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# Part I

にほんぶんかちりがいろん

# 日本文化地理概論

しゅうきよう

しゃかいしろう

## 1 宗教 religion | 社会思想 societal-thought

### 1.1 社会思想 societal-thought

#### 1.1.1 The citizens primary concerns:

- 失業 (しつぎょう) → unemployment
  - 失業りつ → unemployment rate
    - \* りつ = rate
  - In Japan only qualified job-seekers are counted as unemployed.
- 自殺 じさつ suicide
  - Korea is 1st in Suicides
  - Russian is 3rd in suicides
  - Japan is 4th in suicides

#### 1.1.2 恩 <sup>おん</sup> moral indebtedness || 義理 <sup>ぎり</sup> moral and/or social obligation

- auf die frage warum man was macht (私は恩があります。ですからそうです。)
- 義理チョコ given on Feb.14 (Valentines Day) to men by woman, social-obligation-chocolate.

#### 1.1.3 人情 <sup>にんじょう</sup> human kindness

- ninjou ga atsui hito desu. → a warm hearted person
  - japanese use thick and thin for describing a persons kindness.
- 恥 <sup>はじ</sup> Gesichtslosigkeit (to loose face)

#### 1.1.4 根回し <sup>ねまわし</sup> arrangement in advance, (originally root-wrapping)

- ne-mawashi o shimasu = to prepare something the japanese people think preparing something properly allows it to be good.
- The japanese people do nemawashi especially before the discussion, they are so prepared that they have little to nothing left to discuss.
- hon-ne literally: a real sound, meaning: a real feeling/opinion, private opinion
- tatemae literally: a facade, meaning: public opinion

#### 1.1.5 年功序 <sup>ねんこうじょれつ</sup> (ねんこうじょれつ) system of age(seniority)

- The japanese people think this system allows them to avoid fights/discussions
- This system comes from growing rice as the seniors were very important in the rice farming society as the experience in rice growing was very important.

#### 1.1.6 村八分 <sup>むらちぶ</sup> (むらちぶ) societal ostracism

- originally: no cooperation except for funerals and fires (かじ) → traditional social punishment

#### 1.1.7 賄賂 <sup>わいろ</sup> bribe

- 袖の下 <sup>そでのした</sup> under-the-sleeves → meaning: money-under-the-sleeves

#### 1.1.8 Gift-Giving

- 心行け <sup>こころづけ</sup> kokoro: heart, zuke: attachment → token(money) of special thanks (in advance), dozoyoroshiku-onegai-shimasu is said when given this present
- (ご) 祝儀 <sup>しゅぎ</sup> → token(money) as thanks afterwards, presented with the words: どもありがとうございます
  - ごしゅうぎ are used for weddings, there a envelope is used which is hard to open
  - ごしゅうぎ are also used for birthdays, there a easy to open reusable envelope is used

### 1.1.9 お祝い <sup>おいわい</sup> Oiwai -> Celebration

- oiwai-no-okurimono, oiwai-no-shina -> celebration gifts
  - 中元 <sup>ちゅうげん</sup> Chuugen -> Bon Festival gifts
    - \* Halb-Jahres-Geschenk am 15.Juli. (The present could be beer for example.)
  - 歳暮 <sup>せいぼ</sup> Seibo -> Year-end gift, the present could be soya sauce for example.
- お返し <sup>おかえし</sup> O-kaeshi -> return -> important to give return gifts
- 年賀状 <sup>ねんがじょう</sup> nenga-jo
  - new years greetings card -> very important for japanese -> should be written by hand
    - \* as preparation japanese people should learn calligraphy
    - \* often hundreds of cards are sent by one person

### 1.1.10 名刺 <sup>めいし</sup> -> Business cards: 91mm x 55mm in size

- exchanging business cards is an important part of japanese business
- the younger person should initialize giving the card.
- The card is given with both hands and held so that the receiver can read the card immediately.
- Even students often have such cards.

### 1.1.11 右翼 <sup>うよく</sup> U-Yoku -> Right-Wing-People

- Still see tenno as shinto-god, and think they sacrifice themselves for emperor and country.
- They love fuji-san and sakana.

### 1.1.12 右翼 <sup>うよく</sup> Kamikaze

- Kami: god/spirit, Kaze: wind -> thus: divine wind
- Originally used to describe the storm who threw the mongols in the 13th century back into the sea.
- Also eventually used for suicide attacks in the 2nd worldwar.

