

A002930 – History of Japan



熊本評論 [Kumamoto hyōron], 20.09.1907. Illustration of the Japanese proverb, "One general succeeds and countless bones rot", derived from the line 「一將功成、万骨枯」 of a poem by the Chin poet Cao Song (830–901).
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General Information

When?

On Thursdays, 16:00 to 19:00. First class: 26. 09. 2019.

Where?

Campus boekentoren 05.03.110.063 = Auditorium 3 "Suzanne Lilar", ground floor Blandinberg 2 (main building of the Faculty Lettren en wijsbegeerte. Map: <http://admin.flwi.ugent.be/maps/?id=05.03.100.005&>)

Books you need

Conrad Totman. *A History of Japan*. The Blackwell History of the World. Malden MA, Oxford UK, Berlin: Blackwell Publishing, 2000 (or newest edition).

W.J. Boot. *Keizers en Shōgun. Een Geschiedenis van Japan tot 1868*. Amsterdam: Salomé – Amsterdam Univ. Press, 2001 (not needed for exch. students)

There is a stock pile of the books (newest edition) for a reduced student price waiting for you at Standard Boekenhandel in the shop on the Kouter: <http://www2.standaardboekhandel.be/nl/winkels/gent-kouter>.

Additional readings, lecture scripts, etc., on MINERVA

UFORA is our electronic learning platform. Please make sure that you are inscribed on UFORA for this course so that you have access to documents and get notifications. Additional readings, lecture scripts and announcements will be distributed and stored there for down-loading.

Exam

In order to pass this course you have to successfully participate in the final exam (date will be announced). The final exam will consist of 20 questions. Some of them are multiple choice questions, others require a short written answer (in English or Dutch, as you prefer). Instructions for your exam preparation will be given in class and on UFORA. The most effortless road to the examination is coming to class, taking notes, and doing the readings.

How to contact me

Contact me after class, or write me an e-mail: Christian.Uhl@UGent.be. If you are lucky, you'll find me in my office: Blandijnberg 2, 5th floor, room 150.019.

More details (ECTS, etc.) on the official data sheet:

<https://studiegids.ugent.be/2017/NL/studiefiches/A002930.pdf>

Structure and Readings

<i>Intro</i>	<i>General information / Philosophical Orientation</i>
00	What is “history” and why are we obsessed with it? Linear time, historical consciousness, and the status of the historical disciplines in the modern order of knowledge
01	Our textbooks in meta-historical perspective: Objectivity and the “fiction of the facts” / the problem of periodization. TOTMAN: Intro 1 – 8; BOOT: Voorwoord, inleiding 9 – 13.
<i>Part I</i>	<i>From the Pre-Historical Times to the Reforms of the 7th century</i>
02	From 250 BC to AD 400: The emergence of an archaic “state”. TOTMAN: 11–31; BOOT: 14–21.
03	From the 5 th century to AD 701: The role of the emperor, the Taika reforms, the Jinshin disturbance, the move to Nara. TOTMAN: 34 – 86; BOOT: 22 – 28.
<i>Part II</i>	<i>The Establishment and the Decline of the Ritsuryō-System</i>
04	From 701 to 967: The <i>ritsuryō</i> -style administration from the enactment of the Taihō codex to the enactment of the <i>Engi shiki</i> and the institutionalisation of the rule by regents. TOTMAN: 87 – 112; BOOT: 29 – 39.
05	From 967 to 1185: The decline of the <i>dajōkan</i> system, the increase of large-scale land ownership, the <i>shōen</i> and the rise of the <i>bushi</i> . TOTMAN: 113 – 138; BOOT: 39 – 47.
<i>Part III</i>	<i>From Shōen-Based Feudalism to Mura-Based Feudalism</i>
06	From 1185 to 1333: The the <i>shōen</i> -based feudalism of the Kamakura period; the definition of “feudalism”, comparison with feudalism in Europe. TOTMAN: 139 – 171; BOOT: 48 – 57.
07	From 1333 to 1598: The disintegration of <i>shōen</i> -based feudalism, the decentralized feudalism of the warring states period and the growth of cities and villages; the feudalism under Toyotomi Hideyoshi. TOTMAN: 172 – 215; BOOT: 58 – 80.

<i>Part IV</i>		<i>The Consolidation, Decline and Collapse of the Tokugawa Rule</i>
08	From 1600 to 1700: the consolidation of village-based feudalism, leader-retainer relationships under the Tokugawa, the rise of the merchants and the crisis of the Tokugawa.	TOTMAN: 215 – 245; BOOT: 81 – 93.
09	From 1700 to 1868: The crisis of village-based feudalism, the arrival of Western imperialism, the collapse of the Tokugawa rule, and the imperial restoration of 1868.	TOTMAN: 246 – 306; BOOT: 93 – 108.
<i>Part V</i>		<i>The Establishment and Decay of Constitutional Monarchy</i>
10	From 1868 to 1931: from the Meiji reforms and the making of the constitution the "Manchurian incident" and the rise of "Japanese Fascism".	TOTMAN: 307 – 359
11	From 1931 to 1945: From the Manchurian incident to the "China incident" to the "Greater East Asian War" and Japan's capitulation.	TOTMAN: 360 – 401; 417 – 438.
<i>Part VI</i>		<i>The Rise of Japan as a Constitutional Democracy</i>
12	The post-war years from the allied occupation to the "economic miracle" to the "bubble economy" of the late 1980s.	TOTMAN: 439 – 502
<i>Part VII</i>		<i>The Crisis of the "Lost Decades" , and "Abenomics"</i>
13	The "two lost decades" from the burst of the "bubble" to the "triple disaster" of 2011 and the victory of Abe Shinzō in the general elections of 2012.	No readings assigned
14	Japan's Splendor and Misery in the first five years of "Abenomics" (2013 - 2017). Addendum: Japan in the year 2018.	No readings assigned

On the following pages you find an overview over the periodization of Japanese History (our course: the last column at the right), and a chronology, stretching from the year 108 BCE (archaic period) to 2017 ("Abenomics").

Overview Periodization

Western Calendar	Western style Periodization	Commonly used Periods / BOOT (- 1868)	Periodization TOTMAN (- 1990)	AAO2930 ISHII, Uhl
-10000 BC	prehistoric <i>senshi</i> 先史	(paleolithic p.)	Top Predator ① 130.000 early forager society. Late Pleistocene; Paleolithic	
300 BC	proto-historic <i>genshi</i> 原史	Jōmon (10.000 ~ 300 BC)	② 13.000 later forager society. Holocene; Meso-Neolithic, Jōmon	
AD 300		Yayoi (~300 BC ~AD 300)	Manager of a Human-centered Biological Community ③ dispersed agricultural society.	Part I From pre-historical times to the reforms of the 7 th century
AD 400		Kofun (~ 300 – 710)	400 BC – AD 700: growth; 750 – 1250: stasis. <i>400 BC – AD 250: Yayoi</i> <i>250 – 710 Kofun tomb culture</i>	
AD 500				
AD 600		<i>Asuka (593 – 710)</i>		
AD 700				
AD 800	ancient period <i>kodai</i> 古代	Nara (710 – 794)	<i>710 – 794 Nara; classical aristocratic bureaucracy (ritsuryō)</i>	Part II The rise and decline of the ritsuryō system
AD 900		Heian (794 – 1185) <i>Fujiwara (894 – 1185)</i>	<i>794 – 1050 Heian, classical aristocratic bureaucracy (ritsuryō)</i>	
AD 1000				
AD 1100				
AD 1200			<i>1185 – 1250 early Kamakura shogunate (early medieval)</i>	Part III The rise and decline of shōen- based feudalism
AD 1300	Medieval period <i>chūsei</i> 中世	Kamakura (1185 – 1333)	④ 1250 intensive agric. society 1250 – 1700: growth; 1700 – 1870: stasis.	
AD 1400		Muromachi (1333 –1568) <i>Nanboku (1337 – 1392)</i> <i>Sengoku (1467 – 1568)</i>	<i>1250 – 1333 later Kamakura. 1333 – 1600 Muromachi or Ashikaga; late medieval, feudal (Nanboku, Sengoku, Azuchi-M.)</i>	
AD 1500				
AD 1600		Azuchi-Momoyama (-1600)		
AD 1700	early modern <i>kinsei</i> 近世	Edo/Tokugawa (1600–1868)	<i>1600 – 1867 Edo or Tokugawa shogunate; early modern; centralized feudalism.</i>	Part IV The rise and decline of centralized, village-based feudalism
AD 1800				
AD 1850				
AD 1900	modern period <i>kindai</i> 近代	Meiji (1868 – 1912)	<i>1868–1890 early Meiji; modern</i>	Part V Constitutional monarchy, rise and decline
AD 1945		Taishō (1912 – 1926)	Exploiter of the Dead ⑤ 1890s start industrial society	
AD 1989	contemporary <i>gendai</i> 現代	Shōwa (1926 – 1989)	1890 – 1990: growth <i>1890–1945 imperial Japan</i> <i>1945–pres. entrepreneurial Jap.</i>	Parts VI & VII Constitutional democracy, rise (VI) and crisis (VII)
		Heisei (1989 – present)		

