



JAPAN SINCE 1945

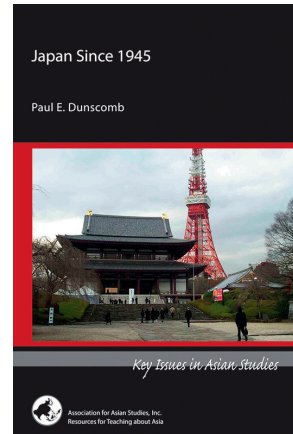
BY PAUL E. DUNSCOMB — KEY ISSUES IN ASIAN STUDIES BOOK SERIES

SUGGESTED COURSES:

- History - East Asia

KEY CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS:

- Postwar Japan as a political economy has been over for a long time.
- Japan has not escaped the two key conditions of the postwar, its "subordinate independence" to the United States and the way questions about its wartime actions still complicate its relations with other countries.
- The basic elements of Postwar Japan's political economy were created during the Occupation and finalized in 1960
- By the 1980s, pursuit of this model of economic development had become unsustainable. The Lost Decade, 1992-2004, represents the death agony of postwar Japan's political economy.
- Since then Japanese have struggled to understand what should Japan be?



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102 pages

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What role did Japanese and Americans play in shaping postwar Japan during the occupation period? Did one group have more agency than another?
2. Although a particular vision for postwar Japan won out in 1960, there were other visions out there. What were they and who advocated them?
3. What was the key premise behind the Income Doubling Plan? How was it put into practice and by whom?
4. What were the domestic and international factors that made postwar Japan's political economy unsustainable in the 1990s?
5. What challenges did the three elements of the Iron Triangle face during the Lost Decade?
6. If postwar Japan's political economy has been over for a long time, why do we find it so difficult to say that Postwar Japan is over as well?

EXTERNAL LINKS & RESOURCES:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LK738CDh21g&ab_channel=PacificCentury%3A-5--ReinventingJapan
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7TWW4PtKK4E&ab_channel=PacificCentury%3A-6--TheEraof%22JapanInc.%22
- <https://www.asianstudies.org/store/huffman/>

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ECONOMIC SUPERPOWER, 1972-1992

5. LOST, 1992-2000

6. FOUND? JAPAN IN
THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

7. THE ENDURING POSTWAR

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