but also the publishing industry at large seem to have taken a definitive turn toward the political right. The rhetoric of Japanese culturalism has been predominantly obsessed with the image of Japanese distinctiveness, but such rhetoric was produced only in contrast to some fantastic image of Western culture. Modern politics has appealed to the idea of nationality as the basis for its legitimacy and has constituted internationality as relationships among the state sovereignties, each of which is hypothesized to represent its own nation as an ethnolinguistic unity.

The Vision of America

Simon Partner

in *Assembled in Japan: Electrical Goods and the Making of the Japanese Consumer*

Published in print: 2000 Published Online: March 2012
ISBN: 9780520217928 eISBN: 9780520923171
Item type: chapter

Publisher: University of California Press
DOI: 10.1525/

california/9780520217928.003.0004

This chapter argues that despite the gloomy economic conditions of the early postwar years, some entrepreneurs found immense business opportunities in the emerging new technologies of mass communication. One man in particular—Shōriki Matsutarō, a newspaper magnate who well understood the power and profitability of the media—forged alliances with politicians, bureaucrats, and investors to bring television to Japan much sooner than conventional economic logic would have suggested. In doing so, he both formed a new industry and contributed to the transformation of Japanese society.

The Coexistence of Nationalism and Cosmopolitanism, 1997-2015

Hiro Saito

in *The History Problem: The Politics of War Commemoration in East Asia*

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Item type: chapter

Between 1997 and 2015, the history problem became more complex due to changes in both domestic and international situations of the three countries. The LDP returned to power, but it had to form a coalition government with other small parties. Various new actors also entered the field, including the Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform that promoted “healthy nationalism” in history education. At the same time, historians and educators in the three countries began organizing joint historical research and education projects to promote the logic of cosmopolitanism, and even the LDP-led coalition government launched bilateral joint historical research projects with South Korea and China to prevent a further escalation of the history problem. Thus, nationalist commemorations in the three countries continued to fuel the history problem, but they came to coexist, in a complex manner, with mutual cosmopolitan commemoration initiated by the governmental and nongovernmental joint projects.

Kabuki's Forgotten War

James R. Brandon

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Item type: book

According to a myth constructed after Japan's surrender to the Allied Forces in 1945, kabuki was a pure, classical art form with no real place in modern Japanese society. This book calls this view into question and makes a compelling case that, up to the very end of the Pacific War, kabuki was a living theater and, as an institution, an active participant in contemporary events, rising and falling in consonance with Japan's imperial adventures. The book shows that kabuki played an important role in Japan's Fifteen-Year Sacred War. It reveals, for example, that kabuki stars raised funds to buy fighter and bomber aircraft for the imperial forces and that producers arranged large-scale tours for kabuki troupes to entertain soldiers stationed in Manchuria, China, and Korea. Kabuki playwrights contributed no less than 160 new plays that

dramatized frontline battles or rewrote history to propagate imperial ideology. Abridged by censors, molded by the Bureau of Information, and partially incorporated into the League of Touring Theaters, kabuki reached new audiences as it expanded along with the new Japanese empire. By the end of the war, however, it had fallen from government favor and in 1944–1946 it nearly expired when Japanese government decrees banished leading kabuki companies to minor urban theaters and the countryside. The book includes more than a hundred illustrations, many of which have never been published in an English-language work. It is a complete revision of kabuki's recent history and as such goes beyond correcting a significant misconception.

Sexual Harassment in Japan

Yukiko Tsunoda

in Directions in Sexual Harassment Law

Published in print: 2003 Published Online:
October 2013

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DOI: 10.12987/yale/9780300098006.003.0036

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Item type: chapter

This chapter focuses on the very brief history of Japanese sexual harassment laws and presents the landmark Japanese court decision in the Fukuoka case, which introduced the concept of sexual harassment to the Japanese legal community and to Japanese society as a whole. It provides the reader an overview of Japanese sexual harassment law and, to this end, focuses on three points. First, the chapter describes the historical and social context in which the Fukuoka case was brought; second, it describes the impact that the case has had on the subsequent development of Japanese sexual harassment law; and finally, it summarizes the current state of Japanese sexual harassment law and the steps which still need to be taken.