### 1.1.13 切腹 <sup>せっぽく</sup> Seppuku

- Act to forgive ones sin through suicide, seppuku is the cutting of the belly (disembowlement).
- The japanese where not allowed to talk their own opinions to their superiors if they did anyways they would afterwards commit seppuku.

## 1.2 宗教 religion

- Shinto has 51% buddhism 42.7%, and christians 1.5% of the population as followers.
- People of Japan have the freedoms of religion and free speech. Guaranteed by their constitution (けんぽう).

### 1. 神道 <sup>しんどう</sup> Shinto

- しんどう is based on nature, there are supposed to be 8 million gods(kami)
- tenno was believed to be great great great grandson of amatersu was first tenno
  - all further tennos where descendants of him
- jinja -> shrine, to properly worship gods offerings are very important
- torii -> shrine gate, entrance to a sacred area

### 2. 神道 <sup>しんどう</sup> Bukkyou

- introduced through china->korea-> to japan in the 6th century
- buddhism is the path to enlightenment
- tera, o-tera, ji-in, bukkaku are interchangeable -> use o-tera, all mean buddhist-shrine
- sanmon -> temple gate with 3 doorways

### 3. The Shinto-Buddhistic Relationship

- 神仏習合 <sup>しんぶつしゅうごう</sup> Shinbutsu-Shūgō, is the unity of shintoism und buddhism.
  - hotoke/butsu = buddha
  - shin = shinto
  - They believed that shinto gods where reincarnations of buddhistic gods or the other way around.
  - There were shinto shrines in buddhistic temples and the other way around.
  - The difference between the two religions where unimportant for the average japanese.
  - This was kept until the meiji-restoration in the 19th century.
  - Until this point the effective ruler of the country had been the 将軍 <sup>しょうぐん</sup> (Shogun).
  - Shogun means general/military leader.
  - The Shoguns took over in the 12th century and ruled until the meiji restoration.

- しんぶつぶんり 神仏分離 Shin-Butsu-Bunri, is the separation of shintoism and buddhism.
  - Ordered in 1868 by the government to distinguish the shinto gods from the buddhistic ones.

- キリスト教 きりすと Kirisuto-Kyou → christian religion
  - From 1612 to 1873 anti-christian-edicts
  - The religion was introduced to japan around the end of 16th century.
  - Most important christian church(kyoukai) in Japan is the(Oura church) in Nagasaki build in 1864.
  - 1865 hidden christians appeared surprisingly in the church, these christians were called hidden christians, the christian faith had been hidden for over 250years from the beginning of the 17th century until then.
  - The church was destroyed through an atomic bomb in 1945, but rebuild after the war.

## 2 きょういく 教育 education

### 2.1 もんぶかがくしやう 文部科学省ministry of education

- monbu = culture, kagaku = science, sho = ministry
- Also is concerned with matters of sport such as illegal betting on: soccer, baseball, sumo.

### 2.2 Gakko-Seido

- Education-level
- Family financial Background

#### 2.2.1 ぎむきやういく 義務教育Gimu-Kyoiku

- compulsory-education for 9 years
- Sho-gakku → elementary school
    - students are 6-years old when joining
    - no tuition for public elementary schools, around 5000-euros for private schools
  - Chuu-gakko → middle school
    - students are 12-years old when joining
    - private schools are expensive but highly sought after, as they are a middle and highschool in one and thus do not require highschool entrance exams. Private schools also tend to offer better preparation for university entrance exams.

#### 2.2.2 Higher Education

- こうとうがっこう 高等学校→ high school
  - short: 高校 (こうこう)
  - the average school day lasts 5-8 hours
  - students are enrolled between the ages of 15-17
  - students who are older than 17 have a problem fitting in as they will be talked to by everyone with a certain distance, as japanese students are often incapable of speaking plain style to someone their senior, thus excluding said person from the group.
  - The quality of the "senior"-high-school is very important for any future japanese career.
- だいがく 大学→ high school
  - Students are aged 18+
  - Bachelor 4-years, master 2-years, doctor 3-years
  - There are 100.000 foreign students in Japanese universities of those are 90% asian, 60% even chinese.
  - They are differentiated between the こうりつだいがく 公立大学general public universities, and special public universities so called こくりつだいがく 国立大学national universities.

#### 2.2.3 ていこくだいがく 帝国大学The 7 national universities or (former) imperial universities

- Also formerly know as きやうていだい 旧帝大(The 9 Imperial Universities.)
- They were founded under the imperial government between 1886 and 1939.
 

