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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

## 1 地理 ちりし geography | 自然 しぜん nature

- Tidbits about Japanese geography:
  - Japan has few natural resources. Only some oil.
  - Japan lies in the north pacific in the so called 'Sea of Japan'
    - \* Koreans would prefer to call the 'Sea of Japan' the 'East Sea'
    - \* The straight between Japan and Korea is called the 'Straight of Korea'
    - \* The sea south of Korea is called the 'East Chinese Sea'
  - Japan has in general a subtropic clima
  - Japan has 5 neighbouring nations
  - The lake びわこ 琵琶湖 north east of Kyoto is Japan's largest lake

### 1.1 The islands of Japan

Japan consists of 4 main islands:

- 本州 ほんしゅう the biggest and true main island.
- A line on the island of 本州 from 京都 to 九州 contains the majority of Japanese industry and urbanization.
- 福島 lies to the north of 東京.
  - 本州 even literally means main island.
- 北海道 ほっかいど the northern most island, home to the ainu.
  - 北海道 means northern district.
  - 北海道 has colder clima than the rest of Japan.
- 九州 きゅうしゅう the southernmost and right next to Korea.
  - Originally 九州 meant '9 countries' they now make up 7 prefectures.
- 四国 しこく the smallest islands, squished in between 本州 and 九州.
  - 四国 originally meant '4 countries', they now have become 4 prefectures instead.

Further more there are the Ryukyu islands to the nations south, which since 1879 now form 沖縄. Which presumably means 'A Distant Land'

- Until 1879 Ryukyu was a tributary state to China.
- China took Taiwan and Japan took Ryukyu in 1879.
- Ryukyu served as intermediary port between China and Japan. The most shipped good was Seetang/Seeweed produced in Hokkaido and sold in China.
- American troops are stationed on Okinawa.

### 1.2 Prefectures and Cities

Prefecture Division:

- 1 Metropolis: 東京・都 とうきょう・と
- 1 Circuit: 北海・度 ほっかい・ど
- 2 urban prefectures: 大阪・府 おおさか・ふ and 京都・府 きょうと・ふ
- 43 prefectures 県 けん

Places in Detail:

- Sapporo, host of the Winter Olympics 1972, is the political capital of Sapporo. Sapporo is a sistercity to Munich. Sapporo is famous for its beer. This beer is called Ebisu-Beer, it was founded by a German
- Sendai us since the 17th century the political centre of north east Japan. Originally Fukushima used to have that role.
- Tokyo, which was originally called Edo, is the political capital of Japan since 1868.
  - The Tenno now lives in Tokyo it thus can be regarded as capital.
  - Tokyo is a Metropolis, not a city.
- Nagoya, is a city somewhat to the south of Tokyo and birthplace of Toyota. Nearby now lies the city of Toyota(-shi). Nagoya is political centre of the pacific coastal region.
- Kyoto, it has been capital from 794 to 1868.
- Osaka lies to the south of Kyoto.
  - It is the financial center of western Japan since the 17th century.
  - It used to be Japan's most important harbour thanks to its proximity to Kyoto.
  - Rice from the entire nation was collected as tax and brought to Osaka in the past.
- Fukuoka, the largest city of Kyushuu:
  - Used to be very important until the 17th century because of trade with China and Korea
  - Lost its importance through the closure of the nation to the world from 1639-1854.

- Hiroshima, lies at the south-west tip of Honshuu.
  - Important for arms manufacture.
  - Destroyed by nuke in 1945
  - Selected as target as there was no war prisoner camp.
- Nagasaki, lies on Kyushuu to the south of Fukuoka.
  - Destroyed 3 days after Hiroshima in 1945.
  - Used to be the only open port during the time of Sakoku(closed nation). Open only to the dutch, chinese and korean.
  - Nagasaki became unimportant in the 19th/20th century because of its distance to Kyoto and Tokyo.
- Fukushima, not a city but rather a prefecture, it is home to a lot of elctric companies.

