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In this issue our regular review team offers you another excellent selection of the latest books on Japan. Sir Hugh Cortazzi looks at a stimulating new book by Bill Emmott *"Rivals: How the Power Struggle Between China, India and Japan will Shape our Next Decade."* As the title indicates, it explores how the future dynamics between Japan, China and India might evolve and the possible regional and global impact. This is followed by Fumiko Halloran's review of a Japanese language book which examines the dissenting legal opinion of Indian Judge Radhabinod Pal, who out of the 11 Allied judges was alone to argue for the acquittal of all Class A war criminals at the International Military Tribunal for the Far East. This work is of particular interest as Justice Pal has become a key figure for some revisionist Japanese historians and former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Pal's son while on a prime-ministerial visit to India in August 2007. On the popular literature front Anna Davis gives us the rundown on a highly readable new novel *Death of a Salaryman*. This issue also sees a return to our focus on important new Japanese language books with some insightful reviews by our regular reviewers Takahiro Miyao and Mikihiro Maeda. One of this publication's key objectives is to highlight influential and popular Japanese language books in order to give readers a flavour of the contemporary Japanese book scene.

Sean Curtin

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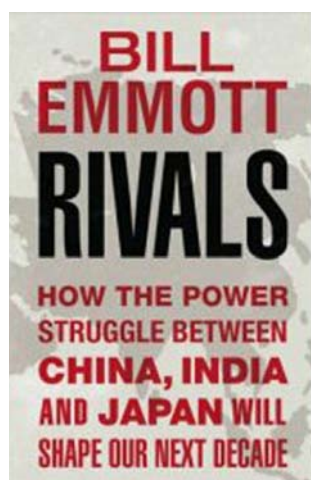
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Rivals: How the Power Struggle Between China, India and Japan Will Shape Our Next Decade

by Bill Emmott

Allen Lane, London, 2008,
 314 pages including notes
 and index.

Hardback £20.00

ISBN -13: 978-1-846-14009-9

Review by Sir Hugh Cortazzi

This new book by Bill Emmott, the former editor of The Economist and author of two books about modern Japan, has been widely reviewed in the press. In this review I propose to concentrate primarily on his comments about Japan, although Japan is only one of the three powers whose future Emmott discusses in this thought provoking book.

In chapter 1 "Asia's New Power Game" and chapter

2 "A Continent Created," he sets the scene, stressing that the future belongs to Asia. He notes that although the concept of Asia is meaningless to most Asians and that there are as yet few unifying regional institutions, Asia is becoming more like Europe in the way in which its economies are becoming increasingly integrated. Chapter 3 is devoted to China. In this he reminds readers that a major problem in considering the Chinese economy is the unreliability of Chinese statistics. He notes the view that communist rule in China is there to stay.

Chapter 4 contains his main discussion of modern Japan. In this he comments on the way in which the Japanese economy has developed since the war and he draws attention to the ironic comment by Lech Walesa, who led Poland's solidarity movement and who visited Japan several times, that Japan was "the only truly successful example of socialism that had ever existed." He also repeats a joke he had heard in 2005 about Chinese students studying at a university in Tokyo: "The Chinese students are asked why they spend so much of their spare time

with other Chinese rather than with the Japanese students. 'Because we are afraid they might teach us communism,' comes the answer.'" But, of course, as he points out "Japan is not like communist China. It really is a free country."

Emmott reminds his readers of the reasons for Chinese hostility towards Japan. These are not confined to the Nanking Incident where there can be no doubt that terrible things happened but where the numbers of the dead and injured may be open to question. Unit 731, where Japanese scientists and soldiers experimented on Chinese and other prisoners, was, he points out, "not an extermination factory like Auschwitz," but it was a terrible example of the inhumanity and cruelty of some members of the Japanese imperial army. It is deeply regrettable that the Americans gave immunity from prosecution to those involved in return for handing over the results of their experiments. Rightly he has no sympathy for Japanese historical revisionists. He notes that "Concern about China is now a central feature of Japanese politics and policy. Since that concern is only likely to grow as China's strength and reasonable interests grow too, more and more Japanese policy will be shaped by it." He quotes the reply by Taro Aso, now Secretary General of the LDP, to a question about recurrent tensions between Japan and China: "China and Japan have hated each other for a thousand years...Why should things be any different now?"