Hokkaido	in Sapporo	18k(20k)students    Vice president (and founder of predecessor Sapporo Agricultural College) was William Smith Clark, as such the university caused christian scholars to appear (students became christians)
Tohoku	in Sendai	18k students    first to accept female students in 1913
Tokyo	in Tokyo	30k students    oldest and most prestigious university of Japan    called 'University of Tokyo'    many japanese politicians studied here
Nagoya	Nagoya	17k students
Kyoto	in Kyoto	23k students    2nd university of japan founded 1897 and build with compensation money from the sino-japanese war 1894-1895    organized as german-styled university which meant students had to learn german

- Osaka in Osaka(Suita City) 23k students || started as dutch learning school
- Kyushuu in Fukuoka originally established 1867 as medical school
- Keio in Seoul
- Taipei in Taiwan
- Other Universities
  - Waseda University: 54k students, and one of the most prestigious universities in japan
  - Keio University: 34k students, originally for oranda-gaku, now also one of the most prestigious universities of japan
  - 上智大学 Jōchi Daigaku → Sophia University, 12k students
  - Würzburg University, 32k students
- 進学率 university-enrollment-rate Japan:50.4% Deutschland: 35%
- 塾 → cram school
- 家庭教師 → private tutor
- 浪人 originally: wandering samurai without a master to serve, now: waiting for another chance to enter a university
- 予備校 prep school for students in der ronin year

## 2.2.4 教育費 educational expenses

- 5.280.000 yen to educate a child in japan (117yen = 1euro) thus around 45.000 euros
- 授業料: tuition fees: national: 535.800yen public:537.857yen private:742.478yen
- national → 4579euro semester, 170euro monthly personal expenses

## 同窓生 ALUMNI

- important for japanese worklife, a good one is needed, they are depending on ones highschool

# 3 経済 economy

## 3.1 The City of おおつ

- The City of Otsu is found at the southern coast of the Biwako.
- It contains an in Japan very famous restaurant, build in medieval franconian Fachwerkhhaus Style.
  - Said restaurant is aptly named 'Würzburg'.
- 1911 the Würzburgian Poet Max Dauthenday wrote the poem "Die Acht Gesichter vom Biwasee" about the Biwako.
- As consequence Würzburg and Otsu became sister cities and the previously mentioned restaurant came about.

## 3.2 Japan's international corporate faces

- きぎょう is the more professional term for かいしゃあ。

### 3.2.1 豊田自動車 Toyota

- Toyota is the largest Business Enterprise in Japan. It was founded in 1937
- Toyota started in 1997 as first of the World to sell Hybrid cars.
- Toyota is called so and not Toyoda because more people read the families Kanji that way.
- ToyotaCity near Nagoya contains the real Business Headquarter, though they also have a Headquarter in Tokyo like most Japanese companies as Tokyo is the economical center of Japan.
- The company operates 'Nagoya' style, meaning they do never borrow money or run a deficit.
  - No debts lead to a very stable and trustworthy company. Though also very little profit margins.
- The company remains to this day in the hands of the Toyoda family.

### 3.2.2 任天堂 Nintendo

- Unlike most corporations in the country, Nintendo has its headquarters in the city of Kyoto.
- Nintendo was founded in 1889 and started out selling はなふだ, or in english flower-cards, for traditional japanese card-playing games.
- Nintendo had its first big hit in 1980 with the 'Game & Watch' handheld portable electronic games (Japanese: ゲーム & ウオッチ Gēmu & Uotchi; called Tricotronic in West Germany and Austria).
- These electronic games made them a fortune and kickstarted Nintendo into becoming a games giant.
- Nintendo runs a policy of few employes, this allows for effective management, high employe salaries and very large profit margins.
- Nintendo has however started to struggle as of late, the cause beeing the ever growing dominance of smartphones, which eradicate the need for traditional gameconsoles.

### 3.2.3 ソニー Sony

- Sony is one of the largest international media conglomerates in the world.
- It was founded at the dawn of the new age after the war, in 1946.
- Starting as Tokyo Tsushin Kogyo(Tokyo Telecommunications Engineering Corporation) the company was renamed in 1958 to the foreign sounding Sony. (Thus カタカナ)
- Sony too hit it large at the onset of the 1980's with the release of the Walkman in 1979.

- In 1983 Sony followed Philips to the Compact Disc or CD and thus became one of the first and leading corporations in all things CD.