### 1.3 People, and Nature

- 人口2015: 127mil. 一億二千七百万人 じんこう いちおくにせんなひやくまん
- 6852 islands make up Japan
- 70
- Fuji-san an active volcano is with 3776m the highest Mountain of Japan
- There are 110 active volcanos in Japan, 47 of those are very active
- Onsen:
  - There are more than 2000
  - Kusatsu-onsen is very famous, it was introduced by German Doctor Erwin von Bälz, at the time doctor of the Imperial family. Thus started Japan's onsen culture.
- Earthquakes: There is a large one every century.
- Tsunami: They happen regularly.
- Temperatures:
  - Between -40°C and 40°C.
  - Japan has a season of rain called: 梅雨 つゆ, the rain itself is called 梅雨 ばいう.
- Typhoon:
  - Usually hit in August/September
  - Typhoon always 来る。
  - Storms are called typhoon in japan, hurricane in America and cyclone in India.
- Animals:
  - The largest animal Japan's is the Bear.
  - Japans most famous bear is the ツキノワグマ /月の輪熊, the 'Japanese Moon Bear', they have a white ring around there neck thus the name. (Officially called asian black bear).
  - The most destructive animal in Japan is the racoon, or アライグマ /洗い熊. (The racoons are seen as a plague)
- Birds:
  - The national Bird is the Kiji キジ /雉 (Green Pheasant). It was choosen because it can't fly.
  - The crane 鶴 (つる), or tanchoo-zuru. Biological name: grus-japonensis
  - The ibis (crested ibis) or 鶺鴒 (トキ). Biological name: Nipponia nippon.
  - 鶯 (うぐいす), is the most liked bird in Japan. (Japanese Bush Warbler /Grasmücke)
- Shokubutsu
  - Sugi: (conifer)(Japanese cedar) Cryptomeria japonica -> became less popular because of allergies.
  - Hinoki (cyprese) -> architecture material for important Buildings such as shinto-shrines.
  - Sakura (cherry) it is now the most liked tree since the 9th century in japan, -> there exists a tradition of 花見 (はなみ) aka cherry-blossom-viewing
  - Ume, (plum) it was the most liked tree before the 9th century through the influence of the chinese culture.
  - Kiku, (chrysanthemum) even though this flower originates in china it now represents the imperial family of japan. This causes it to be somewhat disliked.

## 2 政治 politics せいじ

### 2.1 Post war Japan and its constituion of peace

- 1946 -> Humanity Declaration -> Emperor not a God
- 1947 -> New Constitution (けんぽう)
  - Old constitution -> てんのう as absolute ruler.
  - New constitution -> てんのう as symbol of the state and the unity of the people
  - Pacifist constitution that denounces further wars and even right out avoids the word war itself.
- Prime Minister as of 2017: しんぞうあべ

### 2.2 Japan's legislative (りっぽう)

- The Diet or こっかい
  - It is made up of 2 Houses:
    - \* しゅうぎいん (lower house, house of representatives)
      - There are 475 members

- One has to be 18 to vote, and 25 to be voted for.
  - Members are elected on 4 year terms.
  - The current ruling coalition (2017) holds 326 seats.
- \* さんぎいん (upper house, house of councillors)
  - Has 242 members.
  - One has to be 18 to vote, and 30 to be voted for.
  - Members are elected on 5year terms.
  - The coalition holds currently (2017) 116+20 seats.
- \* The strongest party of the lower house rules. This is currently the LDP (JYMST)
  - Voting rights were established in 1950 (suffrage)
  - To vote in a local election one has to be a 3month resident.
- Japan's Parties:
  - じゅうみんしゅうとう
    - \* The Liberal Democratic Party.
    - \* Abe is president of this party.
  - こうめいとう
    - \* The party of public brightness.
    - \* Highly religious party, affiliated with Buddhist organisation そうかがっかい.
    - \* Chief representative is Yamaguchi, Natsuo.
  - にほんきょうさんとう
    - \* The communist party.
    - \* Chairman: Shii, Kazuo
  - みんしんとう
    - \* Democratic Party.
    - \* Party of the new elites.
    - \* (Murata) Renhō is president. He is also a member of the さんぎいん.
  - いしんのとう
    - \* Japan Innovation Party
    - \* Party of Osaka
    - \* President is the Mayor of Osaka: Hashimoto, Tōru
  -
- Temporal Employment Introduced -> Increased the number of the poor.
- さいこうさいばんしょ
  - さいこう = best/highest, さいばん = court, しょ = place

### 2.3 Japan's Emperor

- 23.Dec.1933 てんのう Akihito born as son of しょうわてんのう.
- 1989 てんのう Akihito becomes ruling てんのうへいか <-> honorific <-> こうごうへいか
- Ōkimi <- originally used as the imperial family name.
- The now used Name is -> (of) Mikado <- meaning: gate (of the imperial house)
- Current Empress: Michiko
  - She is considered a normal person (commoner). As such she is very popular.
- There is a law as of 1947 that the emperor has to be male.
- さんしゅのじんぎ
  - The 3 Imperial Regalia of Japan.
  - Mirror -> Claimed to be housed in the Ise Grand Shrine in the Mie Prefecture.
  - Sword Kusanagi -> Claimed to be housed in the Atsuta Shrine in Nagoya Aichi Prefecture.
  - Yasakani no Magatama Jewel -> Claimed to be housed in Kokyo (the Imperial Palace) in Tokyo, at the Imperial Household Agency.