After discussing the problems posed by an ageing and declining population Emmott concludes that "If the OECD's forecast turns out to be accurate, Japan will have little chance of standing tall and strong alongside Asia's new rising power, China. In that case the task in Japan would be one of managing the country's relative decline, and of preventing China from exploiting that decline or America from becoming disenchanted with its main ally in the Pacific."

Emmott notes the continuing existence of informal trade barriers in Japan and points out that Japan is not a very globalized country, but he is encouraged by signs, in the face of increased competitive pressure, of a "stealth revolution in corporate law, in politics, in its labour markets, in capital markets, in its banking system, in the role of the state, the effects of which will become clear only during the next decade or so."

India is the other growing power in Asia and the world. The Japanese government and Japanese business showed little interest in India for decades after the war. Despite the fact that Buddhism was born in India, few Japanese felt any cultural affinity to the country which they tended to dismiss as over-populated, unclean and poor. It was not until

the brief premiership of Yoshiro Mori in 2000-2001 that the first overtures were made to India. Now at last it seems that the significance of the growth of India has been recognized in Japan.

Emmott's chapter on India is headed alliteratively and aptly "Multitudes, Muddle, Momentum." In Chapter 6 "A Planet Pressurized" he discusses the huge problems of pollution and climate change which will continue to grow as India and China continue to expand. Chapter 8 "Flashpoints and Danger Zones" reminds readers of the many historical anomalies which continue to exist in Asia and which could lead to wars that might be difficult to contain.

In his last chapter "Asian Drama", Emmott makes a number of sensible recommendations for action by governments, with many of which I agree. But I cannot endorse two of his recommendations. He suggests (page 267) that the Yasukuni shrine should be restored to public ownership so that the Yushukan museum at the shrine "can become a proper publicly controlled museum and so that the status of the 'martyrs of Showa', the war criminals, at the shrine, can be a matter of public debate and policy rather than under the control of the shrine authorities." Any such steps would be hugely controversial and I fear that the process would be high-jacked by Japanese nationalists and would undermine the principle of separating the state from religion. He also suggests that a commission be set up to re-examine the status and basis of the Tokyo trial, the International Military Tribunal for the Far East. While I accept that there were many flaws in this trial nothing should in my view be done which might undermine the principle that crimes against humanity, wherever they take place and by whomsoever they may be committed, should be subject to international justice.

Bill Emmott's book contains much food for thought and should be read widely by all who are interested in the future of the planet.





'Pal Hanji, Tokyo Saiban Hihan to Zettai Heiwa-shugi' (Judge Pal: His Criticism of the Tokyo Trial and His Absolute Pacifism)

by Takeshi Nakajima

Hakusui-sha, 2007, 308

pages.

Hardback ¥ 1,890

ISBN-13: 978-4560031667

Review by Fumiko Halloran

Professor Takeshi Nakajima of Hokkaido University says he wrote this book because he was concerned that a recent revival of interest in Judge Radhabinod Pal of India, who alone argued to acquit all Class A defendants in the International Military Tribunal for the Far East after World War II, might be going in the wrong direction. In the movement to re-examine modern Japanese history before, during, and after World War II, some Japanese critics of the tribunal, also known as the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal or the Tokyo Trial, have tried to paint Judge Pal's opinion as seeking to absolve Japan of all war responsibility or even supporting Japan's Great East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere. Prof. Nakajima criticizes these opinion leaders for what he says are often quotes from the judge's opinions taken out of context. He asserts that they are interpreting the judge's findings arbitrarily and without reading the whole text which ran to a quarter million words in English. Further, he contends that they lack full understanding of the position from which the judge was coming.

Nakajima's ambitious goal in describing Judge Pal in totality and giving readers a better picture of his way of thinking is mostly successful, although not without shortcomings. The author targets the general reader, not the specialist, which may explain why his bibliography does not cover the entire spectrum of documentation in Japanese and English, the Tribunal's two official languages. In spite of these shortcomings, this book has put Judge Pal's dissenting opinions into perspective, since the vast majority of Japanese, particularly the young generation, have little knowledge not only of Judge Pal but of the trial itself. (The judge died in Calcutta in 1967 at the age of 80.)

Critics of the trial, often those who resent the blanket condemnation of Japanese wartime behaviour, have become more vocal and begun to take action ranging from erecting statues of Judge Pal at a temple in Kyoto and at the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo, to producing movies or even publishing popular comic books. Nakajima believes that such moves have distorted Judge Pal's true intentions,

which were to criticize the trial's flaws in legalistic concepts, not to justify Japanese wartime behaviour.

