CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521821932 - An Introduction to Japanese Society, Second Edition
Yoshio Sugimoto
Frontmatter
More information

An Introduction to Japanese Society
Second edition

In the second edition of this book, which has become essential reading for students of Japanese society, Yoshio Sugimoto uses both English and Japanese sources to update and expand upon his original narrative. In so doing, he challenges the traditional notion that Japan comprises a uniform culture, and draws attention to its subcultural diversity and class competition. The author also examines what he calls "friendly authoritarianism" – the force behind the Japanese tendency to be ostensibly faithful to particular groups and companies. *An Introduction to Japanese Society* offers a wide-ranging approach to all aspects of Japanese society, with chapters on class, geographical and generational variation, work, education, gender, minorities, popular culture and the establishment.

Yoshio Sugimoto is Professor of Sociology at La Trobe University, Melbourne.

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE SOCIETY

Editor:
Yoshio Sugimoto, La Trobe University

Advisory Editors:
Harumi Befu, Stanford University
Roger Goodman, Oxford University
Michio Muramatsu, Kyoto University
Wolfgang Seifert, Universität Heidelberg
Chizuko Ueno, University of Tokyo

Contemporary Japanese Society provides a comprehensive portrayal of modern Japan through the analysis of key aspects of Japanese society and culture, ranging from work and gender politics to science and technology. The series offers a balanced yet interpretive approach. Books are designed for a wide range of readers including undergraduate beginners in Japanese studies, to scholars and professionals.

D. P. Martinez (ed.) *The Worlds of Japanese Popular Culture*
0 521 63128 9 hardback 0 521 63729 5 paperback
Kaori Okano and Motonori Tsuchiya *Education in Contemporary Japan: Inequality and Diversity*
0 521 62252 2 hardback 0 521 62686 2 paperback
Morris Low, Shigeru Nakayama and Hitoshi Yoshioka *Science, Technology and Society in Contemporary Japan*
0 521 65282 0 hardback 0 521 65425 4 paperback
Roger Goodman (ed.) *Family and Social Policy in Japan: Anthropological Approaches*
0 521 81571 1 hardback 0 521 01635 5 paperback

Forthcoming title:
Vera Mackie *Feminism in Modern Japan: Citizenship, Embodiment and Sexuality*
0 521 82018 9 hardback 0 521 52719 8 paperback

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521821932 - An Introduction to Japanese Society, Second Edition
Yoshio Sugimoto
Frontmatter
More information

An Introduction to Japanese Society

Second Edition

Yoshio Sugimoto
La Trobe University

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521821932 - An Introduction to Japanese Society, Second Edition
Yoshio Sugimoto
Frontmatter
More information

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011–4211, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain
Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa

http://www.cambridge.org

© Yoshio Sugimoto 2002

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without
the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1997
Reprinted 1998, 1999, 2000
Second edition 2002

Printed in China by Everbest

Typeface Plantin (*Adobe*) 10/12 pt. *System* QuarkXPress® [PH]

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 0 521 82193 2 hardback
ISBN 0 521 52925 5 paperback

National Library of Australia Cataloguing in Publication data
Sugimoto, Yoshio, 1939– .
An introduction to Japanese society.
2nd ed.
Bibliography.
Includes index.
Tertiary students.
ISBN 0 521 82193 2.
ISBN 0 521 52925 5 (pbk).
1. Japan – Social life and customs – 1945– . 2. Japan –
Social conditions – 1945– . 3. Japan – Economic conditions
– 1945– . I. Title. (Series: Contemporary Japanese society).
306.0952

ISBN 0 521 821932 hardback
ISBN 0 521 529255 paperback

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521821932 - An Introduction to Japanese Society, Second Edition
Yoshio Sugimoto
Frontmatter
More information

Contents

List of Figures viii
List of Tables ix
Preface to the First Edition xi
Preface to the Second Edition xiii
Map of Japan xiv

