

## Introduction

Asia in all its diversity provides a rich field for comparative studies. Professor Joyce C. Lebra, in the first paper of the volume, deepens our understanding of the sources of modernization through a rather unusual comparison of the experience of Japan with that of India, a variation on the oft-studied theme of Japan vis-à-vis China. The samurai elite of Meiji leaders had a will to succeed as it moved to bridge the technological and military gap to preserve Japan's independence; the Brahman elite lacked that will, paralyzed as it was by the necessity of legitimizing science and technology in terms of its own "mother of cultures," Professor Lebra suggests. Japanese nationalism, which antedated the Western impact, contrasted with late-developing Indian nationalism in response to the British raj, and provided one source of the differing reactions. A specialist on the political histories of Japan and of India, Dr. Lebra has combined her divergent research interests in the present article, the product of a year as Fulbright research professor in India in 1965-1966. She is associate professor of history at the University of Colorado; and her writings on Meiji Japan political party leaders have appeared in several publications, including the volume *Japan's Modern Leadership* (1966).

One Japanese leader who moved with iron will to preserve his country's independence was Grand Councilor Ii Naosuke, the subject of Professor Edwin B. Lee's study. Losers in civil conflict seldom receive balanced treatment, inasmuch as their adversaries ultimately dominate historical scholarship of the era; and Ii Naosuke was one of the losers of history. Now Professor Lee provides a judicious view of the man who ended Japan's isolation once and for all in the 1858-1860 period. Just as much as Ii's policies strengthened his personal political authority, they had the patriotic purpose of saving the shogunate to preserve Japan. Twice in recent years Professor Lee has studied in Japan under Fulbright auspices, most recently for the purpose of tracing the

movement for the union of the court and the shogunate in the 1860's. He is a member of the history faculty at Hamilton College.

The articles of Professors Lebra and Lee provide solid evidence of postwar advance in American scholarship on Japan. Very recently Korean studies have also made rapid progress in this country, as revealed by the articles of Professor Chong-Do Hah of Lawrence University and of Professor John Kie-chiang Oh of Marquette University. Both writers combine intimate knowledge of their native land with contemporary American political science methodology. Professor Hah observes that "unsophisticated and self-centered national images of each other" have kept Korea and Japan at odds through much of their post-colonial era. As he tests the postulate that international conflict arises more often than not from distorted images nations have of each other, the author works from both Korean and Japanese sources, and avoids the perils of national partisanship. Professor Hah's "Bitter Diplomacy: Postwar Japan-Korean Relations" appeared in the 1964 volume of this series.

Professor Oh provides a perceptive case study of military takeover as he analyzes the coup of 1961 in his native land. He identifies the "main force of the revolution" as the middle-rank officers who graduated from the Korean Military Academy in 1949 as the eighth class. Discontented for personal and patriotic reasons, their political consciousness stirred by military coups around the world and by visits to the United States, these men in 1961 made the outsized ROK army the instrument of their cause.

Kuomintang China's search for political modernization through a much longer period of military domination forms the theme for articles by Mr. Herman W. Mast III of the University of Illinois and by Professor Mark Plummer of Illinois State University. Mr. Mast traces the process whereby traditionalists overwhelmed innovators in the Examination Yuan headed in the 1928-1937 period by Tai Chi-t'ao, a most conservative executor-custodian of Sun Yat-sen's ideological legacy. Professor Plummer has discovered more utilization of Western political forms in the National Assembly's election of the president of the republic. Even here, however, the commitment is more to the "appear-



ance" than to the "idea of constitutional government." Now associate professor of history at Illinois State University in Normal, Professor Plummer served as Fulbright lecturer at Taiwan University, in Taipei, in 1965-1966. Mr. Mast is a doctoral candidate at the University of Illinois, Urbana.

Professor Roger R. Trask, in 1967-1968 visiting lecturer in American diplomatic history at the University of Illinois, describes Ambassador Joseph C. Grew's key role in effecting the Turco-American rapprochement from 1927 to 1932. President İnönü wept on Grew's departure for Japan in 1932. The Turkish success provided the frame of reference out of which the optimistic Grew operated as he faced the insoluble Japan crisis from 1932 to 1941; hence it commands the interest of students of East Asia. Professor Trask regularly teaches at Macalester College; among his publications are articles on the Atatürk era in Turkey in *Business History Review* (1964) and *The Muslim World* (1965).

Professor Scott D. Johnston, completing his article on the politics of transition in Israel just after the Israeli-Arab summer war of June, 1967, calls attention to the emergence of a restive, younger generation of leaders, supported primarily by those Jews raised in Israel, and ready to supplant leaders backed by European immigrants. Professor Johnston, head of the department and professor of political science at Hamline University, has published two previous articles in this series: "The Multi-Party System of Israel," in 1962, and "Religious Politics and Parties in Israel," in 1963.

Some of the above studies were presented initially at the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, in its fifteenth annual meeting, at Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa, on October 20-21, 1966. Other papers have come directly to the editor, in line with the MCAA policy of making *Studies on Asia* an important vehicle for dissemination of scholarly articles on Asia in general.

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