Criticism of the Tokyo Trial is not new. Indeed, even among the eleven judges at the trial, not only Judge Pal but judges from the Provincial Government of the French Republic, the Netherlands, the Philippines and Australia rendered dissenting opinions. Among them, however, Judge Pal presented the most sweeping and formidable criticism of the legitimacy of the trial itself. Consequently, publication of his dissenting opinions was banned by the Occupation Authority until the occupation ended in 1952. Publication of that dissent was also banned in Great Britain. In the United States, Amazon lists "International Military Tribunal for Far East; Dissenting judgment by Radhabinod Pal" but says it is currently unavailable. The National Archives & Records Administration and private collections such as the Justice Erima Harvey Northcroft Tokyo War Crimes Trial Collection at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, list the record of the dissenting opinions including that of Judge Pal.

Judge Pal asserted that all judges were appointed by the winning nations, therefore the trial was biased and partial, negating the hope that future wars could be prevented. That, he argued, should be the purpose of the trial, not revenge. Secondly, he objected to establishing new concepts of war crimes by which Japanese defendants were charged, namely "crimes against peace" and "crimes against humanity." He believed, however, that conventional war crimes established by international law should be applied. The established concept of not charging war crimes retroactively was violated as "crimes against peace" and "crimes against humanity," two new legal concepts, were introduced to charge the defendants for their actions in the past when such concepts had not existed.

At what point did the war begin was his next question. This was connected with the concept of a conspiracy to wage war, which was the core of the strategy by the prosecutors. Japan launched military action on multiple fronts from Manchuria to the Soviet Union to Mongolia to China in the 1930s before its attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. Judge Pal asserted that Japan had been at war against one or more nations since July 7, 1937 at the time of the Marco Polo Bridge incident in China.

Since the definition of "invasion" was not clear in international law, Judge Pal asserted that the Soviet Union and the Netherlands had declared war against Japan and therefore should be defendants. Because the definition of invasion had not been established nor had war itself been considered a crime in the past, the two countries could not be charged. Judge Pal sharply criticized the Western

colonial powers that had invaded and established European colonies in Asia. Therefore, theoretically, they should be charged as well as Japan of crimes against peace.

The judge reserved his strongest criticism for the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States. However since "crimes against humanity" had not then been established in international law, he said, the U.S. could not be tried.

A major reason he sought to acquit the Class A defendants on the charge of crimes against peace was, he asserted, that the prosecutors had failed to establish that there was a conspiracy to plan and wage war. To conspire, there had to be clear intent, chain of command, plans, and executions of the plans. During the period in which the twenty-eight Japanese leaders, both military and civilian, were charged with war crimes against peace, however, Judge Pal saw mistakes, misjudgements, and uncoordinated actions by separate groups or individuals, but no overall conspiracy.

By the same logic, Judge Pal examined the question of conspiracy by the Class A defendants on the Nanking Massacre (Nanking Gyakusatsu Jiken), atrocities committed by the Japanese military, and mistreatment of prisoners of war. While he strongly criticized Japanese behaviour in each case, he did not find a clear conspiracy within the government. He criticized, in the strongest terms, the lack of ethical conduct by Japanese who had committed such crimes but did not find evidence that the defendants had ordered and authorized the execution of the plans.

Prof. Nakajima details why Judge Pal thought that way. His identity as an Indian under British colonial rule was crucial. He was deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the non-violent, independence movement against Britain. Indian leaders had sought haven in Japan, organized the Indian National Army, and hoped the Japanese invasion of India would end British colonial rule. Although the British offered autonomy in exchange for cooperation against Japan, the Indian National Congress refused to cooperate with British. When soldiers of the Indian National Army returned to India after the war, the British began to try them on charges of treason, which provoked widespread resistance. Judge Pal was then vice president of Calcutta University. His understanding of the war in Asia was not limited to Japanese behaviour but took a longer historical perspective. He believed that western colonial powers had done great injustice to Asian nations, creating consequences that culminated in Japanese military action against the Allies. This thinking did not prevent him from criticizing Japanese for war responsibility in specific cases. This fine line between adherence

to international legal concepts and immoral or unethical behaviour of the Japanese military made for a danger of arbitrary interpretation, particularly by those who wanted to defend Japanese behaviour as self defence. At the same time, he raised serious issues on the conduct of war.