Chronology I & II – Archaic Period / Rise and Decline of the *Ritsuryō* Order

Based on: ISHII Ryōsuke, *A History of Political Institutions in Japan*. Tokyo: University of Tokyo Press, 1980: 133-38. With minor changes.

Archaic period, 250BC-701AD

- Tribal social formations
- State based on *uji* and *kabane*

108 BCE – Emperor Wu Di of the Former Han dynasty establishes four commanderies in Korea. Beyond these, in Japan, lie “over one hundred countries” according to the *Han History*.

25 AD – establishment Later Han dynasty.

57 – the Na country of Wa sends an embassy to the Later Han

107 – the king “of the country of Mendo” in Wa and others send an embassy to the later Han court.

In the latter half of the 2nd century AD – “great disorder” in Wa, clans warring with one another. Eventually all agree to submit to the authority of Queen Himiko.

220 – fall of the Later Han, three kingdoms of Wei, Wu, and Shu.

247 – Himiko wars with the country of Kuna.

Himiko dies, is succeeded by 13 year old girl of her clan, Toyo.

265 – kingdom of Wei destroyed by the Qin, continental support for Himiko ends.

318 – alleged year of emperor Sujin’s death.

391 – Wa armies battle with Paekche and Silla in Korea.

421 – first of “five kings of Wa” sends embassy to the Chinese Southern Court.

538 – Buddhism Introduced to Japan

562 – Wa forces destroyed in Korea.

572 – Soga no Umako appointed as *Ōomi*.

592 – Empress Suiko enthroned.

593 – Prince Shōtoku is made Crown Prince, conducts affairs of the state jointly with Soga no Umako. Begin of Asuka period.

603 – twelve-tier system of court ranks established.

604 – seventeen-articles constitution announced.

623 – scholars return from Tang (610-907) China and praise the excellence of Tang administration and law.

645 – the Soga *uji* gets destroyed; enthronement of emperor Kōtoku, proclamation of the Taika era; oath of loyalty under the great padanus tree.

646 – Taika reform edict.

649 – the “eight ministries and one hundred official posts” of government are established

668 – emperor Tenchi formally enthroned, Prince Ōama made “brother imperial”.

670 – first nationwide census.

671 – Tenchi offers succession to Ōama, but Ōama retires to Yoshino.

672 – the Jinshin uprising of Prince Ōama, who subsequently becomes emperor Tenmu.

681 – edict announcing the compilation of *ritsurō* laws.

684 – Tenmu’s eight *kabane* proclaimed.

694 – court moves to new Fujiwara capital.

701 – *Taihō ritsuryō* code enacted (*Taihō* is the regnal name of emperor Monmu).

Ancient Period, 701-1185, the era of the *ritsuryō* state

- Establishment, Consolidation of the *ritsuryō* order: Nara, early Heian, 701-967
- Decline of the *ritsuryō* order: later Heian, 967-1185

702 – *Taihō ritsuryō* put into effect.

710 – the court moves to Nara, beginning Nara period.

712 – compilation of the *Kojiki*.

718 – *Yōrō ritsuryō* code enacted.

720 – Compilation of the *Nihon shoki*.

722 – announcement of plan to reclaim one million *chō* of new land for cultivation.

723 – Law of “three generations and a lifetime”, newly opened fields (*konden*) exempted from realotment for the life of the reclamer, or for three generations after his death if new irrigation was provided (early *shōen*).

745 – *konden eidae shizai hō*, law, granting reclaimed lands to reclamer in perpetuity.

757 – *Yōrō ritsuryō* put into effect.

759 – first imperial poetry anthology, the *Manyō-shū*, published.

765 – land reclamation prohibited.

772 – private land reclamation permitted again, without restrictions.

784 – beginning of construction of new capital at Nagaoka, abortive.

794 – court moves to the new Heian capital, beginning of the Heian period.

798 – *gun* magistrates to be selected from those with reputation for skill and diligence rather than simply on the basis of inheritance.

810 – Kusuko incident propels emperor Saga to throne (int. Fujiwara feud, Nakanari executed)

820 – the *Kōnin kyakushiki* is enacted (supplementary governmental regulations, *kyaku* on penal procedures, *shiki* on administrative and ceremonial procedures.

824 – by this year the whole country consists of 66 provinces and “two islands”. For many centuries no further changes were made to these administrative boundaries.

857 – Fujiwara no Yoshifusa becomes *Daijōdaijin*. Before him, Fujiwara members functioned as ministers to the left and right, etc.

858 – Fujiwara no Yoshifusa becomes *sesshō* for the child-emperor Seiwa, his grandson.

869 – the *Jōgan kyakushiki* put into effect (the *kyakushiki* of the Jōgan era, the second *kyakushiki* compilation).

880 – *Daijōdaijin* Fujiwara no Mototsune is made regent for an emperor who has come of age.

887 – Fujiwara no Mototsune acquires the title *kampaku* (the first time that this title is used).

902 – *Engi shōen seiri rei* (*seiri rei* of the Engi era) first of a series of orders to tackle the *shōen* problem: commendations of land to powerful families forbidden, and powerful families prohibited from occupying vacant lands.

927 – *Engi shiki* (the *shiki* of the Engi era) enacted (compiled between 905 and 927, the *shiki* part of the *Engi kyakushiki*). The *Engi shiki* consists of 50 books, the first 10 giving details for the ceremonial procedures under the auspices of the *jingikan*. The *Engi shiki* is a sacred text of the Shintō religion.

939 – *Tengyō no ran*, failed rebellion of Taira no Masakado in the Hiizen province (first of many rebellions led by *bushi*).

967 – *Engi shiki* put into effect (book 11 with regulations on the *dajōkan*). From this point onwards, the *sesshō-kampaku* regency is a permanent standing institution (= beginning of the *sekkan*-system of government).

984 – establishment of new *shōen* forbidden (*Eikan seiri rei*).

988 – the *gun* magistrates and farmers of Owari province accuse the provincial governor (*kokushi*), Fujiwara no Motonaga, of violating the law.

1008 – the *Genji monogatari* (*Tale of Prince Genji*) basically completed by Murasaki Shikibu.