がいこう

## 3 外交 diplomacy

しゅうきょう

しゃかいしそう

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

### 4.1 社会思想 societal-thought

#### 4.1.1 The citizens primary concerns:

- 失業 (しつぎょう)-> unemployment
  - 失業りつ -> unemploment 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

#### 4.1.2 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.

#### 4.1.3 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)

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

- ne-mawashi o shimasu = to prefer 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

#### 4.1.5 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 where very important in the rice farming society as the experience in rice growing was very important.

#### 4.1.6 村八分 <sup>むらはちぶ</sup> (むらはちぶ) societal ostrication

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

#### 4.1.7 賄賂 <sup>わいろ</sup> bribe

- 袖 <sup>そで</sup>の下 under-the-sleeves -> meaning: money-under-the-sleeves

#### 4.1.8 Gift-Giving

- 心行け <sup>こころづけ</sup> kokoro: heart, zuke: attachement -> 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した
  - 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

#### 4.1.9 お祝い <sup>おいわい</sup> Oiwei -> 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

#### 4.1.10 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.

#### 4.1.11 <sup>うよく</sup> 右翼 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.

#### 4.1.12 <sup>うよく</sup> 右翼 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.

#### 4.1.13 <sup>せっぽく</sup> 切腹 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.

### 4.2 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. <sup>しんとう</sup> 神道 Shinto

- しんとう 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 decendants of him
- jinja → shrine, to properly worship gods offerings are very important
- torii → shrine gate, entrance to a sacred area

#### 2. <sup>しんとう</sup> 神道 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

- <sup>しんぶつしゅうごう</sup> 神仏習合 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 <sup>しょうぐん</sup> 将軍(Shogun).
  - Shogun means general/military leader.
  - The Shoguns took over in the 12th century and ruled until the meiji restoration.
- <sup>しんぶつぶんり</sup> 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.

#### 4. <sup>きょう</sup> キリスト教 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.

## 5 <sup>きょういく</sup> 教育 education

### 5.1 <sup>もんぶかがくしょう</sup> 文部科学省ministry of education

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

## 5.2 Gakko-Seido

- Education-level
- Family financial Background

### 5.2.1 義務教育<sup>ぎむきょういふ</sup> Gimu-Kyoiku

- compulsory-education for 9 years
1. Sho-gakku → elementary school
    - students are 6-years old when joining
    - no tuition for public elementary schools, around 5000-euros for private schools
  2. 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.

### 5.2.2 Higher Education

1. 高等学校<sup>こうとうがっこう</sup> → 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.
2. 大学<sup>だいがく</sup> → 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 <sup>こうりつだいがく</sup>公立大学 general public universities, and special public universities so called <sup>こくりつだいがく</sup>国立大学 national universities.

### 5.2.3 帝国大学<sup>ていこくだいがく</sup> The 7 national universities or (former) imperial universities

- Also formerly known as 旧帝大<sup>きゅうていだい</sup> (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 built 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
Keijo	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<sup>じょうち</sup> Jochi Daigaku → Sophia University, 12k students
  - Würzburg University, 32k students
- <sup>しんがくりつ</sup>進学率 university-enrollment-rate Japan: 50.4% Deutschland: 35%
- <sup>じゅく</sup>塾 → cram school
- <sup>かていきょうし</sup>家庭教師 → private tutor
- <sup>ろうにん</sup>浪人 originally: wandering samurai without a master to serve, now: waiting for another chance to enter a university
- <sup>よびこ</sup>予備校 prep school for students in der Ronin year

### 5.2.4 教育費<sup>きょういくひ</sup> 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

どうそうせい  
同窓生 ALUMNI

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

## 6 経済 economy

### 6.1 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 Fachwerkhaus 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.

### 6.2 Japan's international corporate faces

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

#### 6.2.1 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.

#### 6.2.2 任天堂 Nintendo

- Unlike most corporations in the country, Nintendo has its headquarters in the city of Kyoto. Nintendo is classified as 中小企業
- 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 employees, this allows for effective management, high employee 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.