Judge Pal's dissent opinion upset Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, although the Indian press favoured his argument. The Indian government did not criticize Judge Pal in public and recommended that the seven defendants sentenced to death have their punishments reduced to life sentences, emphasizing the differences in its position from that of the judge and seeking support in India. Notwithstanding Judge Pal's dissent, the Tokyo Trial sentenced seven Class A defendants to be executed, 16 to be given life sentences, and two to serve limited sentences. Three died in prison and one was judged to be mentally unfit to stand the trial. In addition, 5700 Japanese were tried as Class B defendants on war crimes and Class C defendants on crimes against humanity. The trials were held in Japan and overseas at 49 courts. Among those indicted, 984 were sentenced to death, 475 were sentenced to life, 2944 were sentenced to limited jail terms, 1018 were acquitted and 279 were never brought to trial. Chinese communists and Soviet military held separate trials. All these numbers were listed in Wikipedia which in turn relied on various publications. If some readers have authoritative numbers from primary sources, please advise.

A different version of this review first appeared on the National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) Japan-U.S. Discussion Forum and is reproduced with permission.



**Waga Jinsei No
Utagatari - Showa No
Aikan (Song Story in My
Life - The Joys and
Sorrows of Showa Era)
by Hiroyuki Itsuki**

Kadokawa Shoten, 2007,
250 pages.

Hardback ¥ 2,500

ISBN - 13: 978-4048839693

Review by Mikihiro Maeda

How can we describe the author of this book, Hiroyuki Itsuki? Novelist, essayist, songwriter, producer, or radio personality? Regardless of his role, he is widely respected as a spiritual voice in Japan. He was born in 1932 and grew up in Pyongyang, now the capital city of North Korea,

due to his parents' jobs as teachers. After the end of the war his family had to be "repatriated" to Japan due to Japan's unexpected defeat, where they experienced hardships beyond description according to his other books and essays. Such experiences caused severe trauma for him for a long time even after many years had passed, and many of his writings have been based on this "repatriation" experience.

There are many songs in this world. One might think of the famous jazz standard "On the sunny side of the street" image as a cheerful song, but the songs referred to in this book do not necessarily have such happy and bright images. Rather, they often have melancholy, gloomy and depressing images. But even sad songs could have opposite images, so in the "Showa era" Itsuki cherished them in his mind and now he is telling how he managed to overcome the turbulence of his younger days with the help of those songs.

Itsuki was a radio personality with his own weekly TBS programme on Sunday nights from 1979 to 2004. On this program he talked about himself, introduced many of his books to the audience and invited guests for interviews. He was also on NHK's midnight radio program and talked about his hard and heroic experiences in the past, each with a song that he heard or sang at that time. This book is a collection of those NHK midnight radio programmes (as a footnote, two sequels will be published soon).

This book consists of six long chapters: 1. First songs heard in childhood; 2. Popular songs in war time; 3. Sad songs in extreme severity (after Japan's defeat); 4. Songs at the time of repatriation (from Pyongyang to Japan); 5. Songs born in poor Japan (soon after the war); and 6. Songs in poor student life (in Waseda, Tokyo).

One of the most impressive passages in this book is about a very sad song entitled "A border town", which Itsuki as a fourteen year old boy sang with his adult co-workers in Pyongyang, which was seized by the Soviet Army after the defeat of Japan in the war. It is a very sad song about a man travelling alone, remembering his loved one and weeping in a remote town near the border, but somehow this song sounded comforting to him and helped him overcome his hardship as a breadwinner supporting his family, after his mother died and his father became mentally devastated due to Japan's defeat.

As a result, he has come to a conclusion that "in an extremely sad condition, one could not necessarily be encouraged by cheerful songs, but rather be supported by singing sad songs and shedding tears, which tend to help rescue one's soul" (p. 116).

Those experiences of the author and the songs he heard each time overlapped, and his memories each time recalled the songs he listened to at that time. He weaves empirical essays by quoting beautiful and alluring lyrics of the songs with memories of bitter experiences.

There are both bright and dark sides of the earth. As much as the beauty of its bright side is impressive, as we saw in the video sent from Japan's lunar explorer, "Kaguya," late last year, its dark side is full of regrettable incidents and actions such as crimes, violence, environmental destruction, etc. In spite of these problems, however, we can cherish our songs and sing or listen to them to relieve our tension and stress and to encourage our hearts and minds so that we may find a way to survive in the real world of darkness, hoping for our bright future.