1028 – Rebellion of Taira no Tadatsune in the Kantō area. Defeated 1031 by Minamoto no Yoritomo, beginning of consolidation of Minamoto power in the Kantō area.

1040 – establishment of new *shōen* forbidden (*Chōkyū seiri rei*).

1068 – enthronement of emperor Go-sanjō, beginning of the end of Fujiwara hegemony.

1069 – establishment of new *shōen* forbidden (*Enkyū seiri rei*); *shōen* certificate recording office (*kiroku shōen kenkitsu jo*) established.

1072 – emperor Go-sanjō abdicates, but carries on direct imperial rule in retirement. Fujiwara still figure as *sesshō* or *kampaku*, but *de facto* power is with the retired emperor.

1086 – emperor Shirakawa abdicates in favor of Horikawa, but carries on from retirement (beginning of *insei*, rule by retired emperors).

1156 – *Hōgen no ran* (rebellion of the Hōgen era), a clash of former emperor Toba and emperor Go-shirakawa over the succession of the throne, both backed by rivaling Fujiwara, and by either the Taira, or the Minamoto clan. Go-shirakawa victorious, holds power as retired emperor during the reign of 5 successive emperors. Also, the rebellion paved the way for the *bushi* grasp of power.

1159 – *Heiji no ran* (rebellion of the Heiji era), clash between the Taira and Minamoto clans, Taira no Kiyomori victorious; the rebellion is a precursor of the Genpei wars.

1167 – Taira no Kiyomori made *Daijōdaijin*.

1180 – Minamoto no Yoritomo raises a military force, establishes headquarters at Kamakura. Beginning of the *Genpei gassen* (Genpei wars) between the Taira (Heike) clan and the Minamoto (Genji) clan.

1185 – The Taira (Heike) forces are eventually destroyed in the battle of Dan no ura (*Dan no ura no tatakai*). Hōjō Tokimasa goes to the capital with a petition to grant Minamoto no Yoritomo the right to appoint *jitō* (military constables) and *shugo* (land stewards), and retired emperor Go-shirakawa appoints Yoritomo as *sōjitō* (general military constable) and *sōshugo* (general land steward). Establishment of the Kamakura bakufu, beginning of the Kamakura period.

III & IV – From the Establishment of *Shōen*-Based to the End of *Mura*-based Feudalism

Based on: ISHII Ryōsuke, *A History of Political Institutions in Japan*. Tokyo: University of Tokyo Press, 1980: 138-44. With minor changes.

The era of feudalism (*hōkensei*), including the “medieval” (*chūsei*) and the “early modern” (*kinsei*) periods

- Shōen-based feudalism: consolidation Kamakura, 1185–1333; decay Muromachi 1333 until 1467
- Decentralized feudalism Muromachi (Sengoku), from 1467–1568
- Han-and-village based feudalism: consolidation Azuchi-Momoyama and early Edo, 1568–1742; decline later Edo, 1742– 1868

1187 – a recording office for *shōen* is established.

1192 – Yoritomo is appointed *Sei-i-tai shōgun*.
1199 – Yoritomo dies.

1221 – *Jōkyū no ran* (Jōkyū rebellion), of the retired emperor Go-toba against the Kamakura *bakufu*, led by regents of the Hōjō clan. *Bakufu* victorious, destroys enemies at court.

1223 – *Goseibai shikimoku* enacted (legal code of the Kamakura *bakufu*, marks the feudalization of the legal system; promulgated to deal with increasing land disputes).

1274 – Bunei war, first Mongol invasion with Chinese and Korean enforcement, repulsed.

1281 – Koan war, second Mongol invasion, ditto, Mogol forces eventually destroyed by a taifun (kamikaze=“winds of the gods”).

1294 – decree of the *bakufu*, discontinuing all consideration for further rewards or compensation stemming from the Mongol invasions.

1297 – the *bakufu* issues a debt remission order (financial difficulties and growing dependency of the *bushi* on money lenders).

1317 – *Bumpō wadan*, order of the *bakufu* stating that imperial succession should alternate between the rival imperial lines.

1326 – emperor Go-daigo names his son (junior line) as heir apparent, in violation of the *bakufu* order of 1317.

1331 – beginning of open revolt of Go-daigo against the *bakufu*.

1332 – Go-daigo refuses to abdicate, is exiled. Kōmyō of the senior line is enthroned. All imperial land confiscated by the *bakufu*. Go-daigo’s son calls warrior clans to overthrow the Hōjō.

1333 – Ashikaga Takauji send by the *bakufu* to defeat Go-daigo and his supporters, deserts to Go-daigo’s side. Kamakura *bakufu* destroyed.

1334 – beginning of the Kenmu restoration (attempt at restoring direct imperial rule by Go-daigo).

1335 – Go-daigo refuses to give Ashikaga Takauchi the shōgun title. Takauchi turns against Go-daigo,

1337 – Go-daigo flees to Yoshino, establishes Southern court. Ex-emperor Kōmyō of the senior line installed in Kyoto as emperor of the Northern court (start Nanboku era).

1338 – Ashikaga Takauchi made *Sei-i-tai shōgun*, establishes headquarter at Kyoto, Muromachi district (start Muromachi period).

1352 – Ashikaga Takauji orders the expropriation of 50% of *shōen* revenues (*hanzei hō*) in 8 provinces requiring military action.

1368 – *hanzei hō* put into effect nationwide.

1392 – Northern and Southern court reconciled after 50 years of civil war.

1441 – the *bakufu* orders a debt remission (*tokusei rei*).

1454 – beginning of *Kyōtoku no ran* (series of conflicts over the control over Kantō region).

1457 – Edo castle built (‘seed’ modern Tokyo).

1467 – outbreak of the Ōnin rebellion (=start Sengoku period).

1477 – Kyoto destroyed, Ōnin war ends, disorder continues, country completely decentralized.

1526 – Imagawa Uchijika enacts the *Kana moku-roku* as the law of his domain.

1536 – Date Tanemune enacts the *Jinkaishū* as the law of his domain.

1543 – the Portuguese arrive at Japan.

1547 – Takeda Shingen enacts the *Shingen kahō* (Shingen house laws) as the law of his domain.

1568 – Oda Nobunaga occupies Kyoto (=start Azuchi-Momoyama period).

1573 – end of the Muromachi *bakufu*, title of *shōgun* vacant until 1603.

1577 – Oda Nobunaga enacts rules for the town below his main castle at Azuchi.

1582 – Nobunaga assassinated. Toyotomi Hideyoshi conducts land survey in Yamashiro province (model for later nationwide survey).

1585 – Toyotomi Hideyoshi made *kanpaku*.

1587 – Hideyoshi conquers Kyūshū; issues prohibition against Christianity.

1588 – Hideyoshi issues sword hunt order, non-samurai have to surrender their swords.

1590 – Hideyoshi defeats the Hōjō at Odawara, completing the pacification of the country; orders national census; Tokugawa Ieyasu becomes the lord of Kantō region, based in Edo.

1591 – Hideyoshi prohibits *samurai* from becoming merchants or farmers.

1597 – 26 Christians are executed.

1598 – Japanese invasions of Korea (started ’93) end with Japan’s retreat. Hideyoshi dies, opposition against Ieyasu raises.

1600 – Battle of Sekigahara, Ieyasu victorious.

1603 – Ieyasu becomes *Sei-i-tai shōgun* (= start Edo period).

1611 – written oaths of allegiance required of western *daimyo*.

1612 – written oaths of allegiance required of eastern *daimyo*.

1615 – battle of Tennōji-Okayama, destruction of opposing Toyotomi house; laws for warriors (*Buke sho-hatto*) and laws for the palace and court nobility (*Kinchū narabini kuge sho-hatto*) enacted; “One domain, one castle order” (*ikkoku ichijō rei*) enacted, limiting the *daimyo* to one castle.