#### 6.2.3 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.

### 6.3 Japan's everlasting financial super conglomerates

#### 6.3.1 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 unto then been impossible because of the nations closed country policy.
  - With the Meiji Restoration the nation however opened, Mitsubishi came into beeing and soon also found a close connection to the new government and its meiji-tenno as well as the military.
  - These connection 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 nations 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.

### 6.3.2 The dissolution of the 財閥 ざいばつ 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.

### 6.3.3 The dissolution of the 六大グループ ろくだいぐるうぷ

- 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.

### 6.3.4 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.

### 6.3.5 The 3 Mega Banks 三大メガバンク さんだいのめがばんく

- The Zaibatsu returned however soon thereafter as the 3 mega-banks:

- Mitsubishi UFJ Financial (Group)

- Sumitomo Mitsui Financial (Group)

- Mizuho Financial (Group)

### 6.3.6 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 2richest 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.

## 6.4 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 a job.

### 4. The 為替レート かわせれと or exchange rate:

- Prime Minister 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 onto the most and second most of them in the world.

### 6. Boeki-Aite-Koku or foreign trade partners

- Amongst Japan's 10 most important import and export partners, only one European nation is listed, Germany.

## 7 文化 ぶんか culture

### 7.1 人口 じんこう

- 体格 たいかく physique; constitution

- 身長<sup>しんちょう</sup>height(of body) /stature: avg japanese male: 171cm || avg japanese female: 158cm
- 体重<sup>たいじゅう</sup>body weight: avg japanese male: 66kg || avg japanese female: 50kg
- 平均<sup>へいきん</sup>寿命<sup>じゅみょう</sup>average life expectancy
  - 平均<sup>へいきん</sup>is average, and 寿命<sup>じゅみょう</sup>is life expectancy
  - Japanese have the longest life expectancy in the world. With 86.8 years for women and 80.5 years for men.
- 死亡率<sup>しぼうりつ</sup>death rate /mortality
  - Japanese go to the cities to work and live during their prime years, once old they return to the countryside to live out their life and die.
- 世紀<sup>せいき</sup>century, 紀元<sup>きげん</sup>前BC /BCE

## 7.2 Beginning of Japanese Clothes

- Clothes are seen as a 衣食住<sup>いしょくじゅう</sup>necessity of life (food, clothing & shelter).
- They are divided into 和服<sup>わふく</sup>(traditional Japanese clothes) and (western clothes).
  - The わ in 和服<sup>わふく</sup>was the original name of Japan, before it became にっぽん in the 8th century.
  - Traditional Japanese clothes are seen as troublesome and expensive.
  - However their great cost also makes them to a status symbol.
  - Japanese clothes were originally worn left-side in and right-side out.
  - Though by the time わ became にっぽん Chinese culture had become a major influence and was considered stylish. As the Chinese thought of someone wearing clothes the traditional Japanese way as a barbarian, the Japanese soon started to switch over to the Chinese system of right-side in and left-side out.
  - Around the year 790 there was even an official edict commanding the citizens to wear their clothes in Chinese tradition.

## 7.3 History of Japanese Clothes

### Men's Clothes

- From the 8th to the 12th century young aristocrats started wearing 狩衣<sup>かりぎぬ</sup>.
- In the 16th century Samurai began wearing 垂領<sup>ひたたれ</sup>. When wearing it they would put there upper clothes into there lower-clothing.
  - In order to represent their different and especially higher rank, aristocrats kept wearing the かりぎぬ with traditional upper clothes out.
- The 袴<sup>かみしも</sup>then became in the 17th Century the main samurai clothing.
- 1864 adopted the then ruling shogun western clothes as standard clothing equipment for his soldiers as they were more practical then their traditional Japanese counterparts.
- 1871 ruled the tenno-meiji that all government officials and parts of the military had to wear western clothing. As traditional Japanese clothes had become an image as the clothes of barbarians.
- 1871-1873 was the Iwakura Mission
  - Though the leader of the mission initially wore the traditional Japanese clothes, he too soon accepted that they were seen as barbaric and switched to western clothing.
  - The Iwakura mission passed by Würzburg on the 5th May of 1873, there they were guided by Alexander Siebold, son of the famous german physician, botanist, and traveler Philipp Franz Balthasar von Siebold the who achieved prominence by his studies of Japanese flora and fauna and the introduction of Western medicine in Japan.