1 The Japan Phenomenon and the Social Sciences 1
2 Class and Stratification: An Overview 35
3 Geographical and Generational Variations 60
4 Varieties in Work and Labor 86
5 Diversity and Unity in Education 115
6 Gender Stratification and the Family System 146
7 Minority Groups: Ethnicity and Discrimination 183
8 Collusion and Competition in the Establishment 212
9 Popular Culture and Everyday Life 244
10 Friendly Authoritarianism 271

References 286
Index 307

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521821932 - An Introduction to Japanese Society, Second Edition
Yoshio Sugimoto
Frontmatter
More information

Figures

	Map of Japan	xiv
2.1	Class composition in terms of firm size	39
2.2	Status-consistent and inconsistent clusters	43
2.3	Changing composition of stratification clusters over time	50
2.4	Changes in the Gini index over time	52
4.1	Changes in the unionization rate	105
5.1	Disparities of age-based wages among male employees with different educational background (2000)	116
6.1	Life-cycle model of married women	154
6.2	International comparison of female labor participation rates	155
7.1	Pyramid of the definition of "the Japanese"	188
8.1	Three-way rivalry among power centers	213
8.2	The flow of the Fiscal Investments and Loans Program	222

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521821932 - An Introduction to Japanese Society, Second Edition
Yoshio Sugimoto
Frontmatter
More information

Tables

1.1	Japan's population distribution	2
1.2	Estimated proportions of ethnic and pseudo-ethnic minorities in selected countries	7
1.3	Gini index of income distribution in some advanced capitalist countries	10
1.4	Fluctuations in the frameworks and analytical tools of Japanese studies in English-language publications	14
1.5	Four positions in the convergence debate	21
1.6	Similarities and differences in a four-person case	26
2.1	Comparison of social mobility rates among Japan, the United States and the United Kingdom	36
2.2	International comparison of "middle class consciousness"	37
2.3	Class distribution based on Marxian categories	38
2.4	Cross-section of social stratification structure (1995)	45
2.5	Cross-tabulation of economic and cultural resources	47
2.6	Intra-class marriages in terms of partners' educational backgrounds	54
2.7	Intra-class marriages in terms of family occupation backgrounds	55
3.1	Differences in village structures between eastern and western Japan	64
3.2	Some attributes of four generations	73
3.3	Changing value orientations of the Japanese: the most congenial life-style	79
3.4	Average remaining years at the age of twenty by occupation (male)	81
4.1	Distribution of establishments and employees in the private sector by firm size (1999)	87

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521821932 - An Introduction to Japanese Society, Second Edition
Yoshio Sugimoto
Frontmatter
More information

4.2	Relative characteristics of large and small firms	87
4.3	Types of small businesses	89
4.4	Small businesses in manufacturing (1990)	93
4.5	Unionization rate by firm size (2001)	104
4.6	Distribution of corporatism	111
5.1	Demographic distribution of the high school student population	119
6.1	Proportion of women in positions of power	159
6.2	Who nurses bed-ridden senior citizens at home?	160
6.3	Permeation into the lives of married women by the capitalist and patriarchal orders	161
6.4	Decision-makers in the household	164
6.5	Four types of family	178
7.1	Characteristics of minority groups	185
7.2	Various types of "Japanese"	186
7.3	Types of burakumin	192
7.4	Four identity types of Korean youth in Japan	199
7.5	Comparative class positions of majority Japanese and *Zainichi* Koreans	201
7.6	Australian citizenship rate of overseas-born by birthplace	208
8.1	Class backgrounds of the Diet members of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the Social Democratic Party of Japan (SDP) and the Japan Communist Party (JCP)	220
8.2	Distribution of ideological orientations among major political parties	221
8.3	Orientations of major power players	236
9.1	Comparative dimensions of three types of popular culture	245
9.2	Specific cases of marginal art	260
9.3	Characteristics of four types of culture	269
10.1	Japanese *emic* conceptions of social relations	282
10.2	Types of strategies for moral indoctrination	283
10.3	Some specific examples of friendly authoritarianism in Japan	284