1616 – ban on Christianity reaffirmed; foreign trade (except Chinese) restricted to Nagasaki and Hirado (*sakoku rei*).

1632 – rules for non-*daimyo* vassals (*Shoshi hatto*) of the Tokugawa enacted.

1634 – duties for senior councillors (*rōjū*) and junior councillors (*wakadoshiyori*) defined.

1635 – calls for foreign ships limited to Nagasaki. system of “alternate residence” (*sankin kōtai*) instituted.

1637 – Shimabara rebellion (suppressed ’38)

1639 – Portuguese ships forbidden to land in Japan; travel abroad restricted, building of larger ships forbidden (completion of *sakoku* policy).

1643 – restriction of sale of land by peasants.

1650 – Keian rebellion by *ronin* (masterless samurai).

1651 – adoption of successor in expectation of death permitted again to tackle *ronin* problem

1665 – tobacco growing on registered land forbidden; rulings for temples and shrines.

1673 – farmers of land below a minimum putative yield prohibited from dividing their arable land.

1697 – *Jibun shioki rei* enacted, allowing *daimyo* to exercise autonomous criminal justice in their fiefs.

1713 – prohibitions against land division (1673) amended so as to impose a minimum of land to be separated.

1720 – tattooing instituted as punishment; ban lifted on the importation of foreign books in Chinese translations.

1722 – intensification of Tokugawa Yoshimune’s

Kyōhō reforms (1716–’36): organization of Edo neighborhood leagues; 1% rice assessment (*agemai*) on putative *daimyo* incomes; relaxation of *sankin kōtai* policy; Edo neighborhood taxes to be levied in silver instead of goods and services; etc.

1736 – *bakufu* limits recoverable interest to 15% *per annum*.

1737 – rule that land transferred as security for a loan can be redeemed only within 10 years after expiration of mortgage agreement.

1742 – *Kujikata osadamegaki* (book of rules for public officials) enacted

1783 – ’87: one million die in the Tenmei famine.

1789 – *kien rei*, order cancelling all debts to rice brokers incurred by *bakufu* house and bannermen within the preceding 6 years.

1790 – regent Matsudaira Sadanobu begins to issue drastic policies to strengthen the *bakufu* (*kansei reforms*).

1798 – beginning of colonization of Hokkaido.

1825 – order that foreign ships be repulsed.

1841 – begin of Tempō reforms to regain control over *daimyo* affairs and fix fiscal problems; wholesalers’ associations (*tonya kabunakama*) disbanded; new coinage; ban of “Dutch learning”, etc.

1842 – order to repulse foreign ships relaxed.

1844 – letter of the Dutch king explains that western might and trade makes opening of Japan inevitable, advice politely rejected.

1853 – Perry’s ships arrive at Uruga; injunction against building large ships withdrawn.

1854 – “treaty of friendship” with the USA; later this year similar treaty with Great Britain.

1858 – commercial treaty with the USA (“free trade” at 6 ports, permanent foreign residency, etc.; opposed by many *daimyo*).

1864 – first expedition against Chōshū.

1865 – treaties confirmed by imperial edict.

1866 – 2nd expedition against Chōshū; agreement on tariffs with USA, GB, France, NL.

1867 – Hyōgō (Kobe) opened for foreign commerce; secret court edict authorizing overthrow of *bakufu*; *shōgun* resigns; court proclaims resumption of sovereign powers (*ōsei fukkō*, restoration of imperial rule)

1868 – battles of Toba and Fushimi, *bakufu* destroyed; 5-Article-Charter-Oath, *Seitaisho* issued; Edo renamed Tokyo; era name changed to Meiji with the intention to make era names in the future correspond to imperial reigns.

V – Rise and Deline of Japan as a Constitutional Monarchy

Based on: ISHII Ryōsuke, *ibid.*, 145-53 (with changes), other sources in print and in the public domain

The modern era, 1868 to the present, first part: Japan as a constitutional monarchy

- establishment, consolidation: 1868–1931
- decay: 1932–1945

1869 – the *daimyō* of Satsuma, Chōshū, Hizen and Tosa announce surrender of control over land and people in their domains to the imperial government; emperor moves to Tokyo; *daimyō* return their fiefs to emperor Meiji, many becoming “governors” of their previous domains; civil service code enacted.

1870 – deliberative assembly reorganized as *shūgi'in* (lower house); commoners permitted to have surnames, forbidden to carry swords; new criminal law promulgated; etc.

1871 – domains of shrines and temples confiscated; domain system replaced by a system of state prefectures; household registration law promulgated; ministries of justice, and of education established; *eta* and *hinin* class designations abolished; mission to USA, Europe, headed by Iwakura Tomomi; etc.

1872 – education act issued (state controlled, western style education with the objective to achieve universal literacy); Gregorian calendar introduced; order liberating *geisha* and prostitutes; Japan asserts control over the Ryūkyū islands; first Protestant church (Yokohama); first railway (Tokyo-Yokohama).

1873 – land tax reform (de facto expropriation of the *daimyō*); universal conscription order promulgated (beginning of modern army); Japanese permitted to marry foreigners; wives allowed to sue husbands for divorce; Saigo Takamori, Itagaki Taisuke, and others fail to get approval for the plan to invade Korea; etc.

1874 – Itagaki et. al. present petition for the establishment of a national assembly; Itagaki returns to Tosa, founds the *Jiyū minken undō* (Freedom and Peoples' Rights Movement); government suppresses uprising in Saga; etc.

1875 – supreme court founded; civil litigation hearings opened to the public; commoners required to assume surnames; libel laws and newspaper regulations enacted (restrictive); Japan exchanges with Russia the Sakhalin for the Kuril islands; etc.

1876 – Sword Ban Order issued (sword-wearing only by officials at state ceremonies); transformation of samurai stipends into government bonds; treaty of Kanhwa forced on Korea; rebellion in Ibaraki prefecture against land tax reform, Akizuki and Hagi rebellions.

1877 – *Seinan no eki*, or Satsuma rebellion: Saigo Takamori leads 80.000 ex-samurai insurgence against the Meiji government, suppressed after 9 months; land tax reduced.

1878 – civil code completed; law on organization of districts, wards, cities and villages; regulations on the transfer of factories to private control; etc.

1879 – Okinawa incorporated as prefecture; General Staff Office established; Education Order enacted; etc.

1880 – New Testament translated; restrictive regulations for public gatherings issued; etc.

1881 – government announces plan of the establishment of National Assembly in 1890; Liberal Party (*Jiyūtō*, headed by Itakaki), and Constitutional Progressive Party (*Rikken kaisei tō*, by Ōkubo Toshimichi) founded;

1882 – Itō Hirobumi to Europe for study of constitutional law (bias for Germany, returns in 1883); Bank of Japan regulations enacted; Shinto becomes state religion; etc.

1884 – Ordinance concerning Peers enacted, 5 nobility ranks; Chichibu incident (large scale peasant revolt, violently suppressed).

1885 – modern *dajōkan* system replaced by a modern cabinet system; Itō Hirobumi Prime Minister; rising tensions between Japan and China over Korea.

1886 – regulations and laws concerning organization of ministries, courts, registration of property interests; order for establishment of Imperial University in Tokyo as central government academy; etc.

1887 – rising anti-foreign sentiment of unequal treaties; Peace Preservation Law restricts public gathering, permits banishment of opposition leaders from Tokyo; Income Tax Law enacted.

1889 – Constitution promulgated, related laws and regulations promulgated or enacted.

1890 – The first Diet is elected and convened; Imperial Rescript on Education, emphasizing Confucian values; numerous laws and regulation on organization of prefectures, political parties, civil and criminal procedure promulgated or enacted.

