

daily struggle there was often little more to their bare existence than hard labour, frugal meals and sleep.

Among the more fortunate petty bourgeois local elite – the magistrates, landlords, large shopkeepers and officers – life was certainly more diversified and culturally and socially enhanced. Yet rules and social codes remained strict for the members of the middle and upper strata as well.

Yet, for all the drudgery and frequent misery, the stories at times also abound in memories of the smaller joys of life: festivals, parties, days of merriment, wild drinking, gambling or of the enjoyment of an unspoiled, if sometimes savage, beauty of nature. Common to all accounts is regret for the loss of this unique asset of pre-war Japan: rivers and lakes that were still clean and full of abundant fish resources, tidy villages, open landscape and a communal life that was vibrant and intact.

There is obviously a deeper meaning behind the reminiscences of these old men and women which transcends the social history of regional Japan: the price we pay for progress and quality of individual life.

Dr Saga's collection is well written and well translated, it makes good reading, without ever, thanks to his interviewees, becoming banal or tedious. The result is a fascinating, differentiated review of a life unthinkable and forgotten in modern Japan's metropolitan hustle and sprawl.

*Albrecht Rothacher*

BERND MARTIN (ed.), *Japans Weg in die Moderne. Ein Sonderweg nach deutschem Vorbild?* Frankfurt a.M.: Campus, 1987. 196 pages, DM 28,-

The reader entitled *Japan's Way into Modern Times* is the outcome of an interdisciplinary series of lectures given at Freiburg University in 1985/6. Of the eight contributors, only one is a Japanologist, and one a Japanese; the others come from different academic fields with special interests in Japan. What they tried to do is present a survey of German studies on Modern Japan, mostly in comparison with German developments, to a broader public. In his essay BERND MARTIN raises the question of "Historical Common Traits of Two Belated Nations", but fortunately does not cling to the term "belated nation", which has not yet given any convincing solution to the problem of why the oligarchs of Meiji Japan chose Prussian Germany as a model in reshaping Japan. Martin discusses structural similarities of the two countries: the tradition of "revolution from above" (imposed, in the case of Japan, on social patterns allegedly unchanged for some 2000 years: an unhistorical simplification

the revision of which I strongly recommend); growing tensions between traditional norms and modern requirements leading to social imperialism of the ruling classes; the primacy of politics and military action; and the reconciliation of militarism, big business and social-revolutionary radicals in the age of fascism. In Martin's analysis, the German-Japanese affinities until the end of World War II were structural.

KARL KROESCHELL reflects on "Modern Japan and German Jurisprudence". After viewing the process of reception of European, especially French and German law in Japan with the help of translations and foreign counselors, he discusses the most important cases of German influence, namely the Civil Code and the Meiji constitution. While undervaluing the role of Lorenz von Stein, he concludes that the constitution itself contained no points specifically different from contemporary Western ones, and that the path to military dictatorship was not predetermined by it – a statement likely to raise objections. Most interesting is Kroeschell's conclusion that the reception of Western law and theory more than once meant the simultaneous import of a specific problem and its solution, and thus proved redundant.

WERNER WENZ and ARNOLD VOGT give an outline of Japanese medical history and the outstanding German influence on it. They trace this influence back to the late Edo period, when remembrance of Philipp Franz von Siebold was still fresh, the leadership of German medical science unquestioned and medical text books based mainly on German sources. I have certain doubts about their opinion that the reorientation towards American medical science was due to the "tactless policies of the late [German] Empire" towards Japan.

THEODOR DAMS discusses the industrialization of Japan in three steps: comparison of the present situation of Japan, Western Germany and the USA, a search for the historical roots of Japan's successful industrialization, and the question of future tendencies. Though his historical analysis – especially his overestimation of Confucianism – is sometimes questionable, he presents a well argued survey, together with helpful charts.

WALTHER MANSHARD gives an overall view of urbanization, infrastructural and environmental problems. The traditional and seemingly irrevocable concentration of urban and industrial life in a corridor along the eastern coast of Honshû and Northern Kyûshû have led to considerable pollution of air, water, and soil, combined with great noise problems, but almost no town-planning at all.

In a rather personal essay TAKASHI OSHIO sheds light on the process of reception of German literature in Japan which began when some Satsuma samurai composed the first German-Japanese dictionary in the 1850's. Nowa-



days, about 400 new translations appear each year in Japan, opposed to but 15 from Japanese into German.

NELLY NAUMANN devotes her essay to the search for the Japanese identity, as reflected in the *Nihonjinron*, the never-ending discussion about the national character of the Japanese. She traces it back to Yanagita Kunio's folklorist studies and the philological studies of ancient Japanese literature by Motoori Norinaga etc. Their belief in a pure Japanese identity mingled with the Mito-school concept of Emperor veneration in the idea of *kokutai* ("national body"), thereby becoming the officially sanctioned interpretation of Japanese identity before the war.

Most of the above may sound familiar to Japanologists, even in Germany – despite the editor's sharp and unfair criticism of the profession. Nevertheless, the book is welcome as a helpful introduction for a more general public.

Reinhard Zöllner

ULRICH MENZEL (ed.), *Im Schatten des Siegers: Japan*. Vol. 1: *Kultur und Gesellschaft*, 285 pages. Vol. 2: *Staat und Gesellschaft*, 313 pages. Vol. 3: *Ökonomie und Politik*, 301 pages. Vol. 4: *Weltwirtschaft und Weltpolitik*, 312 pages. (edition suhrkamp, 1495-1498). Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp 1989, DM 48,-

As throughout the rest of the world so too is modern Japan present in West Germany through its brand names, and trade friction is an almost every-day topic in the newspapers. But Japan is not yet really present in German social sciences, at least not in a systematic way. Those in the field of political science, political economy and sociology who try to include the 'Japanese case' in their comparative studies of modernization and industrialization are still outsiders who don't receive much encouragement.

That social scientists often pay attention to Japan more or less only in passing stems from a special German academic tradition: at university level only 'japanologists' are fully authorized to study Japan and japanology is orientated largely towards philology. Japanology is not yet prepared to give 'outsiders' wholehearted support and to share multi-disciplinary research efforts. This is a big problem for social scientists who often feel uncomfortable about their over-specialized approach to Japan and their lack of knowledge of Japan's historical and cultural foundations. That is why it has become popular among them to turn to the Anglo-American tradition of 'Japanese studies',