

company decision processes.

For this purpose, however, certain requirements must be fulfilled which the author explains in detail. In brief, for example, employers should be willing to practise a cooperative management style, to make delegation and sufficient information of staff a rule in everyday company life and to grant the individual staff members an appropriate scope for decision corresponding to their experience and knowledge. Staff members should be prepared to make full use of this scope and to commit themselves to the cause of the company - if necessary - even beyond the "usual" degree. The formal means for meeting such requirements, such as Management by Objectives, Organization Development are specified besides the quality circles.

This book may therefore serve not only those who are interested in the Japanese economy, but can also be useful to German company executives who want to face the requirements of today's complex and dynamic environment and increase the efficiency of their companies or their industry or to those who must rely on higher efficiency because of growing competition and a worsening economic situation. Finally, this work may also be of help to those who want to do business in Japan, for Heeg not only describes Japanese work and management principles, but also considers the question of what has to be borne in mind when joining partnership with a Japanese firm or entering the Japanese market.

Rolf Hackstein

REINHARD NEUMANN: *Änderung und Wandlung der Japanischen Verfassung.* (Schriftenreihe Japanisches Recht, Bd.12). Köln, Berlin, Bonn, München: Carl Heymanns Verlag, 1982. 239 pages, DM 68.-

The subject of this instructive treatise is the problem whether the material content of the formally unrevised Japanese constitution of 1946 has changed. Events on the political scene, scientific research and discussions, judgements of the courts and demands of political groups have severely harassed the constitution in the past decades. Therefore, from the beginning, the discussion centred - and still does - around the question whether life under the constitution is in accordance with the terms of the same and if the interpretation of the constitution, by being altered, can take the reality as constitutional.

The author rightly describes the Japanese constitution as a rigid one: under art.96 its revision is bound to requirements which, in the political circumstances, could hitherto not be fulfilled although the development of the nation has in more than one point raised the question of constitutionality.

The author depicts the course of the discussion about revision which has

led to numerous drafts by the political parties as well as to the investigation from 1957 to 1964 by the Constitutional Commission which was established by law. The description and valuation of the work of the commission is one of the focal points of the book.

As to the change, the single parts and articles of the Japanese constitution are of different significance. The most important point is the renunciation of war under art. 9; it stands well to the fore. The author also delineates the old dispute about the demand that the constitution should be revised just on the account that it was a constitution dictated by the occupying force. Less room is taken by the other parts of the constitution: emperor, fundamental rights, parliament, cabinet, judicature, finance, local administration and the preamble. The state of discussion is described in detail by drawing upon the judgements of the lower courts and the Supreme Court. The author does not refrain from expressing his own opinion.

He assigns the decision whether the constitution has changed to the judicature which has to ascertain whether acts of the organs of state are unconstitutional or keep within the bounds of the constitution and perhaps improve it. It is not possible to ascertain a change of the constitution from the judgements of the Supreme Court as the court up to now has declared acts of suspected unconstitutionality constitutional and has not yet had to pass particular judgement by which, together with the statement of constitutionality, it would have said that the constitution had undergone a material change.

The book describes the state of things at the end of 1981. So it covers 35 years of the constitution of 1946. In view of the political, economic and social developments in Japan it should be permissible to say that the constitution has proved its value as the basic law.

Wilhelm Röhl

PETER FISCHER (ed.), PETER ALLES, TOKORO SHIGEMOTO, WATANABE HOYO, OMI KOSHO: Buddhismus und Nationalismus im modernen Japan. (Berliner Beiträge zur sozial- und wirtschaftswissenschaftlichen Japan-Forschung, No.4). Bochum: Studienverlag Dr. N. Brockmeyer, 1979. 256 pages, DM 29.80

In the preface the editor points out how little attention has been paid so far by Japanese as well as by Western scholars to the part Japanese Buddhism played in the socio-political history of Japan during the first half of the twentieth century. The present book tries to fill this gap by providing five essays - two written especially for the book, the other three being translations from Japanese treatises previously published -, all centered on Nichirenism viewed in the context of modern Japanese nationalism.