1894 – in Korea rebellion against the Korean monarchy, quelled by Japanese as well as Chinese troops; the situation escalates into the First Sino-Japanese war.

1895 – Treaty of Shimonoseki ends the war with China and seals Japan's victory. Korea now “independent”; as part of reparations, China cedes the Pescadores, the Liaodong peninsula, and Formosa (Taiwan).

1900 – Japan supports an international force to quell the Boxer rebellion in China; increasing tension between Japan and Russia..

1902 – Anglo-Japanese alliance (Japan regarded as ally of GB against its biggest rival, Russia).

1904 – Japan invades Korea, declares war on Russia over control of Korea and the Liaodong peninsula.

1905 – battle of Tsushima, Japan defeats the Russian navy. Treaty of Portsmouth ends war; Korea turned into Japanese protectorate.

1909 – An Chungun assassinates Itō Hirobumi in Manchuria for his role in Japanese Korea politics.

1910 – full annexation of Korea, establishment of Japanese military rule over Korea.

1912 – Meiji tennō dies, Taishō tennō enthroned.

1914 – WWI breaks out, Japan enters on the basis of Anglo-Japanese alliance, seizes German concession Tsintao (Qingdao) in China.

1915 – Japan presents a list of 21 demands to China, fuels anti-Japanese resentment.

1918 – war-fuelled economic growth has caused inflation, nationwide riots break out in protest against high rice prices.

1919 – start of Korean independence movement.

1920 – depression, dramatic fall of prices.

1921 – Socialist league founded and disbanded by the government; Four Power Pacific Treaty signed, limits naval capacities.

1922 – Communist Party of Japan founded secretly (*Nihon kyōsantō*).

1923 – Great Kantō Earthquake kills over 100.000 people, catastrophic destructions.

1925 – Peace Preservation Law (illegal to promote abolition of private property or changes in the national polity); universal Male Suffrage Law enacted (age: 25).

1926 – Taishō tennō, dies, succeeded by Hirohito as emperor Shōwa.

1927 – Shōwa financial crisis; interventionist policy towards China increases.

1928 – crackdown on the Communist Party (incarceration, torture, etc.); clashes between Guangdong army and Chinese nationalists.

1929 – US stock market crashes, Great Depression begins, shakes Japan's economy.

1931 – staged attack on the Japanese South Manchurian Railway serves as pretext for takeover of Mukden and South Manchuria, protest of the League of nations ignored.

1932 – Japan bombs Shanghai to “protect” Japanese citizens. The Finance Minister assassinated; the banker Dan Takuma too; Guangdong army establishes the puppet state Manchukuo. PM Inukai Tsuyoshi assassinated.

1933 – Japan announces withdrawal from the League of Nations.

1934 – Japan announces repudiation of the Washington Treaties.

1936 – February 26 Incident occurs (attempted militarist *coup d'état* by 1st army division); mutual defense pact with Germany.

1937 – Italy included in mutual defense pact; skirmish near Beijing (incident at the Marco Polo Bridge) marks the beginning of what will become the second Sino-Japanese War. In December Massacre of Nanjing, Japanese troops commit mass murder of civilians and systematic rape, loot the city.

1938 – National General Mobilization Act enacted; beginning of “Anti-Japanese Resistance War” of the Chinese communist forces.

1939 – Hitler attacks Poland; Japan promulgates labor conscription, and price control orders.

1940 – all political parties dissolved; Imperial Rule Assistance Organization established; Japanese puppet regime in China under Wang Jingwei; military alliance with Axis powers.

1941 – Germany invades French Indochina; Konoe Fumimaro replaced by general Tōjō Hideki as PM; in December attack on the Pearl Harbor Naval Force on Hawaii (beginning of Pacific War).

1942 – enactment of Control of Foodstuffs Law; **1943** – power of prime minister strengthened; US-British concerted counter offensive begins.

1944 – large scale allied air raids over Tokyo.

1945 – Germany surrenders to the allies; Okinawa falls to the allies; Japan's attempts at negotiating surrender ignored; Potsdam declaration calls for unconditional surrender; SU declares war against Japan, takes Kuril islands; on Aug. 06 atom bomb on Hiroshima, 09. on Nagasaki; Japan declares surrender in telegram to the allies. In a radio broadcast on Aug. 15, emperor Hirohito announces his decision to end the war.

VI – Japan's Rise as a Liberal Democracy From the Allied Occupation to the Bubble Economy

Based on various sources in print and in the public domain

The modern era, 1868 to the present, second part: Japan as a constitutional democracy

- VI = establishment, consolidation and "economic miracle", "bubble economy": 1945–1989 (this page)
- VII = crisis: "burst of the bubble" and "lost decades", "triple disaster" and "Abenomics": 1990–2018 (next pages)

1945 – Aug. 16 and later that year: Higashikuni Naruhiko Prime Minister (until Oct. 06); first legal congress of Communist Party; Japan surrenders formally, MacArthur arrives in Tokyo; Shigemitsu Mamoru PM; prewar feminist leaders demand woman suffrage; MacArthur orders to end restriction on civil, political and religious liberties; State Shinto disestablished; Japan Socialist Party, Japan Liberal Party, Japan Progressive Party, Japan Cooperative Party formed.

1946 – Supreme Commander of Allied Powers (SCAP) rejects drafts of a new constitution and produces an own one, which is presented to the public and later promulgated as an act of the Japanese government; emperor Hirohito exempted as war criminal; first diet elections with women participation, candidates of 363 political parties; In May beginning of the Tokyo War Crimes Trial; Yoshida Shigeru PM; a socialist (Sōdōmei) and a rivaling communist labor federation (Sanbetsu) are founded; Labor Relations Adjustment Law passes diet, Revised Land Reform enacted.

1947 – Yoshida cabinet resigns over strike campaign of gov. workers; USA announce Truman doctrine; diet passes Fundamental Law of Education (liberalization of curriculum, co-education); general elections held, Katayama Tetsu (Socialist Party) PM; new constitution takes effect; Law for the Elimination of Excessive Concentration of Economic Power passes diet (foundation for dissolution of the *zaibatsu*).

1948 – Decentralization Review Board (DRB) established to counteract the Holding Company Liquidation Commission (HCLC, beginning of the end of *zaibatsu* dissolution plans); Katayama-cabinet falls over budget issues, Ashida Hitoshi (Socialist Party) PM; Ashida falls over Shōwa Denkō corruption scandal; War Crimes Tribunal announces verdict; US National Security Council issues Nine-Point Program (principles of economic stabilization, to be imposed on Japan).

1949 – the Communist Party increases in general elections its number of seats from 4 to 35; banker Joseph Dodge appointed by Washington to implement the Nine-Point program in Japan; Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Board of Trade merged to form the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

1950 – SCAP alarmed by rise of Communism, purges leaders of the Communist Party and bans the publication of the party organ, Akahata (Red Flag); beginning of Korean War (on June 25).

1951 – MacArthur dismissed by Truman, Gen. Ridgeway appointed as SCAP; supreme court founded; end of political purges, prewar conservatives return on political stage, form Democratic Party (Hatoyama president); International Peace Treaty signed by 48 nations in San Francisco, official end of WWII for Japan; US-Japan Security Treaty (reaction on foundation of Peoples Republic of China in 1949, beginning of the Cold War); Socialist Party

splits into a Left and a Right Party (one opposing both treaties, the other only the Security Treaty).

1952 – Official end of US occupation of Japan; Prevention of Subversive Activities Law passes Diet.

1953 – Ceasefire agreement signed in P'anmunjon, Korea (July 28).

1954 – Mitsubishi completes rebuilding of the Mitsubishi zaibatsu; PM Yoshida Shigeru resigns after losing vote of confidence, Hatoyama Ichirō PM.