### Women's Clothes

- 8-12C
  - 十二単<sup>じゅうにひとえ</sup>, 単 means -> one piece, thus this is a twelve layered one piece ceremonial kimono.
  - 小袖<sup>こそで</sup>are clothes with small sleeves (thus the name ko=small sode=sleeve) they were originally underwear.
- 13-16C: The 小袖 became initially casual wear and finally towards the end of the 16th century even formal wear. Thereafter it still grew in popularity and soon was to be found generally everywhere.
- 17-19C 振り袖<sup>ふりそで</sup>or long-sleeved (swinging sleeves)kimono was developed out of the 小袖<sup>ほかま</sup>
- 19-20C The 袴<sup>はかま</sup>was adopted as school uniform for women.
- First half of the 20th C, セーラー服 (serafuku) or sailor-uniform became popular school uniform for women.
- 1923 The great Kanto earthquake -> A turning point for clothing as many women died in this earthquake because they could not run away wearing the traditional clothing. As consequence more and more women adopted western clothes.

### 冠婚葬祭<sup>かんこんそうさい</sup>

- かん -> coming of age at 20 years old
- こん -> marriage
- そう -> funeral
- さい -> rites for the ancestors

### 7.3.1 七五三 7-5-3

- しちごさん is a rite of passage celebrated on the 15th November each year for boys 3 or 5 and girls 3 or 7.
- The children are brought to a shinto shrine to celebrate and pray for their growth and well-being.
- Originally children up until the age of 3 had their heads shaven. Though this is no longer a tradition.
- At 5 years old boys wear a <sup>はかま</sup>袴 for the first time.
- At 7 years old girls wear a obi bound kimono for the first time (Until then their kimono is held together by a simple strap.) One waits until the age of 7 as the obi-kimono is so complicated and heavy to wear for a younger child.

### 7.3.2 成人式 <sup>せいじんしき</sup> coming of age

- 成人 → adult, 式 → person, thus meaning coming of age
- It is celebrated at the 2nd Monday of January and marks the now 20year old's to be officially allowed to drink and smoke, as well as their welcome into the world of adults.
- There are many voices against this tradition with the ever smaller number of young Japanese and their increasing lack of 'good manners'.
- Though the government supports the tradition as the kimono manufacturers and shops lobby them for its existence. They of course earn a significant amount of money from the tradition as <sup>わふく</sup>和服 remains very expensive.

### 7.3.3 <sup>けっこんしき</sup> 結婚式 marriage

- Japanese weddings were originally held at home, though these days they usually take place at shrines or churches.
- <sup>ひろうえん</sup>披露宴, or wedding reception are usually held following a wedding. Often in hotels or as of recently in newly emerging reception halls at shrines.
- At <sup>ひろうえん</sup>披露宴 couples receive wedding gifts <sup>いわい</sup>お祝い or <sup>しゅうぎ</sup>祝儀.
- One customary gives 30k 円 (or any other uneven amount of 10k 円 notes), important hereby is that the given amount is 'hard' to divide amongst the 2 new spouses.

## 7.4 More clothes and clothing related items.

1. Montsuki-Haori-Hakama, a ceremonial kimono for men with hakama skirt and bearing the family sigil (montsuki).
2. Tabi, Japanese socks which group the large toe together with its neighbouring toe, and the 3 remaining toes as a group separately. This is to accomodate traditional japanese sandals which have there holding straps in the middle of the front.
3. Sandals, Setta and Zori(made of ricestraw or other plant fiber) and Geta(made of wood) are the 3 types of traditional Japanese sandals.
4. An obi is considered less formal then a hakama, Obi means belt, they used to be 10cm wide up until the end of the 17th century but thereafter considerably wider obis became very popular.
5. Furi-Sode the already mentioned furi-sode has sleeves with a length of ca 100cm and is worn by unmarried women.
6. Tome-Sode, worn by married women this shoulder short sleeved kimono is especially expensive and very formal.
7. Nihon-Gami, is the traditional Japanese hairdo.
8. Yukata, originally a bathrobe it is now a summer kimono often worn at summer festivals. Cheap yukata also serve as sleepwear.
9. Tenugui, the Japanese towel used to be made from silk which in the past had been cheaper then cotton, the towel often doubles as personal ornament.
10. <sup>うちわ</sup>団扇, a fan to create a breeze, highly decorated variations often served as status symbol.
11. <sup>せんす</sup>扇子 or folding fan is a japanese invention, it is often used to draw a borderline for bowing, it furthermore is always to be held in the right hand, anything else is considered barbaric. It is also used as accessoire while dancing.
12. <sup>かいし</sup>懐紙, the pocket-paper, or better chest-paper as kimono's do not have a pocket is a handy utensil, not just part of tea ceremonies it is also more generally often used to wish up something, as coaster or to take notes.