

BOOK REVIEW

Akihiro Ogawa & Philip Seaton (Edited).

New Frontiers in Japanese Studies.

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Revolving around the academics and students of Japanese Studies, this book purports to know about Japan from a modern perspective. In addition, this book will be helpful for students, multidisciplinary researchers, and scholars of social sciences and humanities who are interested in understanding Japan through a contemporary vision.

This book exposes the understanding of eastern and western scholars to minimize the gap of multiple perspectives on Japanese society that can simultaneously engender a comprehensive patch on Japanese Studies. Additionally, it aims to normalize Japan as a significant economic and cultural country instead of presenting it as a mysterious country with a fascinating culture. It also attempts to formulate a future-dynamics in addressing global challenges.

In the introductory chapter, there are 16 chapters divided into four sections. The first part describes the area studies by explaining Japanese Studies history. Chapter one focuses on the Maria Luz incident of 1872 and the court procedures and the significance of the incident for Japanese Studies formulation, termination of slavery, and the emancipation movement. Meiji Japan's formulation in Modern Japan, individual rights, authorized prostitutes' rules for service, laws, and government supports for indentured child servants are the central focus of this chapter. Chapter two focuses on Japanese higher education in the twentieth century. Japanese universities' ranking system, government intervention, and

investment in the higher education sector were discussed here. The concept of contents tourism is also explained. The third chapter delves into teaching practices examining the interrelationships between 'Japanese language' and 'Japanese Studies' to commend an innovative way in addressing contemporary universal concerns while demonstrating various ways of teaching Japanese language and Japanese Studies that maximize the benefits of intercultural learning. Chapter four gives an overview of the influence of the Sino-Japanese relation on research opportunities and the agenda of Chinese scholars over a period, moreover the adaptation of a global perspective in Chinese schools-appropriate contribution. Finally, the fifth chapter dictates the bilateral relations between Indonesia and Japan; Indonesian insights on Japanese Studies remain academic. As these chapters are the main radicles in formulating Japanese Studies as area studies, this part explains the theory of modernization, convergence, and methodological cosmopolitanism. The first chapter begins dramatically with the narrative of the Maria Luz incident but rapidly shifts into a pleasant background. Chapter three would be better if the capacity of international students to cope with the Japanese language were explained more precisely. Also, the contact zone needs to be discussed in greater depth.

The second section of the book focuses on ageing society and demographic change. Chapter six focuses on the Tokyo Olympics and their new slogan, "barrier-free," attempting to redesign Tokyo for its growing elderly population. The author provides a critical analysis and highlights vital aspects of the Japanese government's long-term plans for the Tokyo Olympics and some of the older adults' Olympic-related untold issues, lending the writing a solid moral foundation. Chapter seven explores the case of Filipino caregivers in long-term care homes for older people. Chapter eight focuses on religious organizations that provide fellow Filipino immigrants with financial and mental support. The enormous responsibilities and roles of migrant workers in Japan and some organizational activities that make life more accessible away from migrant people's families are critical to the narrative of contemporary Japanese Studies.

The third section is divided into six chapters, which analyses particular elements of Japanese migration and other immigrant situations from a Japanese and international viewpoint. Chapter nine provides background for Japanese migrant studies by exploring how other ethnic groups came to Japan and their positive and negative characteristics. It discusses the phases of expulsion that these immigrants faced and the aftermath for the Japanese people. Chapter ten discusses the topic of Japanese women migrating to Korea. This section discusses the experiences of Japanese women in post-war South Korea, intending to inform the audience about

how these women attempted to contribute and pave the way for the formation of Japanese identity in Korea and how they transitioned from deportees to returnees following the Korean War.

Furthermore, it examines how Japan's bilateral relationship with Korea influenced the return path for Japanese women and other problems. The following chapter discusses the (Japan Exchange and Teaching) JET Program's role in addressing growing diversity and offers a method to fill the gap by studying Anglophone narratives. Chapter twelve captures the attention of South Asian audiences, especially Bangladeshis, by including a short overview of the lives of Bangladeshi migrants, exchange students, and language students in Japan and their future expectations. It outlines career opportunities available to Bangladeshi students studying in Japan. In chapter thirteen, a survey is compiled with the assistance of Japanese judges at Melbourne Law School regarding their experience with overseas education expedition, training, and their opinions. Finally, the concluding chapter of Part III combines the perspectives of Japanese refugees in Europe and their experience in Japan to educate readers about their viewpoint on Japan. The author attempted to obtain a different perspective by exposing the experience of these Japanese immigrants, who appear to be quite content with their relocation to Europe. Following the completion of this section, it can be said that this part serves the interests of those who are particularly intrigued with area studies (Japanese Studies to be specific) and also serves as an excellent complement to those who are interested in migration studies and wish to develop a perspective on Japanese migrations and their consequences.

In the last part of the book, the authors express a comprehensive overview of the environment in Japan, its experiences throughout the rapid transformation process in the previous decades, and the resurgence of energy measures in Japan. During massive industrialization, Japan has chosen to recover from a highly polluted state to a clean and organized green country. This complete transformation of Japan can be an ideal lesson for the currently developing countries worldwide. Japan constantly uses technological advancement to maintain a balanced relationship between the environment and human civilization. Japan's unwavering endeavour for ensuring the mass use of green energy instead of fossil fuels for a sustainable future is a lesson for all countries. The authors emphasize this context to give a clear message to the world, upholding Japan as an example as the world is going through another industrial revolution. The last chapter provides a critical examination of the chemical disasters Japan had to endure in the past decades due to massive industrialization and the nuclear disaster in Fukushima. These dreadful experiences led Japan to adopt innovative measures such as using solar power and

other green energy sources, implementing environment-friendly industrial standards for all factories, and many more. It is expected that the other countries, most notably the developing ones, will take lessons from Japan and build a better world for future generations.

This book mainly focuses on current issues Japan has been facing and how these issues are relatable to other countries worldwide. It gives the readers an idea about other countries' perceptions of modern Japan from a theoretical point of view. The entire book poses new discussions, which serves as a starting point for discovering solutions to those problems, and is packed with numerous information related to the topics in each chapter. This book has also created several new questions that demand further research.

The book had many points where pictures, charts, and figures could be added. So, in that regard, the book lacked adornment and appealed slightly. Also, as the book is for international students, the thesaurus is slightly hard to understand.

Overall, the book is well written and very informative for the students, researchers, and scholars of contemporary Japanese Studies as area studies and Asian Studies. This book declaimed contemporary concerns with explanations that will be beneficial for other countries to understand and resolve their problems.

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