1955 – Left and Right Socialist Parties reunite and form the Japan Socialist Party (*Nihon shakaitō*), and that triggers the conservative Liberal and Democratic parties to merge and form the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP, Jiyū minshūtō, first time in post-war that Japan has a two-party system; all subsequent PMs LDP).

1956 – Mitsui bussan completes the process of reassembling itself as a *zaibatsu*; Hatoyama resigns, Ishibashi Tanzan PM; Japan becomes a member of the United Nations.

1957 – Ishibashi resigns because of health issues, and class A war criminal convict (didn't get tried) Kishi Nobusuke becomes PM.

1958 – National Health Care Act passes diet; peace treaty with Indonesia.

1959 – more than 1.000.000 citizens and students begin protests against the revision of the US-Japan Security treaty, beginning of the treaty revision crisis (Anpo tōsō).

1960 – US-Japan Security Treaty of '51 replaced by a revised Treaty (goes into effect in June), nationwide anti-treaty movement, violent student protests, president Eisenhower cancels visit to Japan; leader of the Socialist Party, Asanuma Inejirō, assassinated by a militant right-wing activist during a TV debate; beginning of the Vietnam War (until 1975); Ikeda Hayato becomes PM and announces his plan to double income in the decade to come; color TV broadcast begins.

1964 – Japan joins the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); the International Monetary Fund (IMF) recognizes Japan as one of the 8 leading economic powers; Niigata pollution incident occurs (one of a number of dramatic environmental incidents in the later 60s); Tōkaidō Bullet train (Shinkansen) starts service; Summer Olympic Games held at Tokyo; the lay Nichiren Buddhist organization (Sōka Gakkai) forms the Clean Government Party (Kōmeitō); Ikeda resigns, Sato Eisaku becomes PM.

1968 – Kawabata Yasunari is awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature; Japan replaces Germany as the second largest economy in the world; the Organization of the Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) is founded; Nippon Telegraph commences pager service; massive violent student protest against tuition fees, the Vietnam War, etc.

1969 – Students occupy the Yasuda lecture hall (Univ. Tokyo), spectacular clashes between students and the riot police; Apollo 11 lands on moon; Japan Space Agency (JAXA) founded.

1970 – Security Treaty prolonged; first Japanese satellite launched; World Exhibition (EXPO) at

Osaka; the Japanese Red Army Faction hijacks Japan Airlines flight 351 and flies it to North Korea; the writer and right wing activist Mishima Yukio calls for a military coup and commits samurai-style ritual suicide.

1971 – Nixon announces state visit to China (first Nixon shock); Nixon announces a 10% tax on all imports to the US, dollar no longer convertible into gold (second Nixon shock); Ministry of the Environment established.

1972 – Okinawa returned to Japan; Tanaka Kakuei (LDP) PM; Law for Equal Employment Opportunity of Men and Women passes diet; recognition of PRCh, end of recognition of Taiwan (China-Japan Joint Statement); Winter Olympic Games held at Sapporo.

1973 – 4-fold increase of the price of oil for over four month (global oil crisis); free exchange rate for the Yen introduced; RAF and PFLP (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine) hijack a Japan Airlines plane.

1974 – bomb attack on Mitsubishi heavy industry headquarter; Japn. RAF attacks French embassy in Den Hague, takes hostages; Tanaka resigns over bribery allegations, Miki Takeo PM; ex-PM Sato accepts Nobel peace prize.

1975 – Japn. RAF takes hostages at the Swedish embassy in Kuala Lumpur; Japan joins the first G6-summit.

1976 – International Lockheed corruption scandal, ex-PM Tanaka arrested; Japan joins first G7 summit; Soviet pilot flees with his MIG-27 jet to Japan; Miki replaced as PM by Fukuda Takeo (for not protecting Tanaka).

1978 – dramatic overnight increase of oil price because of Iranian revolution (second oil shock); Narita airport opens (spectacular anti-airport protests continue); Japan-China Treaty of Amity signed; Ohira Masayoshi PM.

1979 – Ohira dies,

1980 – Suzuki Zenkō PM.

1982 – the first CD ever sold is sold in Japan; Nakasone Yasuhiro PM.

1984 – Telephone service privatized.

1985 – Japan Tobacco and Salt privatized (becomes JT); Japan Airlines flight JA8119 crashes on its way from Tokyo to Osaka, 520 passengers and crew die; G5-summit agrees on policy of revaluation of the Yen, exchange rate to drop from ¥ 240 to ¥ 120 per dollar in the course of one year (Plaza Agreement).

1986 – private car penetration rate over 70%; onset of what will be called a "bubble economy"; RAF member fires a rocket at the US-embassy in Jakarta; Chernobyl melt-down.

1987 – Takeshita Noboru PM; Japan Rail privatized; US-SU Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate and short range nuclear missiles.

1989 – Shōwa tennō (Hirohito) dies on Jan. 7, enthronement of Akihito, beginning of Heisei period; Takeshita resigns over Recruit corruption scandal, Uno Sōsuke PM; 3% consumption tax instituted, public unrest; Uno resigns, Kaifu Toshiki PM; Tiananmen incident, Berlin wall falls, US and SU announce end of Cold War; Nikkei stock index hits all-time high at 38,957.44 intra-day (December 29); choice properties in Tokyo's Ginza district fetch over US \$ 1.5 million per square meter.

VII.1 – The "Lost Decades" From the Burst of the Bubble to the "Triple Disaster"

Based on various sources in print and in the public domain

1990 – the Ministry of Finance revises the Money-Lending Business Control and Regulation Law, introducing restrictions on total lending limits (policy continues for 1 year and 4 month, seen as one of the pricks that caused the "bubble" to burst); Iraq invades Kuwait; "reunification" of Germany.

1991 – the "bubble" begins to collapse, onset of what will be called the "lost decade", and later on the "lost decades"; North and South Korea join the UN; Gulf war (US and Allies against Iraq); Miyazawa Ki'ichi PM; the SU collapses, former SU countries form the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

1992 – Sony introduces the Mini Disk; laws for the cooperation with UN Peace Keeping Operations (PKO, legal foundation to deploy military abroad in spite of article 9 of the constitution); and for the restriction of car emissions pass diet; Sagawa kyūbin scandal occurs (illegal donations to the LDP and a related organization).

1993 – second generation of wireless telecom introduced (2G); dial-up access introduced, first internet service providers (ISP); rice shortage due to cold summer (emergency imports disturb global rice markets, following critique forces Japan to review its protectionist rice policies); Hosokawa Morihiro PM, first non-JDP PM since 1955 (Japan New Party, founded in 1992, neoliberal, conservative); first official recognition of and apology for systemic rape of comfort women during WWII; Basic Environment Law passes diet; Treaty of Maastricht (European Union founded).

1994 – Haneda Tsutomu PM (New Life Party, neo-conservative, neoliberal derivative from the LDP, disappeared in 1994), resigned after 64 days; Murayama Tomi'ichi PM (Social Democratic Party); members of the AUM sect injure 600 people in a sarin gas attack in the city of Matsumoto; Oe Kenzaburō wins the Nobel Prize in Literature.

1995 – use of PCs becomes widespread, number of people using internet and e-mail explodes; Office Word, Excel, etc. become commonplace at workplaces with the introduction of Windows95; 10 million people use mobile phones; Kobe Earthquake kills 6500 people; members of the AUM sect kill 13 and injure 6300 in a sarin attack on the Tokyo subway; World Trade Organization (WTO) founded; Asian Women's fund established; first official recognition of and apology to the victims of Japanese colonialism.