Finally, one of the remarks that Itsuki made on his TBS radio program is worth noting. On that program he once said that he was reluctant to have his literary works translated into other languages, because translated versions could not convey accurate original Japanese meanings. As a result, only one book of his, "Tariki (Embracing Despair, Discovering Peace)," was formally translated into English in 2004. Hopefully, more of his splendid works, including this one, will be translated into other languages, despite his wishes otherwise, to be read worldwide in the future.

This review was produced in collaboration with Global Communications Platform and first published on the Platform: <http://www.glocom.org>



Minka, My Farmhouse in Japan

by John Roderick

Princeton Architectural Press, New York, 2008, 255 pages, many black and white illustrations.

Hardback £14.99

ISBN - 13: 978-1-56898-731-6

Review by Sir Hugh Cortazzi

Many visitors to Kamakura know the Zeni-arai Bente shrine where they can wash their money in the hope that it will multiply. It lies up a narrow road from the back of Kamakura station. Beyond that up the winding lane lies another shrine and Genjiyama. From here on a fine day the visitor will have an excellent view of Enoshima with Mt Fuji rising in the distance. As the sun sets the view has a magical quality. Imagine having not just any old house here,

but a traditional Japanese farmhouse in the *gasshō-zukuri* style of Gifu and Fukui prefectures! This is the house which the late John Roderick (see obituary in *The Times* of 25 March 2008) used as his home. This book tells the story of the house and his relationship with the Takishita family, especially Yoshiro (Yo-chan) whom in due course he adopted as his son.

John Roderick, an American of French ancestry, was a foreign correspondent for AP. He had studied some Japanese during the war and his first contacts with Japan were coloured by memories of Pearl Harbor and Japanese maltreatment of prisoners of war. He became AP correspondent in China and was with Mao Tse Tung in the run up to the Communist victory. In 1959 he was posted to Tokyo. He found much that was appealing in Japan but disliked the fast industrialisation of the 1960s and was ready to move to Paris when he got to know Takishita Yoshiro, a Japanese university student. Takishita took Roderick to his home in Gifu. There Roderick was persuaded to accept an old farm house for the token sum of 5,000 yen. The farm house was taken down and eventually moved to Kamakura where it was rebuilt on Genjiyama.

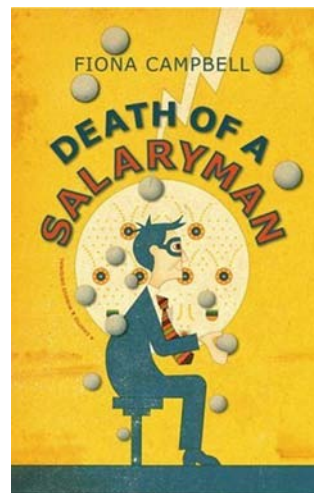
Roderick recounts the problems which he encountered with Japanese real estate agents and neighbours on Genjiyama and his difficulties in finding the necessary money for rebuilding. One of the first problems was water. Another was roofing. The fire department in Kamakura would never agree to thatch as had been used in the original house. But the house was built and Roderick and Yo-chan were able to live there. He was greatly impressed by the carpenters who came from Gifu and by the resourcefulness of Yo-chan.

While Roderick covered world events for AP including Nixon's ping-pong diplomacy with China, Yo-chan developed a business in high-class Japanese antiques. His business prospered and another house was brought from Gifu and tastefully rebuilt as a showroom. His success in saving and transporting old Japanese farm houses soon attracted Japanese as well as foreigners to seek his help and expertise. In due course he rebuilt over forty Japanese farm houses including large-scale projects in places as far away as the Argentine and Hawaii. By the time John Roderick died this year in his nineties Takishita-san had become a leading architect in reconstructing and transferring old farm houses (see Takishita's book *Japanese Country Style* published by Kodansha International in 2002). He had also established for himself a reputation as a connoisseur dealer in Japanese antiques. Yo-chan is what the Japanese term '*me-kiki*' (literally the effective eye); this means that he knows instinctively as well as from experience

what was in the best Japanese taste.

John Roderick had many friends in high places and was a generous host. He helped Yo-chan to develop his business interests and the bond between them was a strong one as the adoption of Yo-chan as John's son demonstrates. One of the visitors to Yo-chan's and John's house was Hillary Clinton during a state visit by the Clintons to Japan. John decided that, although he was Democrat, he would not come back to receive the visitor as he felt that his presence might take some of the attention away from Yo-chan.