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521821932 - An Introduction to Japanese Society, Second Edition
Yoshio Sugimoto
Frontmatter
More information

Preface to the first edition

The images of Japanese society both in Japan and abroad have fluctuated over time under shifting intellectual contexts. Subjected to changes in Japan's political economy and international status, the portrait of Japan has swung back and forth like a pendulum between adoration and antipathy. The theoretical framework of Japan analysis has also fluctuated between two poles: particularistic characterizations and universalistic generalizations. Conscious of these competing perspectives, one inevitably has to be selective in producing a general textbook. In writing this book which delineates such a wide range of aspects of Japanese society as generation, occupation, education, gender, minority, and popular culture, I attempted to restore three balances in the study of contemporary Japan.

The first of these concerns the degree of homogeneity of Japanese society. The view that Japan comprises an extremely uniform culture continues to be both dominant and pervasive despite several studies which questioned and challenged this perspective in the 1980s and the early 1990s. The competing multicultural paradigm which highlights the internal variation and stratification of Japanese society remains peripheral and does not appear to have received the attention it deserves. This book makes a modest attempt to rectify this imbalance by focussing on subcultural diversity and class competition within Japanese society.

The second bias pertains to the continuing dominance of the so-called group model of Japanese society, which maintains that the Japanese are essentially faithful to their groups and uniquely oriented to their consensual integration. While the Japanese undoubtedly show group behavior in many situations, many questions remain unanswered as to whether Japanese groupism is uniquely high in comparison with other countries. It also continues to be debatable whether the Japanese act in a groupist way in all spheres of life, whether different social groups in Japan exhibit different levels of groupism, and whether the Japanese behave in groups on the basis of voluntary commitment or under the constraint of ideological manipulation. This text underscores

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521821932 - An Introduction to Japanese Society, Second Edition
Yoshio Sugimoto
Frontmatter
More information

the significance of these reservations and presents a countervailing perspective against the group model.

Finally, this book endeavors to strike a reasonable balance between Japanese- and English-language publications as sources of information and inspiration. Though designed as an introductory text, it invites readers to familiarize themselves with contemporary debates and controversies among Japanese analysts who write in Japanese. Many students in the English-language world would find it difficult to read Japanese publications in Japanese, though they can pursue their interests in reading books and articles in English. Students just beginning in Japanese studies will benefit greatly from having a balanced understanding of both insiders' and outsiders' views of Japanese society. For this purpose, I have introduced a number of Japanese *emic* concepts and propositions to demonstrate Japanese perceptions and self-images.

Financial support from the Australian Research Council enabled me to collect and examine data for this study. Thanks to the ARC grant, I have been able to travel several times between Melbourne and Tokyo, live in Japan for about half of the last three years and exchange views with Japanese academics on various issues. A fellowship from the Japan Foundation was also instrumental in implementing the initial phase of the study. I am grateful for the support of these organizations.

The multicultural environment in Australia where I have lived for nearly a quarter of a century has influenced my views of Japanese society. I am deeply indebted to the intellectual vitality of my colleagues in Melbourne and Canberra. My partner, Machiko Sato, who has published several books for the Japanese readership, has given me continuous encouragement, thoughtful criticism, and invaluable insight, for which I am most thankful. I have also benefitted from many lively discussions with my students at La Trobe University (Melbourne), Universität Heidelberg (Germany), and the University of Tsukuba (Japan) on the points contained in this study.

Writing a book is always a liberating experience for me. I hope that readers share some of my delight in treading the paths outlined in this text.

Yoshio Sugimoto, 1997

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521821932 - An Introduction to Japanese Society, Second Edition
Yoshio Sugimoto
Frontmatter
More information

Preface to the second edition

Five years is a long period in the social sciences. So many changes have taken place in Japanese society since the publication of the first edition of this book in 1997 that I felt obliged to update factual data and statistical information for it to reflect Japan's contemporary landscape with accuracy. The structure and organization of the book remains unchanged since there was no need to alter the framework of analysis.