### 3.3 Japan's everlasting financial super conglomerates

#### 3.3.1 The original 財閥 (financial groups)

- Mitsubishi:
  - Founded in 1870 as a shipping firm, renamed to Mitsubishi in 1873.
  - The founder Yataro Iwasaki had plans for this his company for more almost half a century by the time he was finally able to realize it. Fulfilling his dream had until then been impossible because of the nation's closed country policy.
  - With the Meiji Restoration the nation however opened, Mitsubishi came into being and soon also found a close connection to the new government and its Meiji-Tenno as well as the military.
  - These connections proved to be ingenious as they made Mitsubishi within a few years to one of the 3 biggest corporations in Japan.
  - The corporate logo features 3 water caltrops, or often also simply described as 3 diamonds.
- Mitsui:
  - Starting of as きものや in 1876 (Shop for traditional Japanese Kimono's), the Mitsui-Family exploited a close relationship to the still reigning defacto ruler of the nation, the shogun. Soon one of the wealthiest families known they famously supported the leader of the Xinhai Revolution in China, which marked the end of the Qing Dynasty and the Emperors of China.
  - The corporate logo contains water wells.
- Sumitomo:
  - Founded as いずみや, a water well shop and smelting business in 1590, as well as a bookshop from 1615's Kyoto this is by far the oldest Zaibatsu.
  - The corporation grew rich and powerful through the business of copper production which had started in 1691.
  - After the opening of the nation's borders, the rapid import of western machines and techniques made the corporation rich and famous.
  - The logo shows the Igeta mark, or in other words a water well, as those were what started it all.

#### 3.3.2 The dissolution of the 財閥 1945-1951

- In order to decentralise Japan's economy it was decided that all Zaibatsu were to be forcefully dissolved.
- This happened under the occupation of the allied GHQ (General Headquarters).
- The Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP) and thus leader of the GHQ was General Douglas MacArthur.
- The GHQ occupation ended with the San-Francisco-Peace-Treaty.
- This act of dissolution though was mostly ineffective.

#### 3.3.3 The dissolution of the 六大グループ

- Initially however the former zaibatsu held on, 6 of them developed into the 'Group of the 6 largest', they organised business within them as to not compete but support and complete each others business. "A bank provides financial means. A manufacturing company produces a good. A trading company ships and sells this product."
- Soon known as Keiretsu (conglomeration of businesses linked by cross-shareholdings), they succeeded and dominated Japan's economy until 1991.

#### 3.3.4 The Bubble-Economy 1986-1991

- Because of excessive speculation the Japanese Economy finally collapsed in 1991.
- This put an abrupt end to the big 6, or roku-dai-group.

#### 3.3.5 The 3 Mega Banks 三大メガバンク

- The Zaibatsu returned however soon thereafter as the 3 mega-banks:
  - Mitsubishi UFJ Financial (Group)
  - Sumitomo Mitsui Financial (Group)
  - Mizuho Financial (Group)

#### 3.3.6 The ソフトバンク group:

- It's Central office is in Tokyo, and it is the largest of all Japanese internet and telecommunications corporations.
- It's president is amongst the 2 richest persons in Japan.
- Unexpectedly this corporation has no connection whatsoever to the former Zaibatsu, Keiretsu or Mega-Banku.
- As such it is hailed as a symbol of the new economy.

### 3.4 Smaller Issues (GDP, Seniors, Unemployment and Trade)

1. The GDP:
  - Japan has a highly fluctuating and unstable GDP.
  - The GDP per Capita is falling since 2011, the immediate cause being the 9.0 earthquake and its following tsunami that hit Japan.
2. Rodo Jikan (労働時間) or Working Hours:
  - To combat growing unemployment, Japan adopted the 5 day working week around 1980.
3. Age of Retirement:

- Japanese citizens retire at the age of 60, yet their rent only kicks in at 65, as such many elderly are forced to work as cheap part time workforce. Which again is problematic for the younger generations as they thus find it harder to get any job.
4. The 為替レート<sup>かわせれと</sup> or exchange rate:
    - Primeminister Shinzo caused an intentionally weaker yen to boost exports and thus the economy.
    - While Japanese economists originally agreed that this plan would work, by now so many Japanese firms are no longer in Japan that the continuing effect of this decision is entirely unknown.
  5. Foreign Money Reserves:
    - The Chinese and Japanese decided large reserves of foreign currency would be to their benefit as such they hold unto the most and second most of them in the world.
  6. Boeki-Aite-Koku or foreign trade partners
    - Amongst Japans 10 most important import and export partners, only one european nation is listed, Germany.