For anyone interested in Japanese traditional farmhouses and in human relationships this is an enjoyable book. For us it brings back happy memories of visits to Kamakura and reminds us of the objects which over the years we amassed in Japan, including some choice items from Takishita-san's 'House of Antiques' (info@house-of-antiques-japan.com).



Death of a Salaryman by Fiona Campbell

Chatto and Windus, 2007,
320 pages.

Paperback £7.99

ISBN 13: 978-0099503699

Review by Anna Davis

I enjoyed this book, but then I took it for what it is – a quirky narrative that portrays, exactly as it says on the tin, the death of a salaryman (and his resultant reincarnation): a book set in Japan, featuring an all-Japanese cast, living an all-Japanese life. Remarkably, it was penned by a British woman with very little experience of the setting she features.

Those who've spent time in Japan will pull up a few inconsistencies and jump upon one or two moments that have been written in western ink, but I thought Fiona Campbell had an awful lot down pat for someone whose in-country experiences extend only to a few months of working at Unilever in Tokyo before she completed an MA in creative writing.

On paper, Kenji Yamada's life is a cliché. He wakes at dawn, commutes from another prefecture, works long hours, has a few beers with colleagues and just about makes it home to his wife by midnight. He's

a decent sort of a chap, but hardly the sort of man you'd want to read about. That is until fate knocks him for six and loyal Kenji loses his respectable career on his 40th birthday.

As lost as a gaijin on the Yamanote-sen, Kenji lets a series of bizarre encounters shape his suddenly interesting life. Most of these are masterminded by the collection of odd characters who move swiftly into his world. Somehow, he manages to eek out a living playing pachinko machines, whilst his uptight wife and bitter mother-in-law wonder why the company trip to Disneyland has been cancelled.

Of course poor old Kenji is found out and his interfering, embarrassed wife secures him a job in a post-room. A few of Kenji's layers peel away and we begin to see his pride, his dreams and his anger (long-awaited, believe me). And then he is struck by lightning.

Kenji Yamada, battered, bruised and now with a full head of white hair is a new man. A determined man. Well, sort of. Fiona Campbell has a firm grip on Kenji – this is not a Clark Kent to Superman rebirth. In his own way though, Kenji manages to begin a new career, creating the odd game show that he's longed for years to produce. It's an uphill journey but I believe I actually verbalised my inner 'hurrah' when Kenji finally pulls himself together and raises his fist to a foe (you might do the same during a hilarious incidence with some rotten apples). Is Kenji getting some gumption? Again, sort of.

What I like about this book is that despite all of the unlikely mishaps that fill Kenji's new life, there are no miracles here. The journey is unpredictable, bizarre and unlikely, but as Kenji's world is remodelled, he remains himself, perhaps just a slightly cooler, slightly tougher version.

Does Fiona Campbell get it right? I believe she does. What she occasionally misses in accuracy, she nails in understanding of her characters. Kenji Yamada feels real. I have a clear image of him in my mind and there's something about him that I couldn't help liking.

It's remarkable that just a few months in Japan have netted so much fodder for Campbell's debut novel. She manages to interweave references to things she must have seen with her own eyes. I can't help smiling as I read about the notice attached to the keypad of Kenji's office door showing the new security code. Next to it, a memo sellotaped to the door reads "Don't tell anyone, but here's the new access code." I have no doubt that Campbell once smiled at the original version.

This book will, I suppose, appeal more to those with limited experiences of Japan, but I think that even picky Japan enthusiasts like self will find

themselves warming to Kenji. Expect an offbeat, entirely readable journey as Kenji journeys from insignificance to interesting.

Japan's Imperial Forest, Goryōrin, 1889-1945: With a supporting study of the Kan/Min division of woodland in early Meiji Japan, 1871-76)

by Conrad Totman

Global Oriental, 2007, 184 pages, including index and bibliography.

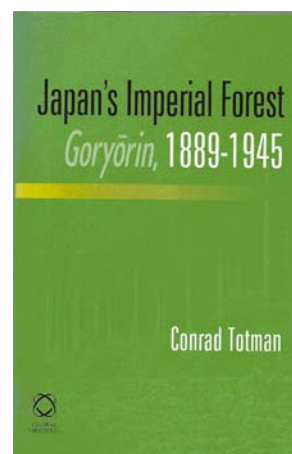
Hardback £50.00

ISBN - 13: 978-1905246304

Review by Sir Hugh Cortazzi

Conrad Totman, Emeritus Professor of Yale University and author of this work, is a specialist in Japanese history and has published many books especially about the Tokugawa (Edo) period and Japan's environmental history.