Most government ministries changed their names because of the amalgamations that took place at the beginning of 2001. In citing government publications in the References and Endnotes, I have used the names of the ministries at the time of publication.

For this edition, special thanks are due to two copy editors, Justine Norton and Karl Smith, who have kindly paid scrupulous attention to every detail of the text.

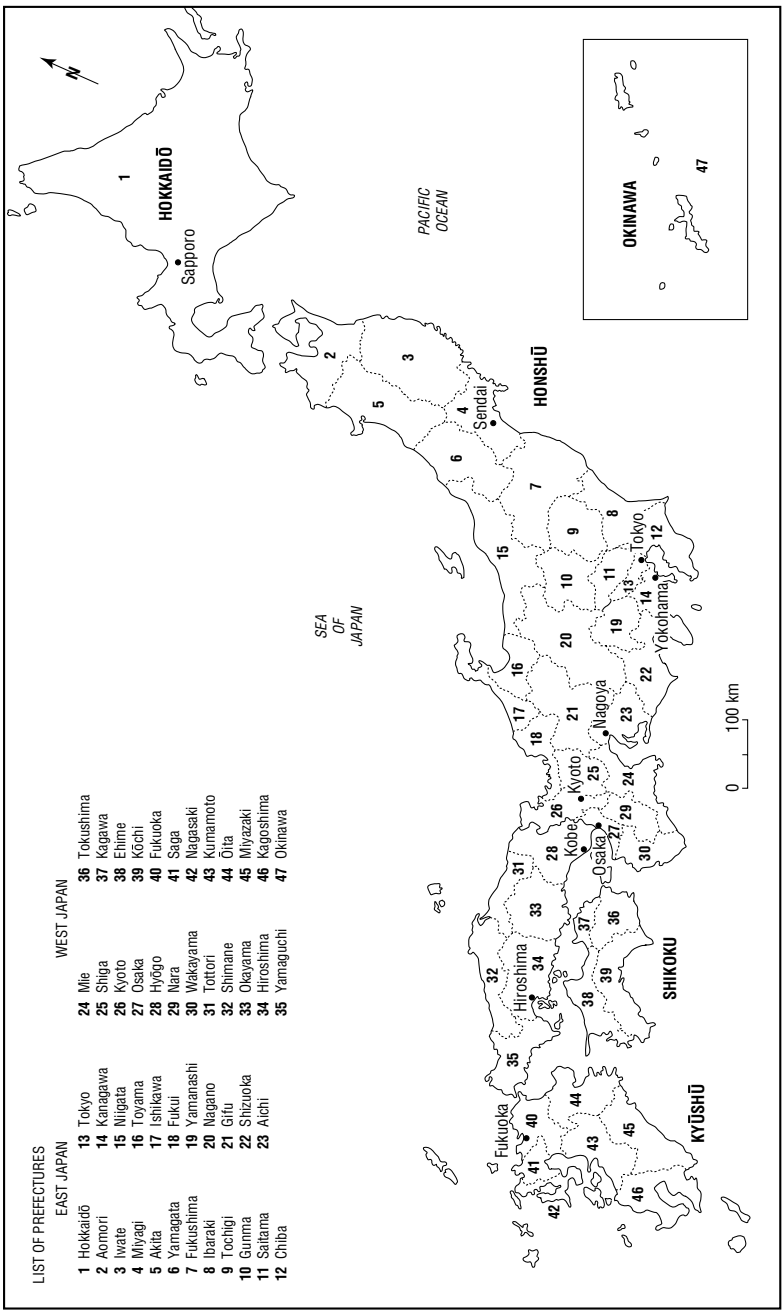
To my pleasant surprise, this book has been used in an unexpectedly large number of university courses around the world. I would be happy to receive feedback from readers to improve the quality of future editions.

Yoshio Sugimoto, 2002

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521821932 - An Introduction to Japanese Society, Second Edition
Yoshio Sugimoto
Frontmatter
More information



Map of Japan

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org