

errors and the lack of indexes and of a bibliography are further signs of hasty editing.

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Edwin O. Reischauer: *My Life between Japan and America*. Tokyo: John Weatherhill, 1986. 367 pages, Y 1500 (Far Eastern edition)

The memoirs of E.O. Reischauer, the great old man of North America's Japanese Studies are bound to stir interest. It is not only the fact that he can write - lucidly, intelligently and amusingly (when appropriate) - but also the fact that he has lived a successful and perceptive full life both as an academic and as a political actor in most senior positions dealing as an American with Japan. In political terms, his life and personal experiences include war service in the US army as well as service as ambassador in Tokyo as the representative of Japan's now foremost ally. As a Japanologist his life and personal orientation have seen the shift from esoteric research on Sino-Japanese classics to the systematic study and interpretation of modern Japanese society.

Reischauer was born in Tokyo in 1910. He grew up there, went to the States in 1927 for undergraduate studies at Oberlin College (Ohio), followed in 1930 by further studies at Harvard for a specialization in Far Eastern Studies which, however, did not really exist there either. In 1935 he returned to Japan, married, and as a young postgraduate lived the prewar Japanese way of life in Kyoto (researching on medieval Japanese history and literature). After travels to Korea and China he returned to Harvard as a lowly instructor in 1938. After brief service with the State Department's Far Eastern Division, he served from 1942 with the US army, helping to crack and decipher Japan's military codes and teaching Japanese to US officers. After the war Reischauer briefly joined the State Department again to work on US postwar planning in Japan and Korea, only to return to Harvard in 1946. Promoted full professor in 1950, he did not operate as academic empire-builder in his "Golden Years" at Harvard, but rather as "intellectual loner, preferring to work by himself" (p. 115). Yet even then a clear shift to contemporary Japanese issues and normative political prescriptions for bilateral relations becomes evident in his writings.

One of his publications, a *Foreign Policy* article entitled "The Broken Dialogue" dealing with Japanese-US mutual misperceptions in the aftermath of the 1960 Ampo turmoil in Japan, brought him to the attention of the incoming Kennedy administration's headhunters looking for "the best and the brightest"

to staff the new team. With Galbraith (also from Harvard) going to New Delhi, Reischauer became the other prominent scholar to receive ambassadorship.

The US embassy in Tokyo with a staff of then almost 1000 required considerable managerial skills as did the problem of getting one's views heard and considered in Washington's intricate and highly competitive decision making process.

During Reischauer's tenure (1961-1966), textile, fishery questions, problems related to US forces in Japan, Okinawa (returned to Japan only in 1971), Japanese-South Korean relations and later the Vietnam War loomed large. Reischauer felt it his task also to serve in an educational role, preaching "equal partnership" between the two unequal allies. This required a high public profile in Japan with plenty of speaking and representational functions which greatly taxed his health (he was knifed in 1964) and tried the nerves of his second wife (after the death of his first wife in 1955, he had remarried a Japanese). When resigning in 1966, he claims "we had accomplished everything we had set out to" (p. 295), that is: a restored dialogue and the feeling that a "sense of equality and partnership was being established between the two countries".

Yet Reischauer's account makes clear that Japan was not exactly the top priority of the Kennedy and Johnson administrations he served. 22 years later, another meritorious ambassador, Senator Mansfield, was to claim- in similar words- to have achieved the same objectives in his lengthy tenure.

In 1966 Reischauer returned to academia, resisted the student rebellion at Harvard, further enhanced his already impressive publication record on contemporary issues and engaged in strenuous public speaking schedules when a series of strokes and bleedings laid him out in 1975, 1980 and 1983. The final chapters provide a melancholy, yet stubbornly optimist description of aging and winding down a brilliant scholarly and administrative career.

Reischauer's autobiography is more than the account of an extraordinary scholar's and diplomat's life - it also reflects the story of 20th century Japanology (which contributed a non-Marxist perspective to Japan's Marxist-biased postwar sociology and economics) and of US-Japan relations which, as his life's work, Reischauer had helped to shape.

While Harvard sometimes seems to operate on the basis of "I scratch your back, you scratch mine" and George Packard, who, in Reischauer's words, wrote an "excellent book on the Security Treaty" (p. 237), on the cover claims: "This autobiography is so graceful, full of wit and insight", one cannot but concur with this judgement.

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