This book is likely to be primarily of interest to students of forest history and silviculture, but the preservation of forests is now such an important consideration in the preservation of the environment and in combating global warming that it should be of interest to a wider audience. The way in which forests provided funds for the imperial household is also relevant to students of the imperial system.



After setting out the historical background, including a discussion of Meiji land reform, Totman describes the steps leading to the establishment of the *Goryōrin* (imperial forest). He draws attention to the way in which Meiji leaders advocated the case for using national forests as a source of income for the imperial household, but he notes that the imperial

forests "never achieved complete stability of size, location, or character." They were "continually subjected to outside pressures and gradually shrank (page 43)." Totman discusses the management of the imperial forests stressing the importance of afforestation and aftercare and underlines the improvements in the technology of silviculture.

Totman makes some interesting comparisons between Britain and Japan. He concludes (page 97) that "in Britain, even though woodland had largely disappeared by the twentieth century, what

remained was of such little material consequence to British life that forest issues were not a source of severe and sustained conflict between rulers and ruled. In Japan, however, even though the realm was far more richly forest-clad, competition for the yield remained so intense as to constitute a central focus of ruler-ruled conflict until 1950 or so, as exemplified by the vicissitudes of *Goryōrin*."



Netto Senso (The Net War)

**by Izumi Harada and
Yasuhide Yamanouchi**

**NTT Publications, 2007, 285
pages, including notes and
index.**

Hardback ¥ 3,360

ISBN -13:978-47571-0223-1

Review by Takahiro Miyao

This publication is based on a research report on the role of nations and cyber governance in the information age, which was prepared by the Institute for International Socio-Economic Studies (IISE) in Tokyo with the support from NEC in fiscal 2006. The subject matter is quite important and urgent in this age of information and globalization with increasing conflicts of various kinds not only in the real world but also in the virtual cyberspace.

The content of this book consists of two parts: Part 1 deals with some recent cases of national conflicts involving internet use by nations and other social groups, and Part 2 focuses on the current status of discussions on internet governance in the international community, mainly progressing in Europe. Some of the key words that are taken up in this book are: "hacktivism", "Internet censorship", "cyber terrorism" and "cyber security", to name just a few.

Probably one of the most fascinating episodes in this field is several cases of Chinese hacktivism attacking Japan, the US and other countries in the past, which is well-documented in Chapter 2 ("Risks and Threats in Net Society," written by Y. Yamanouchi). This highlights hacktivist groups in China which have conducted "social hacktivism," meaning relatively large-scale political activities against various, mostly official, websites, in foreign countries. In the case of China, there were well-known hacktivist groups such as the "Chinese Honker Union," but their activities have been suppressed for the last couple of years, due to strict regulations by the central government in China.

The most recent case, still vividly remembered by many Japanese, is Chinese attacks against Japan's intention to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council in 2005, when a group of Chinese hacktivists called for cyber attacks against some official and personal websites including those of the Japanese Embassy in Beijing, the Japanese Prime Minister's Office, Yasukuni Shrine, Meiji Shrine, 2 Channel as well as some "anti-China" specialists in spring and summer 2005. What is interesting is the fact that a Japanese hacktivist group launched a counterattack against the Chinese group, and the situation appeared to have been out of hand, almost looking like a "Net War" between the two countries, at one time. As is well known, however, the crisis was avoided by the Chinese government's actions later that year to curb any anti-Japanese activities in the real as well as the cyber world.

This episode seems to signify the phenomenon of rising nationalism and its popular expression in cyber space in many of the emerging countries as well as the urgent need for the implementation of cyber security and appropriate regulations, if necessary. This book is full of important ideas and suggestions in this regard.

Hopefully, the authors will be able to work further on the "Net War" theme to write a book in English for a wider audience, including some of the key issues that governments, businesses as well as individuals are currently facing in the era of increasing cyber crimes, virus attacks, and cyber terrorism of various kinds.

Postscript:

The foreword of this book was contributed by former NEC Chairman and IISE Honorary Advisor, Tadahiro Sekimoto, who passed away soon after the final editing of his foreword. In a sense, this book might be regarded as a final tribute to him.

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