1996 – cable TV and DVD-ROM introduced; investigation by the Ministry of Finance reveals housing loan crisis, loss of total assets ¥ 6.4 trillion, financial system at the brink of collapse, bail-out policies adopted; Hashimoto Ryūtarō PM (LDP); Democratic Party of Japan founded (liberalism, multiculturalism, decentralization, etc). Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty adopted; "financial big bang" (big financial reform to overcome the post-bubble crisis; in effect until 2001).

1997 – ASEAN+3 (Southern Asia + Japan, South Korea, China) established; consumption tax raised to 5%; law for the promotion of the culture of the Ainu minority, organ transplantation law, Public Nursing Care Insurance Law pass diet; Honkong returned to

to China; the Asian Financial Crisis occurs, raises fears of a meltdown of the global financial system due to financial contagion; several Japanese companies go bankrupt (Yaohan, Nissan Mutual Life, Yamaichi Securities, etc.). **1998** – ISDN-service, iMac introduced; Olympic Winter Games held at Nagano; Financial Services Agency established; Hashimoto resigns, Obuchi Keizō PM (LDP); Act on Special Measures Concerning Claim Management and Collection Businesses released, Non Profit Organizations Act issued; Google founded (US). **1999** – 50 million people use mobile phones (40% penetration rate), law against phoning while driving released; ADSL broadband service introduced; IT-bubble emerges ("dot-com-bubble", due to massive investments into IT-companies); Freedom of Information Act, Self-Defense Forces Law, Act on National Flag and Anthem (*hinomaru* and *kimigayo* formally established as Japan's flag and anthem), wire-tapping law pass diet; accident at a nuclear facility in Tokaimura exposes 70 workers to radiation, kills 2; Macao returned to China.

2000 – Mori Yoshirō PM (LDP); G8+EU summit held on Okinawa.

2001 – Third generation of wireless mobile telecom (3G) introduced; central government restructured (reduction of ministries from 22 to 12); Mori resigns, Koizumi Junichiro PM (LDP); Koizumi's visit of the Yasukuni shrine (where class A war criminals are enshrined), and his approval of the publication of a controversial history textbook cause fallout in Japan's relations with the Korea and China; the global IT-bubble collapses, Nikkei stock index hits 16 and 17 years lows, the Bank of Japan adopts quantitative easing policies; the 9.11 terror attacks in the USA enforce the calamities; unemployment rates have reached a historical high (4,7% of women, 5,2% of men according to Japanese counting); big companies announce further lay-offs of tens of thousands of employees; Japan officially in yet another recession, a "lost decade" has completed itself; US "War against Terror" begins in Afghanistan.

2002 – 70% of households in Japan use a PC; Sony announces the Blu-ray Disc; Putin and Bush sign Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions (SORT); in Japan, the salt trade is liberalized; the school week is reduced to five school days (no school on Saturdays); the Road Traffic Law is revised, penalties for drunk driving are increased; South Korea and Japan host the FIFA world-cup together; bilateral negotiations between Japan and North Korea.

2003 – USA and allies invade Irak under the false pretenses that Iraq is involved into the 9.11-attacks, produces weapons of mass destruction and is about to master the production of nuclear weapons; Japan deploys forces to Iraq (for non-combat support, missions continue until 2009); The Liberal Party merges with the Democratic Party (DPJ).

2004 – Several Japanese citizens are taken hostage in Iraq to force Japan to withdraw its military (one hostage killed, decapitation televised in the internet); Teito Rapid Transit Authority privatized, becomes Tokyo Metro; display of consumption tax-inclusive pricing made compulsory; negotiations between Japan and North Korea (return of abducted Japanese citizens for food assistance, etc.). The Chinese Le-

novo Corp. takes over the PC segment of IBM. **2005** – Internet penetration rate 70% (individual citizens); World EXPO opens in Aichi; postal service restructured and privatized.

2006 – Yamanaka Shinya and his team succeed in creating induced pluripotent stem cells (awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 2012); Nikkei drops suddenly in reaction to a raid of the headquarters of Lifedoor because of accounting fraud (Lifedoor shock); Abe Shinzō (LDP) replaces Koizumi as PM.

2007 – LDP loses Upper House election, Abe resigns, Fukuda Yasuo (LDP) elected as PM by the Lower House (Upper House controlled by the DPJ); In the US the "sub-prime Bubble" bursts, causes the fall of Lehman Brothers Holdings (Lehman shock), and develops into the Global Financial Crisis; the Nikkei plunges to an average stock price of ¥ 6994.

2008 – sale of the iPhone begins in Japan (beginning of the smart phone era); G8-summit in Hokkaido; Fukuda resigns, Asō Tarō (LDP) PM.

2009 – the first Android smart phone is sold in Japan; tax reduction for low emission cars introduced; Barak Obama President of the US; citizen judge system introduced; Aso dissolves the diet, overwhelming victory of the Democratic Party (DPJ) in subsequent Lower House elections, Hatoyama Yukio PM.

2010 – wireless telecom generation 3.9 (LTE) introduced; Japan ends its support of the war in Afghanistan, but PM backs down from his promise to close the US bases on Okinawa; the Social Democratic Party leaves his coalition, Hatoyama resigns, Kan Naoto (DPJ) PM; DPJ defeated in Upper House elections; China overtakes Japan as second largest economy.

2011 – mobile phone penetration rate 100% (128 million subscribers), 40,7% of all households with FTTH standard contracts; on March 11 the Sendai earthquake (M9) causes a devastating tsunami and the melt down of all four reactor units of the TEPCO Fukushima dai'ichi nuclear power plant, resulting in the contamination of vast regions of Japan ("triple disaster", more than 15.000 die immediately, another 5000 are missing, most of them because of the tsunami); an area of 20km radius around the site is evacuated and declared uninhabitable; Japan switches from analog to digital TV; Lenovo (China) takes over the PC-segment of the Nippon Electric Company (NEC); Kan Naoto resigns, Noda Yoshihiko (DPJ) becomes PM; the yen-dollar exchange rate reaches ¥ 75 / \$ (strongest yen since end of WW WWII); Kim Jong-un becomes the new leader of North Korea; diet passes law for the establishment of a Reconstruction Agency.

2012 – South Korea's president Lee Myung-bak causes outrage in Japan by setting foot on the Liancourt Rocks (Dokdo, controlled by Korea, claimed by Japan); Japan's Foreign Ministry causes outrage in China by a setting up a website in support of Japan's claims to the Senkaku Islands; several right-wing organizations merge to the Japan Restoration Party (neo-conservative, revisionist, economically neoliberal); landslide victory of LDP in general elections, rightwing nationalist Abe Shinzō again PM, promises to make Japan proud again, and to lead it out of yet another "lost decade" by means of monetary easing, fiscal stimulus, and structural reforms ("Abenomics").

VII.2 – Splendor and Misery in the First Five Years of "Abenomics"

Based on various sources in print and in the public domain

2013 – Park Geun-hye President of South Korea; Xi Jinping President of the People's Republic of China; Mount Fuji registered as world cultural heritage; South Korea bans import of Japanese fishery products because of fear of radioactive contamination; Tokyo wins the bid for the 2020 Olympic Summer Games; Japanese cuisine declared Intangible Cultural Heritage; encouraged also by the US (and triggered by people publishing own radiation measurements) the Diet promulgates the Act on the Protection of Specially Designated Secrets ("State Secrecy Law", an "unprecedented threat to freedom of information" according to Reporters Without Borders, a return to the WWII Peace Preservation Law according to other critics); Abe visits the Yasukuni shrine (where also war criminals are enshrined) and further damages the relations with Japan's neighbors; Nikkei average stock price: ¥ 16.291, \$ to ¥ exchange rate: 1:105; World Press Freedom Index: rank 53 (rank 22 in 2012, and 11 in 2010).

2014 – Akasaki Isamu, Amano Hiroshi and Nakamura Shuji are awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for their development of blue LEDs; smartphone penetration rate 53,5%, PC penetration rate 86,9%; Tax-Free Small-Lot Investment Program introduced to boost appetite for investments (NISA, "Nippon Individual Savings Account"); the consumption tax rises to 8%; the star researcher Obakata Haruko becomes world-famous for having committed massive data fraud in her stem-cell research; Abe announces to lower the corporate tax rate from 35% to 20% in the years to come; Abe (who campaigns for a revision of the "pacifist" article 9 of the constitution) emphasizes the right of collective self-defense; the Japan Restoration Party merges with the Unity Party (founded in 2013) to form the Innovation Party (centralist, conservative, small government, decentralization); the UN Human Rights Commission mentions the treatment of the WWII comfort women issue by Japan in a report on the state of violence against women, the Abe government issues a rebuttal, then withdraws it in order to not further feed the criticism; Abe Shinzō meets Xi Jinping, first Japanese-Chinese summit since 3 years; 3rd Abe cabinet is formed; Nikkei average stock price ¥ 17.450; exchange rate \$ 1: ¥ 119; Press Freedom Index rank 59 (-6). Also in 2014: Lenovo (China) takes over Motorola Mobile; the Russian Federation annexes the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine; Ebola outbreak in West Africa (20.000 casualties); in the Middle East the Islamic State (ISIL, ISIS, IS) is established.

2015 – Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for Ōmura Satoshi (Japan), William Campbell (US) and Tu Youyou (China) for the development of various groundbreaking pharmaceuticals; ISIL highjacks two Japanese citizens and demands 200 million dollar ransom; Abe gives a speech at the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII, avoiding any direct mentioning of Japan's responsibility, thus "makes an end to apologizing diplomacy" (*Nihon keizai shinbun*) and is received accordingly by the former victims of Japan's aggression; cabinet advances revision of milita-

ry legislation; Japan Sports Agency (JSA) established to streamline and unify sport related policies; under the umbrella of the Ministry of Defense, the Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency (ATLA) is established; Temporary Staffing Services Law enacted (regulating working conditions of dispatched workers); Japan's Foreign Minister and his South Korean counterpart come to terms about the WWII comfort women issue: the Japanese government "feels painfully the responsibility for many women's honor and dignity having been violated under the involvement of the military at that time" (so the Foreign Minister of Japan at the joint press conference); Nikkei average stock price ¥ 17.450; exchange rate \$1 : ¥119; Press Freedom Index rank: 61. Also in 2015: in Tianjin, China, 165 people die in a massive explosion of a chemicals' storehouse; 130 are killed in simultaneous terror attacks committed by ISIL in Paris.

2016 – The oil price drops to a low of \$ 28 per barrel, and the growth of China's economy has slowed down, and as a consequence the Nikkei plunges rapidly, and the bank of Japan responds to that by adopting a policy of negative interest rates, which again causes investments in real estate to rise to the highest level since the bubble of 1989; Oosumi Yoshinori receives the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his research on autophagy in yeast cells; North Korea tests a long range missile (flies over Okinawa); Toshiba sells its White goods segment to the Midea Group (China); The Hokkaidō bullet train starts service; the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ, Minshūtō), and the Japan Innovation Party (Ishin no tō) merge to form the Democratic Party (Minshintō: centrism, constitutional democracy, social liberalism, multiculturalism, popular sovereignty, international cooperation, pacifism, etc.); The first of a series of cabinet meetings to shape legislation for the Reform of the Work-Style is held, constituting the core of what is supposed to be the "second phase of Abenomics" [*reducing long working hours of employees by means of regulations on overtime to make it attractive for women and elderly to join the shrinking work force (Japan has the lowest birth rate in the world); reducing the disparity in wages between full-time employees and irregular workers to enhance morale and productivity (part-time and term-contract workers account for 40% of the labor force); raising wages to increase purchasing power and consumer spending (remains weak despite growth of the finance and export sectors of the economy); Promotion of Women in the Workplace Bill enacted; Hon Hai Precision Industry (Taiwan) buys the Sharp Corporation; G7-summit at Shimashi, Obama visits Hiroshima (first visit ever of a US president); yet another raise of the consumption tax from 8% to 10% announced for 2019; revision of the Public Offices Election Act (voting age for all citizens of over 18); the Brexit referendum in Great Britain temporarily sends the Nikkei down to an average stock price of ¥15.000 (soon recovers); the Pokémon GO wave grows into a tsunami of planetary proportions and engulfs Japan; the government issues ¥28 trillion to aid the economy; Koike Yuriko (ex-Minister of Defense in Abe's cabinet of 2007) becomes the first fe-*

male governor of Tokyo (economic liberalism, aggressive privatization, efficiency-based budgetary reform, protection of the environment, conservative nationalism, etc.); Japanese athletes win a couple of medals in the Brazil Olympic Games; the Tenno announces that he is sort of tired of being Emperor and wants to retire; Murata Renhō (Lien-Fang) becomes the head of the Democratic Party (Minshintō, see above); the Chinese Lenovo corporation announces plan to buy the PC segment of Fujitsu Limited; census reveals decline of Japan's population (127 million); Nikkei average stock price in December: ¥ 19.114; \$/¥ exchange rate 1:116; World Press Freedom Index rank 67 (-6); Also in 2016: the Renminbi becomes an international currency; Donald Trump wins the US presidential election.

2017 – the Japan Gerontological Society proposes to define as Senior Citizens all persons of 75 or more years of age; the mayor of Tokyo, Koike Yuriko, establishes the Tokyo Citizens First Association (localism, right-wing populism); US-Japan summit at Tokyo; media reveal that PM Abe and his wife are involved in favoritism in the educational sector ("Morikake" scandal); in the framework of the Working-Style Reform (see 2016) the upper limit of overtime is set at 100 hours per month (!); jobs-to-applicants ratio with 1.48 highest ever measured (1.46 at the time of the "bubble"); Special Provisions to the Imperial House Law Concerning the Emperor's Abdication promulgated; the LDP experiences a historical defeat in the elections of the Tokyo City Parliament, Koike's right-wing Citizens First Association (see above) strongest party; the price of land adjoining the Ginza road in Tokyo exceeds "bubble"-period levels; the EU-Japan Trade Agreement "90% complete"; the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is adopted by 122 member states (yet all NATO states, Australia, Japan, South, and North Korea are not among them); Okinoshima and associated sites are listed as World Cultural Heritage; the entourage of Koike Yuriko establishes the Japan First Association (preparation for the coming general elections); the Toshiba Corporation is demoted to the Second List of the Tokyo Stock Exchange; the total value of the assets of the Government Pension Investment Fund reaches a historical high (¥149 trillion); North Korea undertakes its 6th nuclear test, the UN Security Council imposes sanctions in response (for the 9th time); the Governor of Tokyo, Koike Yuriko, establishes the Party of Hope (right-wing populism, anti-nuclear power, administrative reform, localism, etc.); Edano Yukio establishes the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan (socially liberal, centrist, constitutional grass-roots democracy, anti-nuclear power, etc.); in the general elections on October 10 clear victory of Abe's LDP (248 seats, Edano's Const. Dem. Party 55, Koike's Party of Hope 50); Nikkei average stock price in December: ¥ 22,764; \$/¥ exchange rate 1:112; World Press Freedom Index rank 72 (-5). Also in 2017: massive protest movement in Korea, President Park Geun-hye arrested, Moon Jae-in elected as new president; Kim Jong-nam (eldest son of the ex-leader of North Korea) assassinated in a VX-toxin attack at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport.