

# **Japanese Studies in China at the Turn of the Century: Efforts and Prospects**

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In 2008, the third survey of “Japanese Studies in China” was done by a cooperative effort of Chinese Association for Japanese Studies, Institute of Japanese Studies, Nankai University, and Japan Foundation. In April, 2009, the “Survey Research Group” invited experts in various fields of Japanese studies all over China to meet at a symposium on “Retrospective and Prospective of Japanese Studies in China” in Beijing, sponsored by Beijing Center for Japanese Cultural Exchange of Japan Foundation, for an assessment of recent development of Japanese studies in China. Based on the basic data from the third survey and reference from the assessment of experts at the symposium, this paper tries to provide a quantitative analysis and a synoptic overview on development and current situation of Japanese studies in China since 1997 in comparison with the second survey.

## **I. Change of Research Teams and Configuration of Resources**

Because of more strict limits and lesser information sources, Information from 8 provinces and regions such as Jiangxi, Anhui, Hainan, Guizhou, Yunnan, Xingjiang, Tibet and Qinghai and special areas such as Taiwan, Hongkong and Macao have not been included in the survey. By April of 2009, the survey had received valid questionnaires from 104 research institutions and 1,092 researchers, 37 institutions and 168 researchers are lesser than those of the second survey because of more strict limits and lesser information sources. This statistics basically reflects the reality of research institutions, but little below the real number of researchers. Generally speaking, institutions have been over 100 and researchers have been over 1000 is now the present situation of Japanese research team in China. The survey shows that there have been remarkable changes in structure of researchers of Japanese studies and in configuration of resources in China in the decade.

### **I. Research Teams of Professional Rejuvenation with Higher Degree and Diversity of Knowledge Structure**

The professional rejuvenation is the most important development of Japanese

studies in China in the decade. The first generation of experts of Japanese studies in new China has done substantial performance and had students home and abroad, but most of them are retired and some of them even have passed away. The second generation of experts of Japanese studies trained before the Great Cultural Revolution has still very active in terms of academic research and writing, but most of them have retired. It is the third generation of experts of Japanese studies graduated in the 1980s after the Great Cultural Revolution that is the backbone of Japanese studies in China currently. The fourth generation of experts of Japanese studies is emerging in various fields of Japanese studies. So, generally speaking, professional rejuvenation is one of the most remarkable characteristics of research team of Japanese studies in China either in comparison with the other generations or with those in other countries in terms of age structure. For example, the age structure now is 9% below 30, 26% between 30 and 39, 30% between 40 and 49, 22% between 50 and 59, and only 7% over 60 (including retirees), which is a decline of 36% in comparison with the second survey when there were 452 over 60. One of the problems resulted from the rejuvenation is that there will be a shortage of talent in terms of age structure due to the close of university during the Great Cultural Revolution. There will be only a few serving experts over 60 after most of the second generation experts are retired.

Another characteristic of research teams in the survey is that most young scholars have got higher degrees. There were only 52 scholars in Japanese studies with Ph.D. degree according to statistics a decade ago and the number is sevenfold in this survey, reaching 370. Major institutions of Japanese studies in China have most or all of their staff with Ph.D. degree. This development in terms of education degree shows that staff of Japanese studies in China is more professionalized and its overall quality and comprehensive strength have been greatly increased in the decade.

There is a remarkable trend of diversity of knowledge structure shown in the third survey. Educational backgrounds of serving experts are much more different from those of the first and second generations. The vast majority of scholars under the age of 40 have long-term or short term education or research experiences in Japan. They have a better master of Japanese and some of them are even good at more than two foreign languages. There are even some compound talents with various degrees of other fields of sciences. So there are many young scholars who are trying to approach Japanese studies with new theories and perspectives of modern western humanity and social sciences and they have done excellent works on new perspectives, new approaches and field expanding in Japanese studies thanks to increasing improvement of academic research conditions.

## **II. Distribution of Researchers**

Researchers of Japanese studies in China are mainly working in four major

systems: university, research institution of social sciences, governmental research institution and social media. Not taking into account of individual researchers in society, among all the researchers of Japanese studies in China, around 70% are professional researchers and teachers at university research institution and special college(Less than 100 are teachers mainly doing research among the 811 registered researchers of Japanese studies at universities in this survey). 10% are researchers at Chinese academic of social sciences and provincial and municipal academics of social sciences, 10% researchers working at research institutions of relevant national ministries, province and city, and 10% researchers in media system such as press and publication.

Researchers are distributed into different fields of Japanese studies in the order according to their proportion in number, Japanese language and literature (43%), Japanese history (18%), Japanese economy (14%), Japanese politics and foreign relations (12%), Japanese philosophy and thought (5%), Japanese education (2%), synthetic Studies of Japan (2%), and others (4%). In comparison with the second survey, there is an increasing number in language and literature and a decline in those of history and economy, and there are not many changes in other fields. The direct reason for the increase of scholars in language and literature is the increasing demand for teachers of Japanese language and researchers of Japanese studies due to the rapid increase of Japanese language section at university.

Geographical distribution of research force is still the same, mainly concentrated in the three municipalities directly under the central government, Beijing, Tianjin and Shanghai, and the northeast region with an increase of research force in North China, East China, South China and Central China, but remaining the same in relatively weak region of northwest China.

### **III. Organizational Configuration of Human Resources**

Research resources include researcher, research facilities, research materials, professional academic periodicals, research funds, etc. Among them, researcher is no doubt the core resource. In modern society of information explosion and research specialization, it is hard for an individual researcher to undertake a large research project. So, it is a worldwide challenge to find the best way to realize a highly efficient configuration of human research resources.

In China, there are three patterns of organizational configuration of human resources in Japanese studies: first, substantial research institution, less than 10 in China(For example, Institute of Japanese Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Institute of Japanese Studies, Tianjin Academy of Social Sciences, College of Japanese Studies, Nankai University, Center for Japanese Studies, Fudan University, Institute of Japanese Language and Culture, Zhejiang Gongshang University, Institute of Japanese Studies, Institute of Japanese Studies, Northeast Normal University, Institute of Japanese Studies, Liaoning University, etc.), and may be around 20 if

sections of Japanese studies in synthetic research institutions are included; second, nominal research institution, which is actually a horizontal association, a organization of colleagues in the same field without fixed staff, many research centers are such kinds of organization. some of them are very famous and active home and abroad such as Center for Japanese Studies of Beijing University, but most of them are not very active in terms of academic activity; third, national and regional specialized association, 7 national associations of Japanese studies( such as Chinese Association for Japanese Studies, China Japanese History Association, Chinese Society of Japanese Economic Studies, Chinese Association for Japanese Philosophy, Chinese Association for Japanese Literature, Chinese Society for History Studies of Sino-Japanese Relations and Chinese Association for Historical Studies of Resistance War Against Japan), 5 provincial and municipal associations, more than half of researchers of Japanese studies joining at least one of them as they providing platforms for national academic exchanges in holding annual academic conference as well as symptoms of special themes in Japanese studies periodically.

During the period of the second survey from the middle 1980s to the middle 1990s, various institutions of Japanese were established like mushrooms. But in the last decade, only a few new institutions of Japanese studies were set up. There are still many provinces and autonomous regions that do not have any kind of organization of Japanese studies.

Another notable phenomenon is that national and regional studies such as Japanese studies can't find their "legal" position in fixed catalogues of academic disciplines simply because of their nature of complex sciences since the late 1990 when reforms of higher education put emphases on integrative construction of science and systemic management of specialized college. As a result of the reforms, all those substantial research institutions of international issues set up in higher education in 1964 according to the instruction of the State Council were affected to some extent because that research strength was diffused and organizational function was weakened. To be specific, except a few unusual examples such as the Center for Japanese Studies at Nankai University which was upgraded as an institute and its authorized staff was enlarged, Beijing Research Center for Japanese Studies has developed steadily, and the Institute of Japanese Language and Culture, Zhejiang University, was moved as a whole to Zhejiang Gongshang University, among institutions of Japanese studies that were well recognized for sound foundation in academic circles, research institutions in Fudan University, Jilin University, Hebei University and some others were integrated into specialized college in terms of management, and many researchers of the staff in Institute of Japanese Studies in Northeast Normal University and Institute of Japanese Studies in Liaoning University were diffused into different specialized colleges and their full-time researchers were reduced to less than 10 from more than 30 or 40 in their peak periods, even though they kept their organizational independence.

## **II. Changing Research Approaches and Hot Issues**

At the turn of the century when the world was changing, there were great

changes in the subject and the object of Japanese studies in both China and Japan. Making a striking contrast with Japan which was in a long-term economic decline and political turbulence, China was walking away from a long period of backward position thanks to her continued and rapid economic growth. Elevation of international status of China and expansion of her right to speak resulted in several changes in approaches and hot issues of Japanese studies.

### **1. A Subtle Change from “Learning Experiences” to “Drawing Lessons”**

During the 20 years from implementation of reform and opening-up policy in China to 1996, scholars were driven by motivation and awareness of learning from Japanese experience and there were enduring interests in Japanese economy and culture. But in the last decade, although there were still interests in Japanese economy and culture, there was a subtle change from “learning experiences” to “drawing lessons”. For instance, in this period of time, research focuses were on negative issues such as hysteresis and reform of Japanese economic system and non-performing loans since the WWII rather than the positive experience of Japan’s economic catch-up after the WWII. It is not difficult to see that there are great changes in detail explorations of Japanese thought and culture from new approaches to Confucianism in Japan, Japanese values, lifestyle, enterprise culture, and political culture, resulting in more objective and dialectic critical works and less subjective and positive praiseful ones.

Due to reasons known, overwhelm new hot point was study of Sino-Japanese relations in that period of time no matter from any point of view. Related to the hot point of study, there were many explorations and discusses in wide range of areas such as collection and classification of historical materials of Japanese invasion of China such as Nanjing Massacre and 731 units of bacteria, war legacies of chemical weapons, comfort women and slave labor, issue of Japanese politicians’ visits to the Yasukuni Shrine, cooperation and competition between China and Japan in international community and east Asian area, discussion of “New Thinking” of Japanese diplomacy, and Japan’s right deviation and nationalism as well as other issues tough to handle.

### **2. “Outsiders’ Intrusion” into and Public Participation of Hot Point Studies**

It is really a “new phenomenon” worthy noting specially in Japanese studies during this period of time that “outsiders” are “intruding into” Japanese studies and there are active “grassroots” Japanese studies. Some journalists and scholars of international politics who don’t work mainly on Japanese studies join the large-scale discussion of Sino-Japanese relations and even play a major role for a while. The proposal of “New Thinking toward Japan” is a “blockbuster” that they threw at the circle of Japanese studies, which had a shocking impact on the academic circles, governments and the public in both China and Japan. Another characteristic of this

period of time is the active participation of the public in the discussion of hot issues of Japanese studies. Blog on internet is something new rising suddenly in recent years that has a significant influence on Japanese studies. There are various columns rich in content on personal blog, which provides a platform to send message to the public and to exchange public opinions in forms of serious academic articles, comments on internal and external policies, as well as commentaries on all social levels and life in Japan in order to encourage more public concerns of Japanese issues. It is a delightful phenomenon showing that the monopoly of voice of Japanese studies by experts and scholars in China has been broken that “outsiders” “intrude into” Japanese studies and there is a rise of active “grassroots” Japanese studies.

It is also important to note that discussions of hot issues are not only carried on by traditional media such as newspaper and journal but also by new ones in terms of academic website, TV talk-show and discussion to send message and opinion to the public directly and rapidly, which were unimaginable in the past. Development of modern media technology facilitates spreading and heating up of hot issues and places heavy social responsibilities on researchers as well.

### **III. Research Deepening and Representative Achievements**

In the last decade, there was a great progress of synthetic research of Japan in politics, economy, society, culture, foreign relations and other specific fields, resulting in many in-depth and distinctive academic achievements as followings.

#### **I. Improvement of Synthetic Research Capacity**

Between the establishment of New China in 1949 and 1996, there were just only 5 versions of general history of Japan written by Chinese scholars, and there are 8 new ones in the last decade. Moreover, there are many monographs of periodical history as well as those on politics, diplomacy, economy, thought and culture, and literature. Those books have laid the solid base for Japanese studies as a whole with their characteristics of full and accurate materials, careful textual criticism, new perspectives and unique arguments in particular.

It is an important mark of synthetic research capacity to have huge series of research work published. A decade ago, it was very difficult to organize such kind of a series of Japanese studies compiled and published due to shortage of professional force and funding. But in the last decade, several huge series of Japanese studies compiled by Chinese scholars were published. They are *Central Library of Chinese and Japanese History Studies*, which was edited by Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; *Nankai Series of Japanese Studies*, edited by Institute of Japanese Studies of Nankai University; *Series of Japanese Studies*, edited by Center for Japanese Studies of Fudan University; *Library of Chinese and Japanese Culture Studies*, edited by Institute of Japanese Language and Culture of Zhejiang Gongshang University; *Series of Sino-Japanese Cultural Exchange* which was

edited by WANG Xiaoqiu and Osamu ÔNIWA, etc. The sum total of such huge series has been far more than any periods of time after the establishment of the new China, showing the remarkable improvement of synthetic research capacity of Japan in China.

## **II. Deepening of Monographic Study**

Monographic study is a basic measure of depth and level of Japanese studies. Among monographs published in large number during that period of time, there are many masterpieces of breakthrough experiment and theoretical innovation.

In the hot research fields of contemporary Japan, there are also many influential monographs and articles dealing with issues such as party politics, political change, political system reform, political right deviation, diplomatic strategy and policy, Japan-US relations and Sino-Japanese relations, collapse of bubble economy and long-term depression, economic systemic and structural reforms, industrial development and enterprise evolution, as well as foreign trade. Reminiscences written by ZHANG Xiangshan, SUN Pinghua, LIU Deyou and XIAO Xiangqian.,etc, who had the experience of taking part in the reconstruction of Sino-Japanese relationship after the second World War bequeathed valuable historical data for the Sino-Japanese relationship research.

There have been fruitful achievements in solid based studies of Japanese history with breakthroughs in several special topics, which attract worldwide academic attention. In ancient Japanese history, SHEN Ren'an and WANG Jinlin' researches contributed much towards formation of ancient Japanese Nation and Japanese' spritual structure. In modern and contemporary histories, lots of research works, especially dealing with the Japanese modernization and Japanese militarism have been found. In the field of special history, YE Wei-qu' study on Japanese literature and Japanese culture, YU Xinchun' research on Sino-Japanese diplomacy during the 1911 Revolution, WANG Xiaoqiu' study on Sino-Japanese cultural exchange showed the depth and level of Japanese studies in China. WANG Yong and his team is another characteristic academic highlight in "Book Road" study of Sino-Japanese ancient cultural exchange from a cultural interaction perspective based on basic data collection and examination.

More access to this information book will help you to understand the details because research results such as the above mentioned are too numerous to enumerate.

## **III. Translation Work and Collection and Collation of Basic Data**

Thank to the improving Sino-Japanese relationship and expanding cultural exchange, it becomes an obligation for Chinese researchers of Japanese studies to attract more people to concern and understand Japan. And one of the important means is to translate and publish works about Japan published abroad.

In nearly every field of Japanese studies, there are many works translated into

Chinese, including masterpieces done by Masao MARUYAMA, Takeshi UMHARA, Junnosuke MASUMI, Makoto IOKIBE, and Inazō NITOBÉ. A broad array of literary masterpiece is introduced into China and most of Sōseki NATSUME's novels have Chinese versions. Chinese readers are very familiar with Japanese writers such as Yasunari KAWABATA, Kenzaburō ŌE and Yukio MISHIMA. Haruki MURAKAMI "Tornado" has been very strong ever since the 1990s. Historical novels such as *Ieyasu TOKUGAWA*, *Hideyoshi TOYOTOMI* and *Nobunaga ODA* written by Souhachi MURAOKA become top sellers as soon as they were introduced into Chinese book market. Works about Japan written by European and American scholars were also translated into Chinese and published in large sum. For example, although Benedict's *The Chrysanthemum and the Sword* published by the Commercial Press has been reprinted for 16 times, there are still 6 new versions translated and published in recent years. Development of translation is not only necessary for Japanese studies but also provide soul food for the public to understand Japan.

Collection and collation of basic data have been progressed mainly in the field of Sino-Japanese relations with the hardworking of Chinese scholars. It is influential in terms of data supply for further study.

In the field of Sino-Japanese cultural exchange, sorting data of more than 1.08 million documentary references, YAN Shaodang had *Ri Cang Han Ji Shan Ben Shu Lu (Catalogue of Chinese Rare and Uncommon Works Stored in Japan)* in 3.5 Million Chinese characters edited and published in 2007. In the field of study of the Japanese invasion of China and the Sino-Japanese War histories, there are extraordinary achievements of basic data collection and collation. For instance, *Historical Collection of the Nanjing Massacre*, edited by ZHANG Xianwen becomes the most comprehensive and authoritative basic data of the Nanjing Massacre study by collecting materials and testimonies from three parts of China, Japan and the West in 30 million Chinese characters in total. Moreover, several albums of materials of the Anti-Japanese War, the Japanese invasion of China and germ warfare, forced labor and other issues have been published.

## **VI. Expanding of Research Horizons**

Due to the end of the Cold War and development of globalization, China and Japan both change greatly in terms of international place and role in the resulting balance of global politics and economy. These changes have introduced new themes and topics accordingly. In China, Japanese studies are expanding to various directions such as "Japan in the world, Japan in regional relations, Sino-Japanese relations in the world and the region and others", and many new research fields and topics are developed and there are achievements in some of the new fields. In the field of Japan's foreign relations, focuses have been changed from traditional topics like Japan's relationship with China, USA, Russia, South Korea and North Korea to new areas such as Japan's relationship with UN, ASEAN, EU, Middle East, Latin America in terms of regional and national relations in last decade and there are many



new works including some pioneering scholarship which lay a solid foundation for further research and academic development.

#### **IV. Problems and Prospects of Japanese Studies in China**

Although great progress has been made and many achievements have been done in Japanese studies in the last decade, problems and challenges do still exist in many aspects which are worthy of attention and reflection.

First, basic theoretical research needs to be strengthened. Instant-success-oriented research and a “follow the herd” phenomenon still exists due to various reasons that resulted in many “research achievements” of introduction and repetition and only a few academic masterpieces of empirical discovery, deep analysis and theoretic innovation have international influences. Therefore, it is still an important task for China’s Japanese studies circles to introduce more academic research works in the light of truth-seeking and spirit of scientific innovation in order to explore internal logic of historical development in the near future.

Secondly, allocation of resources is not rational enough. Most researchers of Japanese studies are mainly work in the three major municipalities of Beijing, Tianjin, and Shanghai and other cities in northeast China, and the poor situation in terms of research has not been improved fundamentally in a number of provinces and autonomous regions. The professional researchers of Japanese studies scattered in different colleges are “working lone” in most cases so that it is an issue needed to be considered that how to maximize research capability by integration to do large-scale research project in the future.

Thirdly, international academic exchange needs to be developed. Thanks to economic improvement and open-up to the outside world, there are more academic exchanges in various forms of international exchange and cooperation frequently than ever before. However, exchange levels are still not beyond those of view and information exchanges, there are not many accepted works of cooperative research and both sides are still talking in their own languages. In order to further academic exchange and cooperation, emphases should be on quality and content rather than on quantity and forms in terms of future academic exchanges.

Of course, there are uncertainties in terms of focus and hot topic of Japanese studies in China for the next period. But I’d like to suggest following as possible concerns.

Concerns may be focused on topics such as the Japanese and their national characteristics, experiences and lessons of Japan's modernization, Japan's foreign attitude and its foreign strategy and policy in terms of basic research needed to be deepened.

In current research on follow-up countermeasures, “hot topics” may include study of contemporary Japan’s political trends, economic trends, ideological trends, social changes, etc. Research on Japan’s foreign relations will be expanded into more fields in order to take Japan’s policy and action in any region and country around the world into consideration of cooperation and competition between China and Japan as China’s concern and research topics.

Nevertheless, China’s Japanese studies still has a long way to go for Chinese researchers of Japanese studies to shoulder the historic responsibilities of healthy development of Sino-Japanese relations as well as world peace and progress.

(Translated by Zhang Weiwei)

# The Research Outline of Chinese Politics and Diplomacy on Japan

(1997—2008)

Xu Wansheng

The “politics” and “diplomacy” discussed here refer to the politics and diplomacy in a narrow sense corresponding to history, economics, military, society, etc. The time span and material range of research objects mainly covered the journal articles and academic works published by Chinese scholars in mainland from 1997 to 2008.

During the period, with the rapid development of Chinese Reform and Opening Up and the cooperation between China and Japan, the research in politics and diplomacy has become the most dynamic field in China’s Japanese studies.

## 1 The Summary of Studies in Japanese Politics

In the field of Japanese politics studies, Chinese scholars mainly focus on the Development of Political Situation, Political System and Its Reform, Party Politics and Political Right-deviating Tendency. Besides a large amount of published journal articles, there are also some academic writings of high academic value, indicating that Chinese scholars have begun to form their own theoretical system of Japanese politics in some aspects.

### 1.1 Development of Political Situation

“Development of Political Situation” has always been a major field which Chinese scholars do a longitudinal study on Japanese politics. The research results in this field are concerned much with the current political situation and often focus on the hotspot issues. They pay attention to the analysis and prediction of the future political orientation, embodying the evolution history of Japanese politics in a certain degree.

In the research field of “Development of Political Situation”, most upfront research results put emphasis on the introduction and analysis of the development of political situation. For example, “The Analysis of General Election and Political Trend in Japan” by Lu Yi (*Japanese Studies*, No.1, 1997), “Political Trend in Japan after General Election” by Ma Junwei(*Contemporary International Relations*, No.2,1997), “The Analysis of the New Political Structure in Japan—focus on the Political Trend after the Disintegration of New Frontier Party” by Gao Hong(*Japanese Studies*, No.2, 1998), “The Japanese Political Situation after the Disintegration of New Frontier Party” by Wu Jinan(*World Outlook*, No.2, 1998), etc.

Since Koizumi Junichiro was in power in 2001, some scholars have paid more attention to the basic features and characteristics of the development of political situation. For example, “‘Junichiro Koizumi Whirl’ and Transformation of Japanese Politics” by Wu Jinan (*Japanese Studies Forum*,No.2, 2005) indicated that the Koizumi Junichiro Cabinet had exerted great influence on the transition of Japanese politics; “Abe Administration's Political Attribute and Its Policy Choices” by Gao

Hong (*Japanese Studies*, No.6, 2006) explored the Abe Administration's policy choices on the basis of the analysis of its “neo-realism” and strategies.

Besides, Chinese scholars intensify their research in “Political Figures” in the development of political situation. In this field, the representative is *Japan's New Generation Statesman* by Wu Jinan (Current Affairs Press, 2002). Based on his personal investigation in Japan with substantial data collected, the author analyzed the situation in which Japanese politicians of new generation surge, introduced one by one the new political figures in the two major political parties and made a scientific conclusion for their common features.

The academic writings relevant to “Development of Political Situation” in this period mainly include the following ones: *Japan Standing in the Entrance of the New Century* edited by Wu Jinan (Shanghai Education Publishing House, 1998), *Japan in Hesitation* by Liu Jiangyong (Tianjin People's Publishing House, 2000), *Japanese Politics, Economics and Diplomacy in Post-Cold War Era* by Liang Yunxiang and Ying Xiaoyan (Beijing University Press, 2000), *Walled Japan* edited by Xue Jundu and Lu Zhongwei (Current Affairs Press, 2001), *Japan's Crisis* by Liu Xiaofeng et al (People's Press, 2001), etc. Among them, *Contemporary Party Politics in Japan: Development of Political Situation since 1990s* by Liu Xiaolin (China Social Press, 2004) makes a detailed exploration of the evolution of Japanese internal political situation after the Cold War.

## 1.2 Political System And Its Reform

The “Political System” referred here is the one in a broad sense, including “political institutions”, “political structure”, etc.

The general researches about the Japanese political system take the two academic writings by Wang Xinsheng as the representative. One of them, *Contemporary Japanese Politics* (Economic Daily Press, 1997), gives a deep analysis of Contemporary Japanese Politics that covers governmental process and political institution and demonstrates various aspects of the Japanese politics by the order of governmental process in Japan. The other one, *Modernization of Political System and Economics—Further Probing into the “Japan Model”* (Social Science Academic Press, 2002), focuses on discussing the interactive relationship of post-war Japanese political system and economic modernization, analyzing the formation, function, variation and end of “The 1955 System” and its influence on the economic development. The two works push Chinese scholars' research on Japanese political system to a new height.

At the same time, during the evolution of Japanese political system after the Cold War, “Political Reform” is absolutely one of the key words. Hence, Chinese scholars have paid more attention to the reforms in electoral system, administrative system, etc. in Japan and the influence of the reforms on the Japanese political system. The journal articles in this field mainly include: “Small Constituency System and the Objective of Japanese Bipartisan System” by Gan Feng (*Northeast Asia Forum*, No.3, 1998), “Study on the Innovation of Election System in the House of Representatives in Japan” by Zhang Qinpei (*Northeast Asia Forum*, No.2, 1999), “The Analysis of Japanese Central Government Innovation” by Xu Wansheng (*Journal of*

*Contemporary Asia-Pacific Studies*, No.10,1999), “New Election System and Political Innovation in Japan” by Song Changjun (*Journal of Contemporary Asia-Pacific Studies*, No.3,2000), “Exploration of Theory on the Innovation of Japanese Political System—— Analysis of Policy Report of Forum on ‘Conceiving Japan in the Twenty-first Century’” by Gao Hong (*Japanese Studies*, No.5, 2000), “A Comparative Analysis of Japan's Political System Reform” by Li Haipeng (*Japanese Studies*, No.5, 2005), “Trends of the Evolution of Japan's Political Structure” by Jin Xide (*Japanese Studies*, No.1, 2006),etc. Besides, *Two Trans-century Innovations in Japan* edited by Zhang Jian and Wang Jinlin (Tianjin Academy of Social Sciences Press, 2000), *The National Strategy in Japan of the Twenty-first Century* by Li Hanmei (Social Science Academic Press, 2000), *Economy, Politics and Social System of Japanese Style* edited by Dai Xiaofu and Hu Lingyuan (Shanghai University of Finance and Economics Press, 2002), *Changing Japanese Politics and Diplomacy* edited by Bao XiaQin (ShiShi Publishing House, 2004). In all the academic writings mentioned above, some chapters discuss the political system innovation in Japan after the Cold War. *The Administration Innovation of Japan in the New Century* edited by Wu Jinan (ShiShi Publishing House, 2003) gives a detailed introduction of the background, guiding ideas and implementing process in all fields of the new administrative innovation in Japan since the end of 1990s.

Relevant to “political institutions “, there are also some academic writings that focus on the introduction and analysis of Japanese political system. For instance, *Study on Japanese Constitution* by Song Changjun (Current Affairs Press,1997), *Contemporary Political Systems in Each Country—Japan* by Liu Xiaolin (Lanzhou University Press, 1998), *The Modernization of Japanese Politics* by Yang Xiaocheng (Northeast Normal University Press, 1998), *The Civil Service System and the Political Process in Japan* by Zheng Lizhi (Shanghai University of Finance and Economics Press, 2001), *Congress of Japan* by Yang Jianshun (Huaxia Press, 2002), *Contemporary Japan* edited by Zhang Jian (Tianjin Academy of Social Sciences Press, 2005), *Japan* edited by Sun Shulin and Han Tieying (Social Science Academic Press, 2005), *Japanese Politics and Foreign Relations* by Xu Wansheng (People's Press, 2006), *Japanese Judicial Review System of Constitutionality* by Zhao Lixin (China Legal Publishing House, 2008), etc.

### 1.3 Party Politics

“Party Politics” has been a key field in Japanese political research during the recent years. Plentiful and substantial achievements have been gained in such fields as Political Party System, Liberal Democratic Party Regime, Japanese Communist Party, etc.

A number of scholars have published high-quality books on the field of Political Party System in the last ten years: *Party Politics and Modernization* by Lin Shangli (Shanghai People's Publishing House, 1998) analyzes the structure and function of the Japanese Political Party System from a political perspective and “is a comprehensive and systematic work in studying Japanese Party Politics which is creative, original and valuable”(Zhen Zhiyu’s words); *The Outline of Japanese Party System* by Gao Hong (China Social Science Publishing House, 2004) explores the development

prospect of Japanese Political Party System in the early years of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century while putting emphasis on the realignment and regrouping process and real political struggle among different Japanese parties after the Cold War. *Study on the Ruling Party Status of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan* by Xu Wansheng (Tianjin People's Publishing House, 2004) defines the essence of "The 1955 System" as "The Ruling Party Status", which is the first systematical and theoretical study on Japanese Party Politics and Political Party System, and probes profoundly into the formation, transformation and other elements of the Ruling Party Status of the Liberal Democratic Party. *Political Ecological Analysis of Japanese Party System* by Zhang Boyu (World Affairs Press, 2006) does a systematical study on the post-war Japanese Political Party System from the perspective of political ecosystem.

Besides, with the collapse of "The 1955 System", "Transformation of Japanese Party Politics after the Cold War" has become one of the concerns for Chinese scholars. The representative journal articles in this field mainly include: "The Social Elements in the Transformation of Japanese Political Party System" by Gao Hong (*Japanese Studies*, No.2, 1999), "Several Problems Relevant to Japanese Political Parties in the New Century" by Gao Hong (*Japanese Studies*, No.4, 1999), "Non-party Social Stratum and the Transformation of Japan's Political Party System" by Xu Wansheng (*Japanese Studies*, No.2, 2004), "On Japan's 'Cooperation between LDP and Comeito' in the 'Post LDP Period'" by Xu Wansheng (*Japanese Studies*, No.1, 2005), "Political Fund and the Transformation of Japan's Political Party System" by Xu Wansheng (*Japanese Studies*, No.1, 2007), "Transformation of Japan's Political Party System" Li Ying (*Journal of Contemporary Asia-Pacific Studies*, No.5, 2007), "House of Councilors Election and the Transformation of Japan's Political Party System" by Xu Wansheng (*Japanese Studies*, No.1, 2008), etc.

The research field of "Liberal Democratic Party Regime" takes *Party Politics in Post-war Japan* by Wang Zhensuo (People's Press, 2004) as the representative. By taking a chorological approach and a narrative way of combining history and argument with an emphasis on empirical evidences, this book studies the rise and decline of the long-term LDP regime, and the causes of the development and the domestic and foreign policies of the regime. This book to some degree fills a gap of the study of the history of Japanese political parties in Mainland China. In addition, Xu Wansheng publishes "On LDP's Faction Politics in Post - Cold War Japan" (*Japanese Studies*, No.2, 2006), "On the Privatization of Japan's Postal Saving System and the Liberal Democratic Party Regime" (*Journal of PLA University of Foreign Languages*, No.2, 2006), "On 'Koizumi Innovation' and the Reconstruction of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party" (*International Forum*, No.3, 2006) and so on. He also analyzes and discusses in a deep way the interactions between the internal mechanical structure of Liberal Democratic Party Regime and the external social changes after the Cold War

Besides the Liberal Democratic Party, Chinese scholars' representative works in the research of other Japanese parties are mainly the following ones: *The Theory and Practice of "Japanese Socialism" of the Japanese Communist Party* by Cao Tianlu (China Social Science Publishing House, 2004), a tour de force in studying Japanese

Communist Party, which focuses on analyzing the post-war theory and practice of “Japanese Socialism” of the Japanese Communist Party, discovers the common laws, summarizes experience and lessons, and predicts the future development; *The Development of Defending Constitution and Pacificism: A Study of the Socialist Party of Japan* by Hua Guiping (People's Press, 2005), which provides a systematic study on the security policy of the Japanese Socialist Party from multiple perspectives. This book “makes up the blank and insufficiency of Chinese scholars’ studies on Japanese Socialist Party and its security policy, with important theoretical and practical implications”(Wang Zhensuo’s words). In addition, the journal articles in this field mainly include: “A Preliminary Study on the Japanese Democratic Party” by Gao Hong (*Japanese Studies*, No.1, 1997), “The Adjustment and Background of the Guiding Principles of Japanese Communist Party” by Zhang Boyu (*Japanese Studies*, No.6, 2003), “New Developments in Japan's Social Democratic Party after the Cold War” by Zhu Yansheng (*Contemporary World & Socialism*, No.2, 2005), “An Analysis of the Political Innovation of the Japanese Communist Party” by the Research Group of “Japanese Communist Party,” the Institute of World Economics and Politics in Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (*Pacific Journal*, No.6, 2005), “The Political Innovation of Japanese Communist Party” by Wu Guangyi (*Contemporary World*, No.7, 2005), “Japanese Communist Party after Cold War” by Xu Wansheng (*Japanese Studies Forum*, No.2, 2008), etc. From all those articles, we can see that Chinese scholars intensify their studies on the Japanese Communist Party owing to the continuous route adjustment of Japanese Communist Party after the Cold War and the role as an opposition party.

#### 1.4 Political Right-deviating Tendency

“Political Right-deviating Tendency” is a basic judgment of many Chinese scholars about the Japanese political tendency after the Cold War. Their studies endeavor to reveal changes in strengths of various political forces in Japan and the value orientation of political transition, combining with the studies on “Political Conservatism”, Nationalism and statism, arguments for constitutional amendment, Right-wing forces, etc.

With the subject of “Political Right-deviating Tendency” or “Political Conservatism”, Chinese scholars have published many works with a focus on the background, performance and influence of political right-deviating tendency in Japan. The two representative academic writings are: *The General Conservatism of Japan after the Cold War* by Lu Yaodong (China Social Science Publishing House, 2004), which explores deeply the formation, development and causes of the general Political Conservatism in Japan under the background of changes in the distribution of power among political parties in Japan; *The New Conservatism and Political Right-deviating Tendency in Japan after the Cold War* by Zhang Guangyu (Beijing University Press, 2005), according to which New Conservatism and Political Right-deviating Tendency in Japan has developed into a new stage after the Cold War and become a national and state act in the form of socialization, legalization and policy by Japanese major parties and the regime. At the same time, there are many journal articles published in this field. For example, “Study on Conservative Trend in Post-war Japanese Politics” by

Li Genan (*Japanese Studies*, No.3, 1999), “On Japanese Present Political Tendency towards Right-deviation” by Liu Changmin (*Forum of World Economy & Politics*, No.6,1999), “Causes of the Right-oriented Politics in Japan and Their Influence” by Chen Jingyan (*Japanese Studies Forum*, No.4, 2000), “The Development of New Japanese Conservatism after the Cold War” by Zhu Yansheng (*Contemporary World & Socialism*, No.5, 2001), “The Evolution of Right Deviation of Japan Politics and Its Background” by Liu Xinghua (*International Data Information*, No.12, 2005), “On the" Conservative Trend" of Japanese Politics” by Huang Dahui (*Teaching and Research*, No.12, 2005), etc.

Besides, a part of research results discuss “Political Right-deviating Tendency” from the perspective of “Nationalism”, “Conservatism”, or “racialism”, etc. and then reveal the ideological essence of Japanese political tendency towards right-deviation. For example, *Study on New Nationalism in Post-war Japan* by Sun Zheng (People's Press,2005) makes a systematical study on the development of New Nationalism of post-war Japan by historical sequence, and argues that New Nationalism is one of the most important thoughts of Conservatism Politics in post-war Japan and endeavors to explore the interactive relationship of political development and the development of New Nationalism. It is worth pointing out that some scholars advocate to use “Ethnic Conservatism” for summarizing the mainstream political ideas in Japanese political circle after the Cold War and trying to satisfy the practical demands in theory research, with the representative articles of “On ‘the National Conservatism’ in the Modern Japanese Politics” by Tong Sheng (*Japanese Studies*, No.3, 2004), “Contemporary Japan's Nationalistic Conservatism: Its Formation, Concept and My Answer to Puzzles” by Zhang Jinshan(*Japanese Studies*, No.3, 2007), etc.

Chinese scholars also concentrate on the studies of right-wing forces, understanding of history, and tendency of constitutional amendment and so on as the specific phenomena of “Political Right-deviating Tendency”.

In the research field of right-wing forces, there are two academic writings as the representative: *Study on the Japanese Right-wing Forces after World War II* by Sun Lixiang (China Social Science Publishing House, 2005), which describes different stages of the development of right-wing forces in post-war Japan, compares right-wing forces of Japan with those of Germany, and analyzes the social basis of the development of post-war Japanese right-wing forces and the negative influence on China; *Study on the Japanese Right-wing Forces* by Bu Ping and Wang Xiliang (China Social Science Publishing House, 2005), which, after a brief review of the historical evolution of right-wing campaigns in pre-war Japan, provides a careful study of the relationships between right-wing associations and right-wing forces and reveals the close relationships between right-wing forces and politics in Japan. The two works push the research of Japanese right-wing forces to a new height. Besides, Chinese scholars publish a large amount of journal articles. For example, “Right-wing forces in Japan” by Yuan Yunhua (*International Data Information*, No.1, 1997), “The Historical Inspection of Japanese Right Wing's Trend of Thought and Organizations” by Lin Xiaoguang ( *The Journal of Studies of China's Resistance War Against Japan*, No.1, 2002), “Japanese Right-wing Forces and Their Influence on Japanese Internal



and Foreign Policies” by Tong Sheng (*Japanese Studies*, No.6, 2005), etc.

As for the issues of understanding of history and the development of constitutional amendment, Chinese scholars criticize the wrong understanding of history in Japan that denies the Aggressive War, and show concerns about to the tendency of constitutional amendment. The journal articles in this field mainly include: “Japanese History Textbook Controversies” by Jin Xide (*Journal of Contemporary Asia-Pacific Studies*, No.5, 2001), “Article Nine of Japan's Constitution and Its Orientation” by Guan Yin( *China Social Sciences*, No.4, 2002), “The Thinking and Choice of Japan’s Road of National Development: A Comment on the Mid-term Report of the Constitution Investigation Committee of the Lower House” by Gao Hong (*Japanese Studies*, No.1, 2003), “The Right Forces in Japan and the History Textbook Issue” by Sun Zhichang (*History Teaching*, No.1, 2003), “ The Amendment of the Japanese Constitution Forecasting Japan’s Future Political Orientation” by Sun Lingling (*Japanese Studies*, No.3, 2005), “Japan's Revision of Its Constitution and Conservative Nationalism” by Sun Lingling (*Journal of Contemporary Asia-Pacific Studies*, No.3, 2007), “The Tendency and Influence of Constitution Revision Politics in Japan after the Cold War” by Xu Wansheng (*Journal of Contemporary Asia-Pacific Studies*, No.6, 2008), etc.

Besides, *Study on the Perceptions of War in the Japanese Political Circle after WW II* by Wang Xiliang (Social Science Academic Press, 2005) expounds thoroughly the evolution of the war perceptions in post-war Japanese political circle, reveals the source of the long-term existence of the problem concerning war responsibility, and points out the basic reasons why the problems of the war settlement are prolonged. *Analysis of the Problems of Japanese Textbook* edited by Zhang Haipeng and Bu Ping (Social Science Academic Press, 2002), *The Truth of Japanese History Textbooks Storm* by Su Zhiliang(People’s Press,2001) and *Revealing the Inside Story of Japanese Textbook Problems* by Wang Zhixin and Liu Qi (World Affairs Press, 2001) give specific statements of Japanese Textbook Problems and criticize the recessive behaviors of Japanese government in the problems of historical perception.

In summary, this survey of the state of Japanese political research by Chinese scholars in this period indicates that while great achievements have been made, there are some weak points. For example, the research field should be broadened, and studies in local politics, civilian politics, etc and in short supply. Although a large number of journal articles about certain hotspot issues (e.g. “Political Right-deviating Tendency”) are published, the subjects of those theses are highly repetitive with similar perspectives, and their substances are usually limited to a description of phenomena. With no doubt, there is much room left for improvement in Japanese political research for Chinese scholars.

## 2 The Summary of Studies in Japanese Diplomacy

In the field of Japanese diplomacy, publications by Chinese Scholars concentrate on diplomatic strategy, Sino-Japanese relations, Japanese-USA relations and other foreign relations. A great number of academic publications appear in the field of Sino-Japanese relations. Together they account for about 40 percent of the total

academic publications about Japanese diplomacy.

## 2.1 Diplomatic Strategy

After the Cold War, due to the accelerated process of Japan in becoming a political power, Chinese scholars have always paid attention to the general tendency of Japanese diplomatic strategy and tried to analyze its connotation, characteristics and tendency, etc. The representative journal articles in this field include: “Geo-diplomatic Strategy of Japan in Pursuit of a Political Power” by Ma Yuan (*World Economy & Politics*, No.7, 1997), “On Trans-century Diplomatic Strategy in Japan” by Zang Zhijun (*Pacific Journal*, No.3, 1999), “Brief Analysis of Japanese Foreign Strategies and the Strategy towards China” by Sun Cheng (*Japanese Studies*, No.5, 2000), “Discussion on Japanese Foreign Strategies after the Cold War” by Jin Xide (*World Economy & Politics*, No.11, 2001), “A Strategic Invention or A Lack of Strategy—Analysis of Japanese Diplomatic Strategy in the 21st Century” by Jin Xide (*Japanese Studies*, No.1, 2003), “Japanese Diplomatic Strategy after the Cold War” by Liu Shilong (*Japanese Studies*, No.5, 2003), “The Evolution and Developmental Orientation of Japanese Foreign Strategies” by Wei Min (*International Politics Quarterly*, No.1, 2004), “Analysis of the Features and Trend of Japanese Diplomacy in the New Century” by Li Jianmin (*International Forum*, No.4, 2004), “Developmental Tendency of Japanese Diplomatic Strategies in the New Century” by Jin Linbo (*International Studies*, No.4, 2004), “An Analysis of the Foreign Policy of the Koizumi Cabinet” by Zhou Yongsheng (*Japanese Studies*, No.5, 2006), “The Initial Achievements and Prospects of Abe Diplomacy” by Jin Xide (*Japanese Studies*, No.6, 2006), “On Japan's ‘Values Oriented Diplomacy’” by Liu Yongjiang (*Japanese Studies*, No.6, 2007), “The Choice of Japanese Diplomacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” by Jin Xide (*International Politics Quarterly*, No.1, 2008), etc.

At the same time, many research results focus on exploring Japanese diplomatic strategy from a certain perspective. There are three main aspects: first, because “East-Asia Cooperation” is a big subject that is faced by Japanese diplomatic strategy after the Cold War, some research results focus on Japanese diplomatic strategy in Asia. For instance, “Japan's Proposed East Asian Community in Perspective” by Sun Cheng (*International Studies*, No.5, 2002), “East Asian Cooperation and the Trend of Japan's Asian Diplomacy” by Lu Guozhong (*Peace and Development*, No.1, 2003), “A Preliminary Analysis of Japan's ‘East-Asian Community’ Strategy” by Liu Jiangyong (*Japanese Studies*, No.3, 2004), “‘Expansion from Southeast Asia to Asia-Pacific’—An Analysis of Japan's Regionalism in the Cold War Era” by Wang Shaopu (*International Review*, No.5, 2004), etc. Second, some research results focus on Japanese diplomatic strategy from the perspective of culture. For example, “Culture and Japanese Diplomacy” by Shang Huipeng (*Japanese Studies*, No.3, 2003), “A Discussion of Japanese Diplomacy from the Culture Perspective” by Liu Yana (*Northeast Asia Forum*, No.5, 2003), “Trends of Postwar Japan's Strategy of Cultural Diplomacy” by Ding Zhaozhong (*Japanese Studies*, No.1, 2006), “Japanese Culture and Japan's Diplomatic Dilemma” by Li Wen (*Journal of Contemporary Asia-Pacific Studies*, No.12, 2007), “Japan's Cultural Diplomacy” by Wu Yongmei (*Japanese Studies*, No.5, 2008), etc. Third, with the emergence of non-traditional security, global

problems and other new elements in the international political practice, some research fruits also show the new content in Japanese diplomatic strategy. Although the research fruits are in a small amount, they embody the new research direction in a certain degree. For example, “The Global Problems and Japanese Big-Country Diplomacy” by Lin Xiaoguang (*Japanese Studies*, No.3, 1999), “‘Counter-terrorism Diplomacy’ and Japan’s Strategies” by Wang Shan(*Contemporary Internal Relations*, No.12, 2001), “On Japan’s Public Diplomacy and Its Limitations” by Liu Guohua (*Japanese Studies Forum*, No.4, 2006), “Tentative Analysis of ‘Human Rights Diplomacy’ of Japan” by Li Baojun (*Contemporary Internal Relations*, No.4, 2007), “Japan’s Public Diplomacy in the International Non-traditional Security” by Li Guangmin (*Northeast Asia Forum*, No.5, 2008), “The Strategic Intention and Characteristics of Japan’s Environmental Diplomacy” by Cai Liang(*The Contemporary World*, No.6, 2008), etc.

The academic writings in the research field of “Diplomatic Strategy” mainly include the followings: *Japan-US Axis and Economic Diplomacy—Transformation of Japanese Diplomacy* by Jin Xide (China Social Science Publishing House, 1998), which reveals deeply the features and laws of post-war Japanese diplomacy and explores its future directions; *Study on Shigeru Yoshida Diplomatic Thought* by Xu Siwei (World Affairs Press, 2001) provides a case study of Japanese diplomatic strategy by examining the formation, development and significance of Shigeru Yoshida diplomatic thought from a historical perspective; *Study on Post-war Foreign Strategy of Japan* by Zhang Yali (Zhejiang People’s Publishing House, 2002), which discusses systematically the evolution of Japanese foreign strategy; *Japan and East-Asia: A Changing Age* by Sun Cheng (World Affairs Press, 2005), focuses on Japanese foreign strategy in East Asia on the basis of changes of domestic situation in Japan; *Japanese National Strategy and Its Diplomacy in East-Asia* by Shen Haitao (Jilin People’s Publishing House, 2006), which discusses profoundly Japanese diplomacy in Northeast Asia on the basis of probing into national strategic adjustments of Japan; *Japanese Politics and Diplomacy in the Early Twenty-first Century* by Jin Xide (World Affairs Press, 2006), which focuses on analyzing the adjustment tendency of Japanese foreign strategy in the early 21<sup>st</sup> Century and the evolution of foreign relations on the basis of the structure changes of Japanese domestic politics; *Thirty Years for Japanese Diplomacy—from Takeo Fukuda to Yasuo Fukuda* by Jin Xide (Qingdao Press, 2008), which discusses profoundly the evolution disciplines and the influence on Sino-Japanese relation of Japanese politics and diplomacy during the thirty years from Takeo Fukuda to Yasuo Fukuda Cabinet, etc.

## II. Sino-Japanese Relations

Based on China’s demands of its own national interests, the research on Sino-Japanese relations undoubtedly is given primary importance by Chinese scholars in the field of Japanese studies. Their great attention and much exploration of Sino-Japanese relations not only coincide with the present situation of the mutual dependence relationship between China and Japan, but also reflect China’s flourishing

in the related professional disciplines such as international politics and international relations to some extent.

In the research field of Sino-Japanese relations studies, the description and summing-up of the bilateral relationship evolution is a kind of fundamental research work and a threshold of the advancement in the Sino-Japanese relations studies. Chinese scholars attained new achievements keeping pace with the times in this aspect: *Collection of Sino-Japanese Relations after WWII, 1971-1995*, edited by Tian Huan (China Social Sciences Press, 1997), compiles the bilateral official treaties, agreements, joint statements, parley bulletin, government officials conversations, editorials representing or reflecting official position, comments and news reports, all of which influence and affect Sino-Japanese relations development, and the book, collecting totally 628 published documents, is an essential information collection for studies on Sino-Japanese relations history since WWII. Tian Huan, *Sino-Japanese Relations after WWII (1945-1995)*, (China Social Sciences Press, 2002) expounds Sino-Japanese relations development progress in details according to time sequence, with an emphasis on major historical events and reliable and true evidences. The book attempts to reveal experience and lessons in the evolution of Sino-Japanese relations and the promising future of Sino-Japanese relations. Xu Zhixian, in his *The 30-Year Sino-Japanese Relations (1972-2002)*, (Current Affairs Press, 2002), for the first time in Chinese scholars, utilized the materials recently opened for the public concerning the negotiations between the two nations for restoring their diplomatic relation and peace treaty to systematically analyse the new characteristics of Sino-Japanese relations development after the Cold War. Shi Guifang, in his *The Postwar Sino-Japanese Relations*, (The Contemporary World Press, 2003), discusses the evolution of the postwar Sino-Japanese relations. Li Jianmin, *History of Sino-Japanese Relations after Cold War 1989-2006*, (China Economics Publishing House, 2007), focuses on analysis on the new characteristics of Sino-Japanese relations development based on exposition of Sino-Japanese relations development by phases since the Cold War. Feng Ruiyun, et. al., *A History of Sino-Japanese Relations, VIII*, (Social Sciences Academic Press, 2006), on the basis of history phases of contemporary Sino-Japanese relations, expounds the evolution of Sino-Japanese relations characterized by “advancement as a whole”, and so on. In addition, a group of former diplomats who participated in the restoration of the Sino-Japanese diplomatic relations, have published books, such as Zhang Xiangshan, *On Sino-Japanese Relations* (The Contemporary World Press, 1998), Sun Pinghua, *My Experience*, (World Affairs Press, 1998), Liu Deyou, *Time Trip—The Sino-Japanese Relations I Experienced*, (Commercial Press, 1999), and Wu Xuewen, *Sino-Japanese Relations I Experienced*, (World Affairs Press, 2002). These books possess highly important historical value for the study of the Sino-Japanese relations.

Besides “chorological” studies on Sino-Japanese relations, more academic works focus on analysis and forecasting of the present situation of Sino-Japanese relations, which can be called “synchronic” researches. For instance, Feng Zhaokui, *Dialogue: Beijing and Tokyo*, (Xihua Publishing House, 1999), Jin Xide, *Japan Diplomacy and Sino-Japanese Relations—the New Trend in 1990s*, (World Affairs Press, 2001), Wu

Jinan and Chen Hongbin, *The Theory of "Bottleneck" of Sino-Japanese Relations*, (Current Affairs Press, 2004), Feng Zhaokui and Lin Chang, *Report on Sino-Japanese Relations*, (Shi Current Affairs Press, 2004), Liu Jiangyong, *20 Lectures on Sino-Japanese Relations*, (China Renmin University Press, 2007), etc. Among them, Jin Xide, *Sino-Japanese Relations—Sino-Japanese Relationship-30 Years after the Resumption of Diplomatic Relations*, (World Affairs Press, 2002), attempts to base the study on the logical starting point and the historical premise of Sino-Japanese relations, to review and summarize the 30-year experience and lessons since the resumption of Sino-Japanese relations, and to elaborate deeply the realistic characteristics and the future directions of Sino-Japanese relations. Liu Jiangyong, *China and Japan: The Changing Relations of "Cold Politically While Warm Economically"*, (People's Press, 2007), studies mainly the contradictory phenomena of "cold politics but warm economy" in the Sino-Japanese relations in the early 21st century, their causes and related major issues, and the approaches to solving the problem on the ground of a forecasting of the general dimension of the relations. Meanwhile, Chinese scholars publish large quantities of journal papers about studies on current Sino-Japanese relations. For example, Jiang Yuechun, "Sino-Japanese Relations in the New Era", (*International Studies*, No. 4, 1997), Huang Dahui, "New Setup in Chinese- Japanese Relationship and Japan's Strategy against China", (*Teaching and Research*, No.8, 2000), Feng Zhaokui, "Strategic Thinking on Sino-Japanese Relations", (*World Economics and Politics*, No.11, 2000), Lu Zhongwei, "The Key Lies on Enhancing Mutual Understanding-My Opinion on Sino-Japanese Relations Development", (*Contemporary International Relations*, No.12, 2000), Jin Xide, "An Analysis of the Phenomenon of "Cold Politically While Warm Economically" in Sino - Japanese Relations", (*Japanese Studies*, No.5, 2004), Wu Jinan, "Some Thinking on Breaking the Deadlock between China and Japan", (*Japanese Studies*, No.1, 2005), Liu Jiangyong, "On Japan's Strategic Orientation and the Prospect of Sino-Japanese Relations", (*Foreign Affairs Review*, No.3, 2005), Wu Yin, "Reciprocity and Equilibrium: Trends of Sino - Japanese Relations", (*Japanese Studies*, No.3, 2006), etc.. In addition, during the 2002-2006 period, the Institute of Japanese Studies of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences has successively conducted three surveys of public opinion (the survey result published in *Japanese Studies* No.6, 2002, No.6, 2004, No.6, 2006,) thus offering information about the perceptions by regular Chinese citizens of Japan and the Sino-Japanese relations.

On the ground of "chorological" and "synchronic" researches on the Sino-Japanese relations as a whole, some scholars narrow down their researches into specific topics, and analyze Sino-Japanese relations from a certain perspective. For example, Liu Tianchun, et al., *Japan's Policies to China and Sino-Japanese Relations*, (People's Press, 2004), focus on Sino-Japanese relations from the perspective of Japan's China policy. Zhang Yaowu, *Taiwan Issue in Sino-Japanese Relations*, (Xinhua Publishing House, 2004), reveals the cause of "Taiwan Issue" and its development in Sino-Japanese relations through analysis of diplomatic correspondence and historical materials. Ling Xiaoguang, *Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) for China and Sino-Japanese Relationship*, (World

Affairs Press, 2003), with the emphasis on Japan's ODA to China, further expounds how Japan takes advantage of ODA to influence Sino-Japanese relations under the framework of its national strategy and discusses China's countermeasures. Lu Yi, *How Far is China and Japan Mutually Understanding Each Other?* (World Affairs Press, 2006), analyses the development of the Sino-Japanese relations from the perspective of the mutual understanding of the publics of the two nations, with a focus on the disagreements on the major issues like the War of invading China, visits to the Yasukuni war shrine, Japan's ODA to China, national security and military build-up. Finally, the book proposes some suggestions on enhancement of mutual trust and understanding.

Meanwhile, in order to promote the sound development of Sino-Japanese Relations, Chinese scholars pay attention to the disputes under Sino-Japanese Relations Framework such as issues on understanding of history problems, Taiwan Issue, the Diaoyu Island Dispute, East China Sea Issue, etc., and publish large quantities of journal papers. For instance, Feng Zhaokui, "Major Factors at Work behind China-Japan Ties", (*Contemporary International Relations*, No.9, 2001), Tang Chongnan, "The Key Lies on Correctly Understanding and Treating History", (*Contemporary International Relations*, No.10,2003), Zhang Jingquan, "Some Understandings about Sino -Japanese Dispute on Diaoyu Islands",(*Northeast Asia Forum*, No.2,2005), Bu Ping, "Considerations on How to Understand the History of Sino-Japanese Relations", (*Contemporary China History Studies*,No.5,2005), Sun Bingbing, "On The East Sea Dispute and Energy cooperation between China and Japan",(*Pacific Journal*,No.6, 2005), Zhu Fenglan, "China-Japan Dispute over East China Sea and Its Resolution in Prospects", (*Journal of Contemporary Asia-Pacific Studies*,No.7,2005), Wang Shan, "Japan's Energy Policy on China: In the Perspective of the Oil Dispute in East China Sea",(*Contemporary International Relations*,No.12,2005), Chen Yongming, "Japan's Reinforcement of Its Relations with Taiwan: Causes and Influences",(*Journal of Contemporary Asia-Pacific Studies*,No.2,2006), Wu Jinan, "Readjustment and Impact of Japan's Taiwan Policy in the New Century",(*Taiwan Research Quarterly*, No.3,2006), etc. Especially on the studies on the cognition of historical issues, Chinese scholars once argued about "new thinking of the diplomacy to Japan". For example, Shi Yihong, "Sino-Japanese Rapprochement and Diplomatic Revolution", *Strategy and Management*, No.2, 2003, Zhang Haipeng, "On the Problem of Historical Studies of Modern Sino - Japan Relation", (*The Journal of Studies of China's Resistance War Against Japan*, No.1,2004),etc.

Compared with the past, it is worth paying close attention that two new trends appeared in Sino-Japanese relations studies in this period.

The first is to discuss Sino-Japanese relations from the perspective of Japan's domestic politics. For example, *Japan's Movement toward "Ordinary Country " after the Cold War and the Development of Sino-Japanese Relations*, (China Social Sciences Press, 2005) by Li Jianmin, studies the Sino-Japanese relations from the point of view of the Japanese domestic politics, with a focus on changes of Japanese national strategies in general and the movement toward an "Ordinary Country" in

particular. Huang Dahui, in his *Japan's Policy to China and its Domestic Politics*, (The Contemporary World Press, 2006), takes advantage of a combination of political and historical research methods to discuss in details the influence and effect of all Japanese domestic actors of political behavior on the normalization of Sino-Japanese relations. The book is a masterpiece of studies on normalization of Sino-Japanese relations. Zhai Xin, in his *Kenzo Matsumura Group and China*, (Social Sciences Academic Press, 2007), identifies Kenzo Matsumura Group's interactions with China as a diplomatic channel of the Liberal Democratic Party regime to connect China. This judgment is supported by evidences from the Group's policies and activities toward China before the normalization of the diplomatic relations. Huang Dahui, *Japan's Power Building-up and Sino-Japanese Relations*, (Social Sciences Academic Press, 2008), discusses the tendency of Japan's struggle for the status of big political power and its impacts on Sino-Japanese relations.

The second point worth of attention is to explore Sino-Japanese relations from the perspective of multilateral relations. For example, Zhang Yunling, *The China-US-Japan Relations in Transition*, (China Social Sciences Press, 1997), Liu Jianfei, *Enemies, Friends or Partners—Evolution of China-US-Japan Strategic Relations (1899-1999)*, (Central Party Document Press, 2000), Zhang Yunling, *Partners or Opponents—Transformation of the Relations of China, US, Japan and Russia*, (Social Sciences Academic Press, 2001), Lu Naicheng, *The 50-Year Relations of China, US, and Japan, The Contemporary*, (World Press, 2001), etc.. Liu Jianfei and Lin Xiaoguang, *The Strategic Relations of China, US and Japan in the Early of the 21st Century*, (Central Party School Press, 2002), from the perspective of trilateral interaction, systematically analyzes the bilateral and trilateral common interests, contradictory of China, US, and Japan, and the development trend of trilateral relations. Ren Xiao, *The Trilateral Relations of China, US and Japan*, (Zhejiang People's Publishing House, 2002), focuses on analysis on the evolution of China, US and Japan on the basis of theoretical explanation of the trilateral relations. Lian Degui, *The Evolution of US-Chinese Relations and US-Japanese Relations 1949-1972*, (World Affairs Press, 2006), analyzes the trilateral relations of China, US and Japan from a macro-perspective, expounds in detail the political contest among China, the United States, and Japan on the "Taiwan Issue" from 1949 to 1972, and attempts to reveal the characteristics of the relationships among the three countries. *Sino-Japanese Relations in the 21st Century* edited by Jin Xide (Chongqing Press, 2007) intends to examine Sino-Japanese relations in the early 21st century from the dual perspectives of the bilateral relations and the regional cooperation. Zhu Ning, in his *Sino-Japanese Geo-strategy and East Asia Remodeling*, (Zhejiang People's Publishing House, 2007), makes an analysis of Sino-Japanese security relations on the level of China-US-Japan trilateral relations on the basis of analysis on Sino-Japanese relations on the bilateral level, and it also makes an analysis of China and Japan in the strategic environment of East Asia.

Especially in the research field of the trilateral relations of China, US, and Japan, besides the academic works, Chinese scholars also publish a large amount of journal papers. For example, Wu Xinbo, "Seeking for the Balanced Development of

China-Japan-US Relations”, (*World Economics and Politics*, No.2,1999), Shi Yinhong, “The Triangular Relationship of China, US and Japan—Historical Retrospect, Case Comparison and Conceptual Analysis”,(*World Economics and Politics*, No.1,2000), Yang Bojiang, “The Trilateral Relations between China, America and Japan in the General Trend”,(*Contemporary International Relations*, No.3,2002), Xai Liping, “On the Trilateral Relations between China, US and Japan in the 21st Century”,(*Pacific Journal*,No.1,2004), Lin Xiaoguang, “Analysis of Interest Structure in Sino-Japanese Relations And Triangle Relationship of China, U.S. and Japan”,(*Peace and Development*, No.4,2004), Wang Jisi, “The Development Trend of Trilateral Relations from the Power Comparison of China, Japan and US”, (*International Politics Quarterly*, No.3,2008), etc..

### III. Japan-US Relations

In the research field of the Japanese diplomacy, besides Sino-Japanese relations, Japan-US relations with the US-Japanese Security Arrangement as the core, is among the bilateral relations to which Chinese scholars pay close attention. Furthermore, in the background of intensification of Japanese-American Security Guarantee System since the Cold War, Chinese scholars further intensify their efforts to study the connotation of “Japan-US Alliance” and Japan’s movement toward a great power and its influence on the securities of China and surrounding regions.

Recent representative works include: Liu Shilong, *US-Japan Relations (1791-2001)*, (World Affairs Press, 2003), which combines the studies of history and international issues, and takes the past and present situation of Japan-US relations as the object, and discusses the historical cycle of Japan-US relations development. Liu Yan, *Interpretation on US-Japan Alliance after the Cold War and its Influence on Sino-Japanese Relations*, (China University of Political Science and Law Press, 2008), which makes selective analysis of the influence of Japan-US Alliance evolution on Sino-Japanese relations development, based on the specific explanation of Japan-US Alliance evolution after the Cold War, etc..

Journal articles on Japan-US relations can be divided into three categories. Firstly, some focus on the “redefinition” problem of Japan-US Alliance. For example, Yang Bojiang, “Analysis of the Mid-Term Report on Japan-U.S. Amendment of Defense Alliance's Directions”, (*Contemporary International Relations*, No.7, 1997), Jin Xide, “Redefinition of US-Japan Alliance and its Future Trend”,(*World Economics and Politics*, No.7,2000), Wang Gonglong, “A New Recognition of the "Redefinition" of Japan-U.S. Alliance”,(*Japanese Studies*, No.5,2002), etc.. Secondly, some examine the trend of Japan-US Alliance. For example, Ren Xiao, “On US-Japan Alliance in the 1990s”, (*American Studies Quarterly*, No.4,2000), Xu Wansheng, “The Three Major Trends of Japan-US Alliance Relationship after the Cold War”, (*Journal of Contemporary Asia-Pacific Studies*, No.10,2000), Lu Guozhong, “The Development of Japan-U. S. Relationship after Sept.11”, (*Peace and Development*, No.2, 2002), Zhu Fenglan, “The Adjustment of Japan-US Alliance after the Cold War”, (*International Forum*, No.5, 2005), Xu Wansheng, “On the Transformation of the US-Japan Alliance: From the Post-Cold War to 9.11” (*International Forum*, No. 6, 2005). Liu Xing, “On the Vitality of US-Japan Alliance”, (*World Economics and*



*Politics*, No.6, 2007). Thirdly, some concentrate on the external influence issue of Japan-US Alliance. For example, Yang Bojiang, "The Consolidation of US-Japan Alliance: Japan's Strategic Springboard for the 21st Century?", (*Contemporary International Relations*, No.6,1999), Xu Wansheng, "Japan-USA Alliance and Japan's Military Power Building-up",(*Journal of Contemporary Asia-Pacific Studies*, No.4,2004), Wang Chuanjian, "USA- Japan Alliance and Japan's Policy Towards Korea Peninsular after the Cold War", (*Journal of Contemporary Asia-Pacific Studies*, No.9,2005), Liu Jiangyong,"The Transformation of US-Japan Alliance and Its Influence on China", (*International Review*, No.1,2006), Wu Huaizhong, "The Japan-U. S. "Realignment" Consultation and the Readjustment of Japan's Security Strategy", (*Japanese Studies*, No.4, 2006), Zhang Jingquan, "The Influence of Forming Alliances upon the Rise and Development of a Country--A Historical Analysis of Japan as an Example", (*Japanese Studies*, No.3, 2006), Xu Wansheng, "US-Japan Alliance and Japan's Expansion of Armament after the Cold War", (*International Politics Quarterly*, No.1, 2008), etc..

In addition, as mentioned above, many research achievements are about Japan-US relations under the trilateral relations of China, US and Japan. Here we will not go further on this point.

#### IV. Other Foreign Relations

In the research field of other foreign relations, Chinese scholars' academic achievements involve Japan's economic diplomacy, Japan's diplomacy to Southeast Asia, Japan's UN diplomacy, Japan-Russian relations, the relations of Japan and countries in Korean Peninsula.

Economic diplomacy is the important mainstay of Japan's diplomacy after WWII. Since the mid-1900s, Chinese scholars have obtained some new achievements in the research field of Japan's economic diplomacy, especially focusing on the systematical studies on "official development assistance", resulting in a consensus of the "politicizing" trend of economic assistance. The representative academic works in this field include: Zhang Jian, *Postwar Japan's Economic Foreign Relations(1952-1972)*, (Tianjin People's Publishing House, 1998). This book systematically expounds the formation of the postwar Japan's economic diplomacy in accordance with Japan's three mainlines to US, Southeast Asia, Western Europe. Jin Xide, *Japan's Official Development Assistance*, (Social Sciences Academic Press, 2000), with the revelation of postwar Japan's ODA basic content and characteristics as its main objective, discusses Japan's ODA theory, history, and important events following in order and makes selective analysis of some advanced theoretical issues and Japan diplomacy. In addition, the representative journal papers include: Xu Wansheng, "On Japan's 'Strategic Assistance' after WWII", (*North East Asian Forum*, No.3, 1999), Lin Xiaoguang, "An Analysis of Japan's Official Development Assistance Policy", (*Contemporary International Relations*, No.2, 2003), Zhu Yansheng, "Japan's ODA Policy in the 21st Century and Japan's ODA Policy to China", (*International Forum*, No.2, 2004), Wang Shan, "A Brief Analyses of Japan's Energy Diplomacy toward the Middle East", (*Contemporary Internal Relations*, No.3,2004), Wu Jinan, "An Analysis of A New- round Energy Diplomacy of Japan", (*Contemporary International*

*Relations*, No.10,2007), Li Xiushi, “An Analysis on Japan's Energy Diplomacy”, (*World Economy Study*, No.11,2007), etc..

The representative academic works in the research field of Japan's diplomacy to Southeast Asia, include: Qiao Linsheng, *Japan's Foreign Policy and ASEAN*, (People's Press, 2006), which studies war indemnity and Japan's returns to Southeast Asia, Japan's economic, diplomatic, security policies, Japan's regional cooperation policy, and argues that Japan's policies to ASEAN went from an emphasis on economy to both economy and politics and finally to politics only. Deng Shichao, *From Hostility to Amity: ASEAN-Japan Relations since WWII*, (*World Affairs Press*), expounds the developing process of the mutual relationship between Japan and ASEAN after WWII by phases. Moreover, the representative journal papers include: Wang Gonglong, “Japan's Diplomatic Policy to ASEAN in the 1990s”, (*Japanese Studies*, No.4, 1997), Ji Xide, “Formation and Evolution of Japan's Diplomacy to Southeast Asia”, (*Journal of Contemporary Asia-Pacific Studies*, No.7, 1998), Jin Xide, “Transition of Japan's Diplomacy to Southeast Asia—from Fukutatism to Hashimotoism”,(*Journal of Contemporary Asia-Pacific Studies*, No.7,1998), etc..

In the research field of Japan's UN diplomacy, the representative academic works include: Xiaogang, *Japan's UN Diplomacy after the Cold War*, (World Affairs Press, 2002), Lian Huixin, *Studies on Japan's UN Diplomacy*, (Tianjin Academy of Social Sciences, 2007). And the related journal papers include: Ding Shichuan, “Reasons of Japan's Enhancement of Diplomacy to UN since the Cold War”, (*International Review*, No.1, 1997), Sun Cheng, “Japan's Pursuit of Permanent Membership of the UN Security Council”, (*Contemporary International Relations*, No.8, 2001), Li Jianmin, “Japan's Normal Nation Object and its Diplomacy in UN”, (*Journal of Contemporary Asia-Pacific Studies*, No.7, 2004), Zhang Senlin, “A Cause Analysis of Japan's Aim to Become a Standing Member of UNSC”, (*Japanese Studies Forum*, No.1,2005), Zhang Senlin, “A Cause Analysis of Japan's Aim to Become a Standing Member of UNSC”, (*Japanese Studies Forum*,No.1,2005), Huang Dahui, “Japan's UN Diplomacy after the Cold War”, (*Teaching and Research*, No.3,2008),etc..

In the research field of Japan-Russian relations with the core of Northern Territory Issue, the representative work is Li Yonghui, *Russo-Japanese Relations*, (World Affairs Press, 2007). Besides, there are a considerable number of journal papers, for example, Lu Guozhong, “The Background and Development of the Warming-up Japan-Russian Relations”( *Peace and Development*, No.4,1997), Wang Qinghai, “The Important Adjustment of Japan's Diplomatic Policy to Russia”, (*Contemporary International Relations*, No.10,1997), Liu Guiling, “The Strategic Adjustment of Russo-Japanese Relations toward the 21st Century”, (*Contemporary International Relations*, No.12,1997), Xia Yishan, “The New Development of Russo-Japanese Relations”, (*International Studies*, No.2,1998), Wang Qinghai, “The Origin, Development and Trend of Northern Territory Issue between Japan and Russia”, (*East European Russian & Central Asian Studies*, No.3,1999), Lin Xiaoguang, “Japan-Russia Relations at the Turn of the 21st Century”, (*Japanese Studies*, No.5, 2001),etc..

The representative journal papers in the research field of the relations of Japan

and the countries in Korean Peninsula include: Cui Zhiying, “Retrospect and Prospect of Japan-Korean Relations”, (*Contemporary International Relations*, No. 9, 1997), Ding Yingshun, “The Adjustment of Japan’s Policy to Korean Peninsula after the Cold War”,(*Journal of Contemporary Asia-Pacific Studies*, No.2,1999), Lin Xiaoguang, “The Post-War Development and Trend of the Relationship between Japan and Korea”,(*International Forum*, No.2,2000), Zhang Yushan, “The Current Situation and the Future of the Relation between Japan and North Korea”, (*Northeast Asia Forum*, No. 1,2003), Wang Shaopu, “The Basic Features of Japan on Korean Policy Frame After Cold War”, (*World Economy Study*, No.5,2002), a Dianjun, “Japan-North Korea Relationship and North Korea Nuclear Issue”, (*Northeast Asia Forum*, No.2,2005), Liu Shilong, “Japan- U.S. - ROK Cooperation and the Nuclear Issue on the Korean Peninsula”, (*Japanese Studies*, No.2,2006), etc..

In addition, Chinese scholars’ concerns in Japan’s diplomacy involve the relations between Japan and the countries or regions of India, the Middle East, Central Asia, Europe and Africa. For instance, Li Fan, On Japan’s Policy to the Middle East after WWII(1952-1996), (Tianjin People’s Publishing House, 2000), Pan Dechang, “On Diplomatic Activities between the Heads of European Countries and That of Japan”, (*Japanese Studies Forum*, No.1,2002), Luo Jianbo, “Japan's Post-Cold War Diplomatic Policy to Africa”, (*International Review*, No.1,2003), Cheng Chuanlin, “Japan's Diplomacy in Central Asia”, (*Journal of Contemporary Asia-Pacific Studies*, No. 1,2005), Hu Shisheng, “Warming of Indo - Japanese Relations in the Perspective of Koizumi's Visit to India”, (*Contemporary International Relations*, No.5,2005), Jin Xide, “The Evolution of Japan's Policy towards the Middle East”, (*Japanese Studies*, No.4,2006), Zhao Jieqi, “What Is Japan's Intention of Carrying Out ‘the Diplomacy of Drawing India Over to Its Side’”, (*Japanese Studies*, No.6,2006), Zhu Yongbiao, “An Exploration of the Causes of the Closely Tied Japan and Central Asia”, (*Japanese Studies*, No.2,2007), Shen Xuhui, “From Aid Diplomacy to Strategic Diplomacy: An Analysis of the Evolution of Japan's Central Asia Foreign Policy”, (*Japanese Studies*, No.2,2007), Bai Ruchun, “The Development of Japan's Policy towards Africa—From the Viewpoint of Japan’s ‘International Conference on African Development’”,(*Japanese Studies*, No.5,2008),etc.

In conclusion, Chinese scholars have made great advances in the filed of Japan’s diplomacy, but there are some weak points. For example, despite an increase in the number of academic works on Sino-Japanese relation, there is too much about comprehensive studies compared with the insufficient thematic studies; the research achievements of Japan’s other foreign relations involve a wide range of subjects, but there is a lack of solid academic works for many key issues. Undoubtedly Chinese scholars’ research on Japan’s diplomacy will make greater progress in the wider viewpoint.

(Translated by Ke Huanhuan, Zhang jinzhe)

# Status of Research on Japanese Economy in China during the last decade(1997-2008)

Mang Jingshi

Two major basic factors effect the study of the Japanese economy in China: One is the dynamic change in the actual economy, the other is the development of economic theories. The former aspect influences the Japanese economy research in China far greater than the latter one, also reflects the “current situation research” feature in the economic research field. During the past ten years, Japanese economy has oscillated between depression and recovery. Economic system reform has made considerable progress. In 1997, caught in the dilemma of fiscal reform and demand stimulation, the Hashimoto Cabinet decided to raise the consumption tax. Unexpectedly, the policy made the depression worse, and in Japanese economic circles, this policy was called the "policy of Depression". In the following Asian financial crisis, the Japanese financial industry suffered greatly, ultimately forming an long-term depression in postwar. The depression maintained until the end of 2004. The automatic growth rate of Japanese economy eventually recovered, but was still very weak. In this long-term depression, the Japanese economy underwent profound structural changes, especially in fields like enterprise, labor, social security, finance and public finance. This dynamic evolution of Japanese macro-economy, as well as the institutional and structural changes through this period, form the background of the Japanese economic research in China. Actually, the field of Japanese economy research in China has been very broad during the past decade, covering nearly all respects of the Japanese economic dynamics mentioned above. However, from the aspect of academic resource allocation, the Japanese economic research community in China is mainly focused on the formation, reasons and impact of Japan’s bubble economy and on the experience and lessons we learned from the prolonged depression after that. Another related topic that intrigued this research community is the economic reform that took place since Japan fell into the long-term depression. In addition to the more traditional research fields such as finance and financial policies, there has been study of public finance and fiscal policies, enterprise system and the employment system, Japanese social security, the progress of high-tech industries, technological innovation system, and the recycling economy.

## Researches on Bubble Economy and Long-term Recession

Since the bursting of economic bubbles in the 1990s, Japanese economy has been under long-term downturn and recession, and severe deflation has occurred after entering the 21<sup>st</sup> century. China's scholars researching Japanese economy are fully aware that this is the most serious economic recession Japan has experienced after World War II. Reasons and lessons for this have been widely analyzed, mainly not from technical perspective, but from more macroscopic ones such as relationship between government and market, as well as economic policies and systems etc. Studies by Wang Luolin, Yu Yong-ding and Li Wei are quite influential<sup>1</sup>, while equally important analytical work has also been carried out by Tian Zhongjing, Chi Yuanji<sup>2</sup> and Zhou Zehong<sup>3</sup>.

According to these studies, Japan's long-term economic recession, which is reflected in its serious economic downturn, is the result of multiple factors, including interactional, domestic and policy etc. The most important one, however, is due to Japan's development model and economic system. In the 1980s, the Japanese economy had been awesome even for the U.S., and the so-called Japan Model was once regarded as a successful example for government-dominated "overtaking economy". But, as the Japanese government failed to convert its excessive intervention in time and made some substantially wrong decisions at a critical moment, the bubble economy was henceforth formed. With bursting of the bubble economy, Japanese economy stepped into a severe crisis.

The shortcomings and negative role of Japan's existing economic system is particularly reflected in the following aspect: under a "government-dominated" system, an "iron triangle" of government, official and financial authority has been formed gradually, and at the same time excessive and abusive intervention on economic activities have also been conducted by the government, including government regulation, administrative direction and official "airlanding" etc. In a modern market economy, economic intervention by the government is necessary, but should not be in so extensive and even unnormative extent that damages, restrains and distorts the functions of market mechanism. Unavoidably, Japan is facing a third system innovation since the Meiji Restoration, and currently it is performing a

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<sup>1</sup> Wang Luolin, Yu Yongding, Li Wei: "Japanese Economy in the 1990s", *The Journal Of World Economy*, No. 10. 2001

<sup>2</sup> Tian Zhongjing, Chi Yuanji: "The Restrictive Factors and Prospects of Economics Growth in Japan", *The Journal Of World Economy*, No. 8. 2008

<sup>3</sup> Zhou Zehong: "Government Intervention in Crises: Reflections on the causes of Japan's Economic Crisis", *Contemporary Economy Of Japan*, No. 1. 2003

compulsory institutional transformation.

It should be noticed, nevertheless, while pointing out the severity of Japan's economic recession and the shortcomings of its economic system, China's Japanese economy researchers are very clear-minded to warn that, from the perspective of the Japanese government's policy orientation, Japan is approaching the U.S. Model, without abandoning its own features, but instead exploring a new development path. Although its economic development in the 1990s was badly frustrated, Japan remains the second largest economic power in the world and the largest in Asia, which means that the huge potential of the Japanese economy should never be underestimated.

A meaningful direction for China's Japanese economy researchers is to use China's reform and development as the background for theoretical thinking to analyze the experience and lessons from the Japan Model which is to be blamed for the formation of bubble economy and long-term recession. Representative scholars in this field include Ma Jiantang and Yang Zhengwei<sup>4</sup>, who think that: first of all, a good environment should be created for reform so that economic questions can be addressed in the process of development. The Japanese government wants to get out of economic difficulties through reform, but forcibly advancing reform under economic recession and tight environment will inevitably intensify economic downturn and may even hinder the smooth progression of reform; secondly, in economic opening-up, the strategy for economic development which is dominated by domestic demands must be adhered to since all economic giants of the world are based on domestic markets and demands. In 1985, the Japanese government decided to adjust its economic development strategy at a time when Japanese Yen appreciated and export pressure rose, by switching to a domestic demands-driven economic growth. But in reality, domestic demands were not boosted and economic downturn gradually worsened since then; thirdly, attention should be paid to controlling fiscal and financial risks. Japan's huge financial deficits and bad creditor's rights make macroscopic regulation by the government almost impossible and have become a big obstacle for the nation to shake off recession and develop healthily; finally, economic viability and corporate competitiveness should be improved. The Japanese government's structural reform and economic regeneration program, mainly through reducing government intervention, enhancing corporate independency and accelerating technological innovation, aims to change the model of economic growth from government-dominated to domestic demands-driven and thereby improve insufficient viability of the business community.

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<sup>4</sup> Ma Jiantang, Yang Zhengwei: "Japan's Economy: Complete Recession, Unbreakable Long-standing Habit, Profound Lesson", *The Journal Of World Economy*, No. 1. 2002

After the bubble economy collapsed, Japan's bad creditor's rights increased continuously and imposed increasingly prominent negative influence on the Japanese economy. How to deal with bad creditor's rights becomes a top priority for the Japanese government to set down countermeasures against the economic crisis and has also attracted the attention of many Chinese researchers of Japanese economy. As a result, a number of research fruits have been generated, covering extensive aspects such as the reasons, scale and influence of Japan's bad creditor's rights and the policies, measures, means and effects of the Japanese government in dealing with bad creditor's rights etc. For example, researches by Wang Luolin<sup>5</sup>, Li Xiao<sup>6</sup>, Li Wei<sup>7</sup>, Fu Junwen<sup>8</sup> and Chen Hong<sup>9,10</sup> etc. are some representative papers in this area.

These researches examine in details the measures taken by the Japanese government to deal with bad creditor's rights, for example, enacting *The Law Regarding Emergency Measures for Professional House Financing Firms*, establishing special organizations to purchase joint creditor's rights, improving the deposit insurance system, infusing public funds, strengthening the financial regulation system, reforming the traditional financial system and boosting the competitiveness of financial institutions etc. These researches also unanimously summarize Japan's experience and lessons in dealing with bad creditor's rights. They point out that, bad creditor's rights must be dealt with in time and decisively to avoid accumulation of such rights and consequential increase in the cost of dealing; while dealing with bad creditor's rights, information asymmetry should not be used to cover data/information, information disclosure and transparency should be increased, relevant legislations be formulated, and financial oversight be strengthened. As a matter of fact, all of China's major banks also have the problem of bad assets, and the ratio of risky loans in some commercial banks is even very high. These studies on the Japanese government's experience in dealing with bad creditor's rights by China's Japanese economy researchers are of quite active meaning for China, now facing similar questions, to take corresponding measures to ensure healthy development of the banking sector and to maintain financial stability. A related area to researches said above is the reorganization of Japan's banking sector after the bubble economy collapsed. Zhang

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<sup>5</sup> Wang Luolin: "The Bad Claim Problem of Japan's Financial Institutions", *International Economic Review*, No. 5-6. 1997

<sup>6</sup> Li Xiao: "Dealing with The Housing Finance Professionals Problem and The Institutional Transform of Japanese Market Economy", *The Journal Of World Economy*, No. 4. 1994

<sup>7</sup> Li Wei: "Japan's Bad Claim and "The Overall Financial Revitalization Program"", *World Economics And Politics*, No. 10. 1998

<sup>8</sup> Fu Junwen: "Bad Claim in Japan's Banking and The Solutions to It", *World Economy Study*, No. 1. 1999

<sup>9</sup> Li Wei, Chen Hong: "Japan's New Measures to Deal with Bad Claim", *Studies Of International Finance*, No. 3. 1999

<sup>10</sup> Chen Hong, Li Wei: "Japan's Administrative Measures and Operation Key of Dealing with Bad Claim", *International Economic Review*, No. 7-8. 1999

Darong<sup>11</sup> and Wu Delie<sup>12</sup> etc. have examined and introduced in details the process, scale and pattern of Japan's reorganization of its banking sector in mid and late 1990s, provided valuable information and summarized such reorganization as well as features of the banking sector's new pattern which has been formed consequently.

Generally speaking, forming and bursting of bubbles will inevitably lead to economic fluctuations, but the Japanese economy has suffered an uncommon long-term recession and the reasons for this are quite complicated, not totally clear even for now and remaining to be further investigated. A shared opinion, including among the international academic community, is that institutional factors are the fundamental and decisive reason. As mentioned above, this opinion is also held by Chinese researchers of the Japanese economy. However, explanation for Japan's long-term recession is more directly related to effect evaluation of the Japanese government's economic policies. According to researches by Ma Jiantang and Yang Zhengwei, since bursting of the bubble economy, Japan's macro regulation which is based on deficit financing policy, not only fails to activate economy apparently, but instead has accumulated tremendous fiscal and financial risks, leaving basically no room for macro regulation to play its role; while from the perspective of monetary policy, too many bad creditor's rights result in blocked transmission mechanism of monetary policy and failure of the zero interest rate policy. According to Liu Rui<sup>13</sup>, in the process of stimulating economic recovery in collaboration with expansive financial policy, monetary policy seems not to be useless due to the "liquidity trap", but rather is used to explore the efficacy of model functions and seek a subtly effective workability in a seemingly inoperable space, so that zero interest rate and loose monetary policies will play certain role in maintaining a stable financial system and supporting economic recovery.

## **Studies on Japan's Economic System and Structural Reform**

After completing its transformation into industrial economy and becoming an economic giant, Japan has begun to adjust its economic development strategy, economic growth model and economic system. Due to forming of the bubble economy and consequential prosperity of the virtual economy, this adjustment is delayed and various shortcomings have appeared after the bubble economy collapsed,

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<sup>11</sup> Zhang Darong: "Basic Formation of Japan's Banking Recombination Pattern", *Intertrade*, No. 6. 2000

<sup>12</sup> Wu Delie: "The Background, Effects and Revelation of the Japanese Banking Recombination", *Studies Of International Finance*, No. 1. 2000

<sup>13</sup> Liu Rui: "Japan's Currency Policy in the Process of Going Out of the Depression", *Japanese Studies*, No. 1. 2007



henceforth leading to an era of big reform for Japan's economic system. Under the realistic background of China's economic system reform by which the nation's planned economy is changed to market economy, Japan's reform of its economic system and structure has become a topic of utmost concern to China's researchers in Japanese economy, which has more or less been tapped by almost all of them.

For studies on Japan's economic system reform, it's necessary to understand the features which distinguish Japan's economic system from others and its modern origin. Japan's economic system completely differs from the Anglo-Saxon one, and some characteristic studies have occurred on the basis of this. According to Jiang Ruiping<sup>14</sup>, for example, modern Japanese capitalism in essence is a kind of corporate monopoly capitalism and the Japan Model should be defined a model of corporate monopoly capitalism, which is reflected in all major aspects of modern Japan's social and economic structures such as corporate governance structure, macro operational mechanism, relationship between distribution and redistribution and models of saving and accumulation etc. With regard to the origin of modern Japan's economic system, there are also some characteristic researches. For example, Feng Wei<sup>15</sup> reviews the opinions of some Japanese scholars such as Okazaki Tetsuji, Okuno Masahiro, Victor Koschmann and Yamamura Kozo etc., thinking that basic features of modern Japan's economic system were formed during the period of wartime controlled economy, while core elements of the "total war system" were kept after World War II and have constituted the prototype of Japan's postwar economic system. According to Yang Dongliang<sup>16</sup>, wartime is just an important stage for the formation of postwar economic system and some elements of wartime economic system have crucial influence on the postwar system, but essential difference exists between the two and they should not be confused. In addition, Yang also extends rejective criticism against the "1940 system".

China's Japanese economy researchers are also fully aware of the timeliness of Japan's economic system which has been formed under certain historic conditions, and this is reflected in relevant researches on Japan's "institutional fatigue" and institutional analysis of Japan's economic recession. Representative researchers include Chi Yuanji, Li Xiao, Tian Zhongjing<sup>17</sup> and Zhou Zehong<sup>18</sup>, whose analysis

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<sup>14</sup> Jiang Ruiping: "Corporate Monopoly Capitalism—an Analysis of The Japanese Mode", Social Sciences In China, No. 5. 1998

<sup>15</sup> Feng Wei: "Total War and the Formation of a Modern Economic System in Japan", Historical Research, No. 5. 2004; "An Analysis of "on the Origins of Contemporary Japan's Economic System", " Japanese Studies, No. 3. 2004

<sup>16</sup> Yang Dongliang: "On the Formation of Japan Postwar Economy System-Additional Study on The 1940 System", Nankai Journal, No. 5. 2004

<sup>17</sup> Chi Yuanji, Li Xiao, Tian Zhongjing: "Origins of Japan's Economic Downturn in the 1990s", Japanese Studies, No. 2. 1998

<sup>18</sup> Zhou Zehong: "Institutional Analysis and Revelation of Japan's Economic Recession", Reform And Strategy,

starts from key components of Japan's economic regime such as wage system based on seniority, main bank system and lifetime employment system etc., believing that with the ending of Japan's rapid economic growth, its economic system shows many shortcomings and enters "institutional fatigue", which badly needs reform and innovation. Yu Bingdiao's research<sup>19</sup> summarizes Japan's economic and social systems as composing of bureaucracy-based incomplete market competition mechanism and conservative, out-of-date political/social system, which are analyzed respectively, and draws the conclusion that Japan's economic system has fallen into "institutional fatigue" and that revitalization can be realized only by transformation of industrial structure and innovation in economic system. According to An Gang<sup>20</sup>, relational transactions are the reasons for the Japan miracle and the nation's economic recession; when the market mechanism is unsound, relational transactions drive the taking-off of the Japanese economy, but when the market mechanism gets increasingly developed, relational transactions have more become a factor that restrains Japan's economic development and in the end result in declining economic efficiency as well as economic recession; changing transactions from relational to non-relational is the key for Japan's economic recovery.

Ultimately, understanding Japan's economic system and judging its timeliness must be based on researches over the nation's reform of its economic system and structure. In this regard, China's Japanese economy research community has devoted considerable efforts and published plenty of research results, which are mainly reflected in research activities as follows.

### **Studies on "Economic Reform" by the Koizumi Cabinet**

According to the research by Jiang Ruiping<sup>21</sup>, initiation of the economic reform plan by the Koizumi Cabinet has a profound economic background, wherein most mentionable are three problems puzzling the Japanese economy – bad creditor's rights, financial deficit and institutional rigidity. Although Koizumi's economic plan exactly aims at these problems, there are many obstacles during the process of actual implementation, which has already had many negative effects. According to He Yiming's research work<sup>22</sup>, the policy indicators set by Japanese Prime Minister

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No. 11. 2002

<sup>19</sup> Yu Bingdiao: "Institutional Fatigue and Regeneration of Japan's Economy", Pacific Journal, No. 1. 2001

<sup>20</sup> An Gang: "Economic Analysis about Japan's Economic System", Japan Studies, No. 3. 2004

<sup>21</sup> Jiang Ruiping: "Current Economic Reform of Japan: Background and Prospect", Contemporary Economy of Japan, No. 5. 2001

<sup>22</sup> He Yiming: "The Dilemma of the Junichiro Koizumi Cabinet in the Economic Reform", Contemporary Economy Of Japan, No. 5. 2001

Junichiro Koizumi in a bid to reconstruct the Japanese economy have become a hot topic both in Japan and internationally. Japanese nationals have high expectations for the Koizumi Cabinet's ability in reining the economy and the international society has equally high anticipation, though the Japanese economy still faces a number of difficulties. The new cabinet stresses on a "resolved reform", but whether can these reform measures put the Japanese economy on the track of disciplined recovery still remains to be proved as time passes. Research by Zhang Zuguo<sup>23</sup> evaluates the performance of the Koizumi Cabinet's economic reform, pointing out that in the first two years since Koizumi's inauguration, the Japanese economy still shows no sign to get out of difficulties, and main reasons for structural reform generating no effects are: contents of the structural reform are not recognized by the Japanese people; actual operation is mostly done at economic policy level, while overall consideration and long-term planning at the height of economic system reform is absent; in the process of actual implementation, relations between reform and development and between reform and stability are not properly handled, but instead a radical route has been pursued. Similar researches also include the work by Zhang Jifeng<sup>24</sup>, who gives relatively complete analysis of the Koizumi Reform from such perspectives as background, content, theoretical foundation and misunderstandings etc.

### **Studies on Japan's Postal Privatization**

In 2001, the Koizumi Cabinet put out the idea of all-around structural reform, and a core element of the economic reform was postal privatization. From October 1, 2007, Japan's postal community was privatized into four operations which are engaged in post, insurance, savings and postal assets management businesses, respectively. Japan's postal privatization has become a much interest to China's Japan researchers. According to Yao Haitian's studies<sup>25</sup>, during the low growth period of the Japanese economy when there are no significant breakthroughs in science and technology to substantially drive further economic development, promoting growth by exploring economic potentials has become a top priority for the Japanese government's long-term economic policies. The postal reform put forward by the Koizumi Cabinet since its inauguration is just an embodiment of this administrative orientation. The ultimate purpose of Japan's postal reform is to dig out Japan's

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<sup>23</sup> Zhang Zuguo: "An Analysis of the Success and Failure of Koizumi Cabinet's Structural Reform", Japanese Studies, No. 3. 2004

<sup>24</sup> Zhang Jifeng: "An Analysis of Koizumi Reform", Contemporary Asia-Pacific Studies, No. 7. 2004

<sup>25</sup> Yao Haitian: "On the Reform of Japanese Postal System", Japanese Studies, No. 3. 2005

economic potentials through privatization of its postal system, which is a means to reform ownership and operational model. In researches by Zhao Xumei<sup>26</sup> and by Yang Hua<sup>27</sup>, the background for Japan's postal reform, basic principles, organizational system after the privatization, key indicators for the level of privatization implementation and problems existed in postal privatization etc., are analyzed.

## **Studies on Resistance, Limitation, Influence and Effect of Japan's Economic System Reform**

As pointed out in Fan Chun's research<sup>28</sup>, in the last 15 years great changes have occurred to internal and external environment of the Japanese economy, which imposes extensive and profound influence on the nation's economic system. Although the Japanese government energetically promotes institutional reform, it has met a serious of deep-rooted problems and considerable resistance and the reform can hardly go ahead. As a result, to solve the contradiction between rigid system and environment, not only powerful politics should be relied on to plan reform direction, but an incentive mechanism driving the reform should also be designed, as well as progressive approaches and economic methods be used to activate creativity in the private sector. In Pei Guifen's studies<sup>29</sup>, through analyzing the "structural reform" by Murayama, Hashimoto and Koizumi Cabinets, it is pointed out that the Murayama Cabinet only envisions the reform and does not provide a specific implementation plan; the Hashimoto Cabinet's reform plan gets the right sticking point of structural problems, but due to inadequate understanding of the situation and underestimation of difficulties, the reform is given up halfway; the Koizumi Cabinet seems more determined to reform, but as a matter of fact its reform considerations do not go further than its predecessors. Such a reform plan without any results can hardly be recognized and supported by the Japanese in the long run, while the outbreak of terrorism events and the recession of world economy makes the reform even more difficult, so that the Japanese government has no other choice but turning from structural reform to overcoming deflation despite that the prospect for "structural

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<sup>26</sup> Zhao Xumei: "Analysis of Japan Post Privatization", Contemporary Economy of Japan, No. 4, 2006

<sup>27</sup> Yang Hua: "Japan's Privatization Reform in Postal Administration and the Enlightenment It Gives", Japanese Studies, No. 3, 2007

<sup>28</sup> Fan Chun: "Japan: Changes in Economic Environment and Economic Restructuring", Contemporary International Relations, No. 11, 2001

<sup>29</sup> Pei Guifen: "A preliminary Analysis of Japan's Structural Reform Since the 1990s", Japanese Studies, No. 4, 2002

reform” is not so optimistic either. Based on Fan Yongming’s research<sup>30</sup>, Japan’s adjustment is merely economic and industry structure adjustment, which is less important than adjustment in such aspects as system, thought and culture etc. and the root cause for a “sick” Japanese economy lies in the government-dominated economic system where competition is incomplete. It is also written that, adjustment of Japan’s economic system and structure is just in its beginning and has not yet entered a substantial stage, while economic transformation is not started at all. Japan not only needs to seek new points of growth at micro level, but to adjust strategies at macro level. According to Feng Zhaokui<sup>31</sup>, in the 1990s when Japan’s bubble economy collapsed, the Japanese government starting from the Murayama Cabinet has actively adopted multiple reforms including loosening regulation etc. to alleviate the situation of economic recession. Besides, he also reviewed the progression of Japan’s economic reform and problems existed from the Hashimoto Cabinet to the Koizumi Cabinet (1996-2006). Wang Dexun’s study<sup>32</sup> gives a relatively complete analysis of Japan’s new measures for regulatory reform: establish “special regions for structural reform”; introduce a system for “market-based experimentation” so that some of the government-monopolized public service projects are committed to bid-winners that are advantageous in terms of cost and service quality through fair competitive bidding between public and private enterprises, so as to improve the quality and cut the cost of public services and to provide more business opportunities for the private sector; develop an evaluation system for “regulatory influence analysis” which is more scientific, i.e. security and economical efficiency of the regulation can be quantified. The regulatory reform has achieved some effects and is still being improved at present.

## **Studies on Japan’s Fiscal and Financial Systems and Policies**

Japan’s fiscal and financial systems and policies are one of the key research areas for China’s Japan economy researchers and a traditional one as well. In the last decade, however, some new elements have been added to these researches due to adjustment of Japan’s economic policies and dynamic changes in its real economy, including: aging and fewer children of the Japanese society, changing of the social security system and resulting increase in fiscal burden, expansive fiscal policy

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<sup>30</sup> Fan Yongming: “Japanese Economy in The Process of Making Adjustments to Its System and Structure”, Japanese Studies, No. 1. 2003

<sup>31</sup> Feng Zhaokui: “Progress and Problems in Japanese Economic Reform”, Japan Studies, No. 1. 2007

<sup>32</sup> Wang Dexun: “An Analysis of Japan’s Regulatory Reform”, Asia & Africa Review, No. 2. 2008

implemented during long-term recession, reform of public investment system (particularly fiscal investment and funding), as well as malfunction of monetary policies during long-term recession, the Japanese version of financial big bang implemented by the government, full development of the capital market, challenges facing the banking sector under an indirect financial system, collapse of the main bank system, and changed relationship between banks and enterprise etc.

## **Studies on Japan's Fiscal System and Policy**

During Japan's long period of economic recession, its fiscal situation worsens, while at the same time fiscal deficit to GDP and long-term debts to GDP ratios keep at alarmingly high. Countermeasures for fiscal reconstruction and reform of fiscal structure by the Japanese government have attracted wide attention of China's Japan economy researchers. According to researches by Yu Yongding and Li Wei<sup>33</sup>, main reasons for Japan's worsening fiscal situation include: rising investment in public projects as a result of economic stimulation, increasingly high payment of principals and interests for national debts, and increased social security expenditures due to an aging society etc. On the basis of this, the authors analyze the long-term trends for Japan's fiscal development, saying that Japan will face the problem of a more and more aged population and the Japanese economy is anticipated to keep growing rather slowly. In addition, the objectives for fiscal reconstruction and measures taken by the Japanese government are also introduced systematically. Relevant to such fiscal reconstruction by the Japanese government, Japan's reform of its tax system, fiscal investment and funding system and financial institutions is also of concern to China's Japan economy researchers. According to Pang Deliang's research<sup>34</sup>, in the 1990s of long-term recession, Japan's demands for consumption and private equipment investment are not so responsive to large and ultra-large public investments, which already see their driving functions and multiplying effects apparently declining, because the structure of public investment is disconnected from that of Japan's economic growth; declining of expected resident income makes it difficult for public investments to drive consumption, and similarly, dropping of expected economic growth makes it difficult for public investments to drive private equipment investment; and lastly, too many invalid and useless investments have lowered the marginal

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<sup>33</sup> Yu Yongding, Li Wei: "Contemporary Japanese Financial Reconstruction", The journal of World Economy, No. 10, 1997

<sup>34</sup> Pang Deliang: "An Analysis of Japanese Public Investment Dilemma and Long-term Economic Recession", Finance & Trade Economics, No. 2, 2002

efficiency of public investments. Based on Japan's experience, whether public investments can drive economic growth depends not only on the efficiency of investment itself, but also on the inherent relations between public investments and private consumption and equipment investment as well as the structure of national economy growth. Xie Shengfeng's study<sup>35</sup> outlines two transformations of Japan's fiscal investment and funding before and after the "bubble period", indicating that during the long-term recession, due to prominent structural contradiction and high fiscal deficit, Japan's government investments fail to achieve designed effects and as a result of this the Japanese government has conducted reform of its fiscal investment and funding system. Nevertheless, transformation of Japan's fiscal investment and funding also brings a series of problems, e.g. issuing more public bonds will have influence on both long and short-term interest rates at the financial market, and the Japanese government's debts will become known from hidden. Studies by Li Yutan and Yuan Yinghua<sup>36</sup> analyze the historic process, discuss the basic guidelines and introduce the final results of reorganizing policy financial institutions by the Japanese government. At the end of 2005, then Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi removed the opposition from various ministries and departments to set down the framework for reforming policy financial institutions, namely integrating these policy financial institutions by privatizing Japan's policy investment banks and the Shoko Chukin Bank. On the basis of this, implications from Japan's reorganization of policy financial institutions are summed up. Cui Jinghua's research<sup>37</sup> introduces in details Japan's reform in 2006 of individual income tax, corporation-relevant tax system, land and housing tax system as well as tobacco and liquor taxes, pointing out that implications from Japan's experiences are: actively advancing decentralization reform by means of taxation; paying attention to the development of small and medium-sized businesses in tax system reform plans; paying attention to a fair tax system when simplifying it; tax preferences should mainly be indirect preferences to support technological progress.

The mechanism, functions and effects of expansive fiscal policy on Japan's economic recovery are another area in which China's Japan economy researchers are very interested. Studies by Zhou Yuhong and Sun Shihe<sup>38</sup> look back on the history of Japan's implementing expansive fiscal policy and discuss the serious consequence of

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<sup>35</sup> Xie Shengfeng: "The Transformation of Japan's Fiscal Investment and Loan and Its Enlightenment", *Contemporary Economy of Japan*, No.5.2007

<sup>36</sup> Li Yutan, Yuan Yinghua: "The Restructuring of Japan's Policy-based Financial Institutions and its Implications", *Contemporary Economy of Japan*, No. 5. 2007

<sup>37</sup> Cui Jinghua: "On Japan's 2006 Tax Reform and its Implication", *Contemporary Economy of Japan*, No. 3. 2007

<sup>38</sup> Zhou Yuhong, Sun Shihe: "Enlightenment of Japanese Government Bonds and Expansionary Fiscal Policy to Positive Fiscal Policy in China", *Review Of Economic Research*, No. 61.2002

Japan's public debts and such policy: excessive debts trigger off fiscal crisis, which intensifies economic recession; on the other hand, economic recession triggers off fiscal crisis, which intensified the burden of debts. Lessons learned from Japan include: misjudging of economic fundamentals; policy means are too simplistic; basic orientation of policies is totally wrong; effective support from monetary policies is neglected, as in the 1980s Japan's domestic policies merely relied on monetary policies, while fiscal policies were too conservative; after the bubble economy collapsed, monetary policies almost played no role, and the Japanese government simply relied on expansive fiscal policy. In the work by Sun Jianfu and Ma Weihong<sup>39</sup>, Keynes multiplier theory is used to raise the question that in the 1990s Japan's public investment multiplier kept decreasing successively despite of expansive fiscal policy and anticipated results were far from being achieved, and reasons for the failure of "investment multiplier" are discussed. Meanwhile, it is also pointed out that public investment generates crowding out effect on private investment: although Japan's official interest rates are kept near zero and despite public investment is added by the government again and again, private equipment investment still remain at low level. According to the authors, one key reason for Japan's unable to get out of long-term recession is that prosperity anticipation has never been formed, residents' marginal propensity to consume keeps low and long-term recession makes residents even more uncertain about future consumption anticipation; and thereby a vicious circle is formed between depressive private consumption and overburden of government debts. According to Zhang Yujin's research<sup>40</sup>, a key reason for Japan's long-term economic recession since the 1990s is due to inconsistent and asynchronous fiscal and financial policies, which have limited functionality and efficacy. Japanese banks started to cut interest rates in 1989, but the government's policies adopted such as controlled gross amount of real estate financing and levying of land value tax etc. aim to prevent overheated economy from further expanding and therefore achieve lower asset price, so the two moves conflict with each other. On the other hand, prosperity incentive measures such as expanding public fiscal expenditures etc. were not implemented until August 1992, almost four years later, which has become a critical reason for the burst of Japan's economic bubbles.

China's reform starts from "decentralization", especially the fiscal decentralization between central and local authorities has tremendous influence on China's economic system changes and economic growth. Under this real background

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<sup>39</sup> Sun Jianfu, MA Weihong: "Analysis of the Causes of the Failure of Japan's Expansionary Financial Policies", *Contemporary Economy of Japan*, No. 3. 2003

<sup>40</sup> Zhang Yujin: "An Analysis of the Interference of Japanese Government and Its Effect", *Pacific Journal*, No. 1. 2003



of China's reform and development, China's Japan economy researchers also show their interest in Japan's fiscal decentralization system. Studies by Zhao Huimin and Dong Lei<sup>41</sup> introduce in details the dividing of Japan's intergovernmental administrative powers, the structure of fiscal expenditures, the dividing of intergovernmental taxation powers and tax categories and intergovernmental transfer payment. By use of Japan's experience, the studies also analyze the problems in China's intergovernmental tax system and possible countermeasures. Li Shuxia and Miao Fei<sup>42</sup> perform empirical analysis of the relationship between Japan's fiscal decentralization and economic growth, and conclusions drawn include: after implementing fiscal decentralization, Japan's local governments become more autonomous in spending, which drives the growth of both local and national economy; fiscal decentralization is positively correlated with fiscal revenue and revenue autonomy has negative impact on economic growth, which is a conclusion quite different from other studies; among the several factors affecting growth, fiscal decentralization contributes less than private capital investment, but more than regional relative richness.

China's Japanese economy researchers also show extreme interests in Japan's financial system and policy under long-term recession as well as their reform and adjustment. With Japan no longer being the most important industrialized economy in the world and changes in economic situation, the nation's traditional financial system has lost its original comparative advantages and dooms to be reformed. As a matter of fact, the reform which is based on financial liberalization has begun even before the long-term recession. During the recession, Japan's financial system faces severer challenges, especially after breaking out in 1995 of the financial crisis which is symbolized by bad creditor's rights, Japan has accelerated reforming its financial system. In 1996, the Hashimoto Cabinet released a report titled "Reform of the Financial System – A Newborn Tokyo Market by 2001", which is deemed the Japanese version of the financial big bang. The objective of this concept is to completely handle bad creditor's rights and at the same time restore Japan's financial market to the same level as international ones such as New York and London etc.

Both Japanese and British financial big bangs contain the basic concept of liberalization, but the British version aims only at reform of the securities market, while the Japanese one aims to reform the whole financial system. Due to the profoundness of Japan's economic system reform as reflected in the Japanese version

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<sup>41</sup> Zhao Huimin, Dong Lei: "Japan's Fiscal Decentralization System and its Experiences to China", Review Of Economic Research, No. 17.2007

<sup>42</sup> Li Shuxia ,Miao Fei: "Fiscal Decentralization and Economic Growth in Japan", Contemporary Economy of Japan, No. 4. 2007

of financial big bang, many of China's Japan economy researchers have devoted to this theme, for example, Yu Yongding<sup>43</sup>, Fu Junwen<sup>44</sup>, Wang Luolin<sup>45</sup> and Liu Yucao<sup>46</sup> etc. have provided in-depth analysis of this. Among them, through reviewing the Japanese version of financial big bang, Gao Shengzhi's research<sup>47</sup> gives deep analysis of Japan's postwar financial system from Japan's financial administration, bank-centered indirect financial system and the central bank system, believing that any system operated is very inertial, so it's particularly necessary to break out of the obstruction by old vested interest groups and blast previous financial system to establish a brand-new, vigorous one, so as to accommodate to the changed international and domestic environments. For Japan, it costs much a price to be aware of this. As a result, paying attention to analyzing changes in environmental factors, seeking an economic system suitable for local actualities and conducting system adjustment at a proper time is an eternal topic in economic development and operation. Yan Kun's research<sup>48</sup>, under the background of the Japanese version of financial big bang, systematically discusses the key contents and historic process of Japan's financial liberalization and financial system reform, as well as their influence upon Japan's financial and economic development. Similarly, researchers of Japan's financial system reform under the Japanese version of financial big bang also include Xiang Weixing and Li Yuyong<sup>49</sup>, who take a retrospect on measures for and the process of Japan's financial system reform from late 1970s to early 1990s, thinking that various structural defects still existing in the financial system due to incomplete reform are the fundamental cause for Japan's financial crisis since 1995.

One of the key areas for Japan's financial system reform is its financial regulation system. For long, Japan's financial administration and regulation is controlled by Ministry of Finance, while its non-open and nontransparent way of policy operation as well as delayed handling of financial issues during the crisis is a crucial institutional reason for Japan's financial unrest. The lag in and measures for reforming Japan's financial regulation system have attracted the attention of many Chinese scholars in Japan economy, including Chen Hong<sup>50</sup>, Zhang Darong<sup>51</sup> and

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<sup>43</sup> Yu Yongding: "Origins and Enlightenment of Japanese Financial "Big Bang"", *International Economic Review*, No. 5.1997

<sup>44</sup> Fu Junwen: "Major Operation to Cure "Japan's Disease"", *World Economy Study*, No. 4.1997

<sup>45</sup> Wang Luolin: "Current Japanese Economic and Financial Conditions", *International Economics*, No. 6.1997

<sup>46</sup> Liu Yucao: "An Analysis of Problems Japanese Currently Faced", *The Journal Of World Economy*, No.8 .1997

<sup>47</sup> Gao Shengzhi: "Review of Japanese Financial "Big Bang"—from "Big Bang" to See Success of Postwar Japanese Financial System", *Journal Of Financial Research*, No.11 .1997

<sup>48</sup> Yan Kun: "Japanese Financial Liberalization and Financial Reform", *Japanese Studies*, No.4 .1998

<sup>49</sup> Xiang Weixing, Li Yurong: "Structural Flaws in Japan's Financial System and the Financial Crisis", *Northeast Asia Forum*, No.5.2000

<sup>50</sup> Chen Hong: "Institutional Background and Efficiency Mechanism of Financial Regulation", *The Journal Of World Economy*, No.8 .1999

<sup>51</sup> Zhang Darong: "Japan's Financial Service Agency and Its Regulatory Status", *Studies Of International Finance*,

Tong Tiecheng<sup>52</sup> etc. Among them, the research by Li Jianwei, Yu Jun and Ke Kasheng<sup>53</sup> performs an onsite investigation on the progression of Japan's financial regulation system reform, analyzes in-depth the reasons, strength, steps and measures of such reform, and introduces in details the functional division and legal basis of existing financial regulators, the organizational configuration and functional positioning of Financial Services Agency and its supervision over financial institutions, the dividing of labor and collaborating relations between Financial Services Agency and Ministry of Finance, the organizational structure of Japanese banks and way of their regulation, as well as the dividing of labor and collaborating relations between Japanese banks and Financial Services Agency etc. In this research, six important features of Japan's financial regulation system reform are summed up: stressing on the central bank's independency, strengthening the independency of financial regulation, transforming from industrial regulation to functional regulation, striving to keep the advantages of industrial regulation while realizing functional regulation, strengthening the coordination between different financial regulators, and getting in line with the development trend of financial liberalization. Liu Hong's study<sup>54</sup> describes the shortcomings of Japan's traditional financial regulation system and objectives of reforming the financial regulation system, and divides the process of setting up a new financial regulation system into four stages. According to Liu, the consequence of Japan's financial regulation system reform is, a new financial regulation system in which an independent central bank centered on Financial Services Agency and deposit insurance organizations jointly participate has taken its preliminary shape. Compared with the traditional one, this new financial regulation system has the following features: the independency of financial regulators are greatly strengthened; key objects of financial regulation are changed; means of financial regulation become more market-oriented, early corrective measures are introduced, and past practices like administrative order and direction etc. are abandoned; ways of financial regulation are also changed from previously industrial regulation to functional regulation, while industrial inspection and supervision is provided by functional regulators.

During Japan's long-term recession, a lot of financial institutions begin to face operational crisis, especially an unprecedented economic phenomenon since World War II has occurred, i.e. financial institutions begin to close down just like productive

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No. 5. 2001

<sup>52</sup> Tong Tiecheng: "Japan's Innovation of Finance Supervision System and the Lesson to Be Learnt", *Contemporary Economy Of Japan*, No. 2. 2004

<sup>53</sup> Li Jianjun, Yu Jun, Ke Kasheng: "New Progress of Japan's Regulation System Reform—Series Research Report II of Financial Reform and Security Status", *China Economic Times*, Jan.9.2002

<sup>54</sup> Liu Hong: "The Changes of Japan's Financial Supervision System", *Japanese Studies*, No.3 .2004

enterprises. The falling of financial institutions including banks shows the profoundness of the long-term recession, while measures taken by the government to cope with operational crisis and even closing of financial institutions on the one hand reflect changed relationship between government and market, and on the other hand, they also reflect the adaptation of government policies. Pei Guifen's study<sup>55</sup> gives a comparative analysis on crisis handling of financial institutions in Japan and European and American countries since the 1990s, and on the basis of this, the way of crisis handling for Japanese financial institutions is reviewed to find the following problems: first, the time of injecting public funds is not good and the government does not meet its responsibility to explain, for example, neither definite rules are formulated before injecting capital to the special housing fund nor credible explanation is given afterwards; second, injecting capital to financial institutions simply for the purpose of salvation has deviated from the objective of banking regulation policies which aim to maintain stable financial orders or protect the interest of depositors, and the consequence of offering government-dominated fund injection to large banks is quite serious. From the legal perspective, the research by Ouyang Yuan and Yang Huabo<sup>56</sup> discusses how the Japanese government deals with bankrupt financial institutions and recovers bad creditor's rights. During this process, key measures taken by the Japanese government include: first, established the Financial Services Agency to take over the power of regulating private financial institutions previously practiced by Ministry of Finance, revised *the Bank of Japan Law* to make Japanese banks more independent, weakened the power of Ministry of Finance, and adopted eight acts in *the Financial Revitalization Law* in a bid to restore as soon as possible the confidence in Japanese economy both at home and abroad. On the basis of organizational adjustment and law revision, dealt with problematic financial institutions in limited timeframe and let some of them go bankrupt, while at the same time injected public funds to boost market confidence, set up liquidation and claim organizations to recover bad creditor's rights to the largest extent possible and to investigate the criminal responsibilities of related persons, and set up a special regulatory department to adjust the dividing of labor between various government units concerning financial regulation. These measures taken by the Japanese government pursuant to law have very good effects on the reconstruction of the financial sector and recovery of bad creditor's rights.

Since the collapse of Japan's bubble economy in the 1990s, the Japanese

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<sup>55</sup> Pei Guifen: "Comparative Analysis about Japan's Method to Deal with Financial Institution Crisis in 1990s", *Japanese Studies*, No.5 .2000

<sup>56</sup> Ouyang Yuan, Yang Huabo: "How Did Japan Deal with Bankruptcy Institutions and Recover Bad Debts", *Jurist' Review*, No.6 .2000

government has continuously adopted loose fiscal and monetary policies though the situation of long-term recession is not changed fundamentally. In terms of monetary policy, it is generally agreed Japan has fallen into the “liquidity trap” which previously only existed in abstract economic hypothesis, that is to say, investment and consumption can no longer be stipulated when the monetary authority increases the supply of base currency and therefore the monetary policy fails. For such issues as the loose monetary policy and even zero interest rate policy implemented by the Japanese government during the long-term recession, the “liquidity trap” for Japan economy and the effectiveness of monetary policy etc., Chinese researchers in Japan economy have also studied to some extent. Sun Xiaojun<sup>57</sup> discusses the effect of Japanese Yen depreciation for Japan to get out of the “liquidity trap”. For the opinion which believes the Japanese economy can walk out of difficulties only by implementing administrative inflation policy, namely lowering Yen exchange rate and sticking to inflation, this research concludes through empirical analysis that to raise domestic inflation rate by one percent, Yen should be devalued at least 16.8%. Apparently, it’s almost impossible to restrain years of inflation with a one percent increase, while the cost paid for this is too much. This means, save for considerable depreciation, restraining deflation and stimulating export – two goals of yen depreciation are very difficult to achieve, while at the same time yen depreciation is hard to maintain and it will reduce the rate of capital sufficiency of Japanese banks which possess plenty of overseas assets. Consequently, the key point is the Japanese government should restore the confidence of investors via reform. According to the study by Zhuang Xifeng and Huang Yixuan<sup>58</sup>, Japanese banks maintain low interest rates during the long-term recession, but still fail to effectively stipulate the recovery of prosperity and the dispute over whether Japan falls into the liquidity and investment traps has also been triggered off. By use of the VAR model, this research explores the effectiveness of Japan’s monetary policy during the low interest rate period from 1993 to 2006. As suggested from empirical results, monetary policy is effective only through the channel of real exchange rate and has no apparent influence on real interest rate and stock price, that is to say, the “liquidity trap” does exist in Japan. The interest rate, which is already very low, can no longer be further cut down even if Japanese banks keeps implementing expansive monetary policy, and monetary policy also has no marked influence on output either.

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<sup>57</sup> Sun Xiaojun: “Could Japanese Yen’s Depreciation Deal Help Japan Get Out of the Liquidity Trap—Research of the Relationship Between Interest and Inflation Rate”, *Studies Of International Finance*, No.4 .2002

<sup>58</sup> Chuang Xifeng, Huang Yixuan: “Effectiveness of Monetary Policy during Low-interest-rate Periods—Experiences of Taiwan Region and Japan”, *Finance & Economics*, No.1.2008

## Studies on Japan's Enterprise System and Corporate Governance

### Structure

The Japanese model of operational management has ever been famous around the world, and is also the most concerned area and research focus for China's Japan economy researchers since its reform and opening up. At present, this area is still under continuous research though the direction has shifted towards Japan's enterprise system and corporate governance structure. During Japan's long-term economic recession, the nation's enterprise system which acts as the micro foundation of its economic system has seen huge changes, and for this reason the reform of Japan's enterprise system and corporate governance structure has attracted wide concerns from China's Japan economy researchers and plenty of research fruits have been obtained.

The "Japanese model of operation" is a traditional research area and seems an old topic as well. But still, there are some research achievements, for example, Zhou Jian's study<sup>59</sup> believes that the generation and development of the Japanese operational model not only reflects the particularity of Japan's capitalism economic process and internal/external environment, but also is closely related to Japan's unique social culture and class composition of entrepreneurs. According to the study by Wan Tao and Xue Shunli<sup>60</sup>, a harmonious modern Japanese operational system is based on the managerial philosophy of Japanese enterprises and managers – "harmony". Some studies, however, are critical about "Japanese model of operation". For instance, as pointed out in Liu Junsheng's study<sup>61</sup>, the Japanese model of operation makes employees more likely to rely on others and restrains their spirit of innovation, hinders a free, transverse labor market, brings the phenomena of seniority and redundant top managers and deprives the joy of working and meaning of laboring, while on the other hand enterprises stress on establishing a long-term mutual transaction relationship, which makes enterprises lack of the drive to adjust product structure based on changed market requirements as well as to introduce technologies and upgrade equipment. Wang Li's study<sup>62</sup> holds that bad assets are due to the shortcomings of the Japanese operational mechanism, this is because the relationship between Japanese enterprises, especially between enterprises and banks, is a mutually

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<sup>59</sup> Zhou Jian: "Philosophy and Values of Japanese-style Management", *The Journal Of World Economy*, No.3 .1998

<sup>60</sup> Wan Tao, Xue Shunli: "Reconsideration of Japanese Type of Management System Based on Harmonious Management Theory", *Contemporary Economy of Japan*, No. 2. 2005

<sup>61</sup> Liu Junsheng: "Knowledge Economy and Japanese-style Management", *Japan Studies*, No.2.2000

<sup>62</sup> Wang Li: "The Japanese Business Management System VS Non-performing Capital", *Contemporary Economy of Japan*, No. 2. 2004

stockholding interest community, so when enterprises operate badly and even get bankrupt, banks will try their best to provide support, which is the root cause for the problem of bad assets not solved for long.

One of the sub research areas relating to “Japanese model of operation” is permanent employment system. There are contradictory opinions over its development and tendency in long-term depression in the academic circles. Zhao Zengyao<sup>63</sup> regards that Japanese enterprises have launched corresponding reformation toward the problems resulting from traditional employment system, but it doesn't mean over-all disintegration of traditional system which is still be attached to as ideal Japanese employment system by labor union and enterprise, nevertheless it will be shrink to core employees, also enterprises will introduce annual salary system based on incentive pay. But Wang Wei<sup>64</sup> consists different opinion that “labor agreement on employment” adopted in December 2002 can not only solve employment problems, but also be marked as the end of Japanese employment system after the war. Zhang Naili's study<sup>65</sup> believes that the human resource exploration has been lagged behind other developed capitalist countries from the aspect of corporate operation model. Facing the human resource competition, the long-term enforced permanent employment system and senior system is heading for a collapse.

Traditional Japanese enterprise system faces great challenge in long-term depression and changes profoundly. A series of researches have centered on this topic. By analyzing the economic depression, Dong Wei's study<sup>66</sup> describes problems in corporate cross shareholding, decreasing main bank functions and permanent employment system, and points out that the reformation direction is to change the tight share holding into a loosening one, and to change the permanent employment system and Managerial Sovereignty. By comparative institutional analysis in relationship among enterprise, government, employee between America and Japan, Wang Shengjin and Dong Wei<sup>67</sup> find out the disharmony in Japanese enterprise system is one of the important cause of Japanese economic depression. Li Hongjiang<sup>68</sup> points out that weakening international competitiveness is influenced by external environment, but the root cause is the defectiveness of internal management

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<sup>63</sup> Zhao Zengyao: “Japanese Labor Market System and Its Challenges Together With New Changes”, World Economics & Politics, No.12.2000

<sup>64</sup> Wang Wei: “The End of Japan's Postwar Employment System”, Japanese Studies, No.1 .2003

<sup>65</sup> Zhang Naili: “New Features and Problems of Human Resource Management in Japanese Enterprises”, Contemporary Economy of Japan, No. 6. 2006

<sup>66</sup> Dong Wei: “An Analysis of Problems in Contemporary Japanese Corporate Governance”, Contemporary Economy of Japan, No. 5. 1998

<sup>67</sup> Wang Shengjin, Dong Wei: “The Roots of Japan's Economic Recession as Seen from the Similarities and Differences of the Japanese and American Enterprise Systems”, Japanese Studies, No.6 .2001

<sup>68</sup> Li Hongjiang: “Business Decline Inspires Institutional Innovation, Adapting Environment Changes to Regenerate—Analysis about Contemporary Japanese Enterprise Institutional Innovation”, Contemporary Economy of Japan, No. 2. 2001

system. The real way out is to adapt to environmental changes and reform enterprise system.

There is corporate governance structure theory which forms new aspect of enterprise system research rising in the two decades in international economical academy. This shift is reflected in Japanese economy research in China, traditional Japanese operation study has shifted considerably to Japanese enterprise system and corporate governance structure, plenty of research fruits have been obtained and mainly concentrated on the following aspects:

Reformation and development of Japanese corporate governance: By analyzing managerial sovereignty system, Hou Huiying and Zhang Changsheng<sup>69</sup> points out that the present Japanese reformation is performed from insider governance, which is make great significance to improvement and constraint of Managerial Sovereignty, i.e, to restructuring the internal organization of directors, and make it more definite and clear in operation. Hu Fang and Huangpu Jun<sup>70</sup> points out that Japanese traditional corporate governance changes in response to changes in technology, economic system, international environment and domestic economy. The changes have manifested in variation of position and function of management, shareholder and bank. Xue Youzhi and Liu Su<sup>71</sup> believes that the internal control governance system formed after the war is determined by unique ethics character of Japanese enterprises which can be reflected by director governance ethics, shareholder governance ethics and main bank governance ethics. The governance structure and ethics of Japanese enterprise develops and evolves in response to dynamic external environment. Logical relationship determines the direction of innovation and evolution of Japanese enterprises.

International comparison of Japanese corporate governance: By comparative analysis of managerial sovereignty and equity structure in Japan, German and America, Sun Li<sup>72</sup> summarized that the supervision to operator is enforced by corporate control market of external governance system in America, and hostile takeover can not happen even there is no legal protection in Japan because of corporate cross shareholding, and as the same with that of Japan, the complicated equity model and cross shareholding seriously impedes the development of corporate control market in German. Far different from the standard corporate governance

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<sup>69</sup> Hou Huiying, Zhang Changsheng: "Japan's Managerial Sovereignty Phenomenon and Reform of Corporate Governance Structure", *Contemporary Economy of Japan*, No. 4. 2005

<sup>70</sup> Hu Fang, Huangpu Jun: "Recent Changes in the Structure of Japan's Business Governance and Their Reasons", *Contemporary Economy of Japan*, No. 2. 2005

<sup>71</sup> Liu Su: "Co-evolution and Innovation of Japanese Business Ethics and Corporate Governance", *Contemporary Economy of Japan*, No. 6. 2008

<sup>72</sup> Sun Li: "Operator Sovereignty and Equity Structure—Comparative Analysis about Corporate Governance Mode in Japan, America and Germany", *Japan Studies*, No. 4. 2002



mechanism, the governance operates effectively in considerable Japanese and Germany enterprises although there is no external constraints and supervision. Sun Li's another study<sup>73</sup> on comparative research on corporate governance between Chinese and Japanese companies, analyzed main bank system, employee shareholding system, corporate cross shareholding system, the research can be used for reference of establishment of operation and corporate governance structure for Chinese enterprises in the period of transitions. Song Xiaozhong and Wang Wenjun<sup>74</sup> explore the root cause and reformation direction of Chinese state-owned corporate governance by comparing the governance structure of Chinese and Japanese enterprises.

Cross shareholding and Japanese corporate governance structure: Pang Deliang<sup>75</sup> analyzes cross shareholding system and bank leading system in Japanese corporate after the war, and concludes that the establishment of cooperatively multiplied governance system including shareholder, employee, bank and society is not only the inevitable product of history, but also a more effective supervision mechanism for enterprises. Gao Yu's research<sup>76</sup> (2005) believes that cross shareholding is in the tendency of disintegrated and evolves in different structure which is mainly due to great influence to Japanese economic mechanism including financing, stock, governance, internal labor market which is posed by increasing cost and risk of cross shareholding, decreasing dependence on bank, keeping long-term business relationship with customers and business strategy restructuring as of changes in macro economic environment. Cui Xuedong's research<sup>77</sup> revealed the problem in Japanese corporate governance by analyzing change of cross shareholding, and demonstrates that the main content of Japanese corporate governance reformation is to remove the relationship capital structure of cross shareholding centering on bank.

Main bank and Japanese corporation governance: Chi Jin<sup>78</sup> explores the forming process of dominantly bank leading corporate governance, and further analyzes its Advantages and disadvantage. Wu Hao's study<sup>79</sup> shows that there is since enormous financial gap among different enterprises and economic environment changes will have dramatic effect on main bank functions, the supervision and control of main

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<sup>73</sup> Sun Li: "An International Comparative Study of the Structures of Improving Corporate Management—the Enlightenment from Japan", Japanese Studies, No.2 .2003

<sup>74</sup> Song Xiao-zhong, Wang Wen-jun: "The Corporate Administration Mechanisms of the Chinese and Japanese Enterprises: Comparisons and Lessons", Japan Studies, No. 2. 2005

<sup>75</sup> Pang Deliang: "An Analysis of Japan's Corporate Cross-shareholding System and Corporate Governance", The Journal Of World Economy, No. 12. 1998

<sup>76</sup> Gao Yu: "The Recent Evolvement of Japan's Cross Shareholding: Its Reasons, Effect and Enlightenment for China", Contemporary Economy of Japan, No. 5. 2005

<sup>77</sup> Cui Xuedong: "Changes in Cross-shareholding and Reform in Japanese Corporate Governance", Contemporary Economy of Japan, No. 2. 2007

<sup>78</sup> Chi Jin: "Japan's Bank-dominated Corporate Governance Structure", Contemporary Economy of Japan, No. 6. 1998

<sup>79</sup> Wu Hao: "The Operations Performance Analysis of Corporate Governance System in Japan's Main Bank-centered Big Corporation", Contemporary Economy of Japan, No. 6. 1998

bank is different in different enterprises. Governance structure centering on main bank produced dramatic complicated effect to the operation of Japanese large-scale enterprise and even to the development of Japanese economy. At present negative effect are continuously emerging.

Changes on corporation law and equity structure influence Japanese corporation governance structure. Wu Jianbin's study<sup>80</sup> overviews the context and process of corporation law amendments happened at the beginning of the century in Japan, and points out the guidelines comply with international trend and amendment thoughts of loosening pre-defined control and tightening supervision afterwards and concrete measure of integrated planning, proceeding step by step and making the best use of the situation, all of which can be reference of amendments of Chinese corporation law. Wang Zhiping and Li Zhiping's study<sup>81</sup> analyzed the development of Japanese new corporation law, background, and major changes to enterprise system and corporate governance by modern enterprise theories. Li bin<sup>82</sup> analyzes equity structure development of Japanese enterprises, forecasts the development tendency, and also probed into the course of equity structure in different period and its corresponding effect to corporate governance, points out that cross shareholding is the important reason of Japanese corporation governance problems. Feng Wenli's research<sup>83</sup> believes that the principal features of Japanese corporate governance are mutual constraint bank between contingent governance and corporate cross shareholding, and with the change of domestic and international economic environment of Japan, the negative effect of shareholder supervision mechanism became more obvious and the mechanism evolutes from organization-orientation to market-orientation.

(Translated by Zeng Wei, Li Wenkui)

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<sup>80</sup> Wu Jianbin: "A Review and An Analysis of Japan's Revising Commercial Law and Corporation Law in Recent Years", Japanese Studies, No.1 .2004

<sup>81</sup> Wang Zhiping, Li Zhiping: "Japan's New Company Law: Evolvement: Background and Innovation", Journal of Anhui University of Technology (Social Sciences), No.4.2006

<sup>82</sup> Li Bin: "Japan's Corporate Shareholding Structure Evolution and Its Influence to Corporate Governance", Japanese Studies, No.3 .2008

<sup>83</sup> Feng Wenli: "Shareholder Supervision Mechanism in Japan's Corporate Governance", Contemporary Economy of Japan, No. 2. 2005

# **Studies of Japanese History in China during the Past Decade (1997-2007)**

SONG Chengyou

In 1997, *Japan Studies in China* edited by LUO Weilong and XU Yiping (Social Sciences Academic Press) provided a comprehensive summary of the progress of Japan studies in China, including the research on Japanese history. And today, as the Institute of Japan Studies of Nankai University is compiling the achievements of Japan studies in China since 1997, I'd like to quote some academic works already published as a means of summary.

## **I. New elements and research panorama**

A number of new elements have accelerated the progress of the studies of Japanese history in China during the past decade. To sum up, they mainly include the following aspects:

Firstly, the situations of the Sino-Japanese relationship and the development of China's economy have further promoted the studies of Japanese history in China. Since the 1990's, the Sino-Japanese relationship has been witnessing general stability and economic & trade partnership, although there have been constant frictions and troubles, including the "ravings" by some Japanese officials, the problem of right-wing history textbooks, civil claims by Chinese war victims, the interference of some Japanese groups in the Taiwan issue, the increasingly heated dispute on the sovereignty of the Diaoyu Islands, etc. In particular, during his administration in 2001-2006, Junichiro KOIZUMI insisted on visiting the Yasukuni Shrine each year, bringing the political relationship between China and Japan to a new low. Irritated by those frictions and troubles, people from all walks of life in China have been paying greater and greater attention to the historical origins of the said problems. At the same time, the rapid growth of China's economy has provided sufficient financial support for the active development of academic research. Since Deng Xiaoping's visit to the South in 1992, China's economy has entered the period of rapid growth, stimulated by the goals of establishing the socialist market economy and building a moderately prosperous society. The prosperous market and the active economic trades have resulted in rapid increase in public revenues. Accordingly, the National Research Foundation for Social Sciences, the Ministry of Education and China Academy of Social Sciences have offered more funding for various research projects. In view of the gradually fierce competition in obtaining approval of research projects, institutions of higher learning and of scientific research around the nation have encouraged their employees to file project proposals, with commitments of related

financial subsidies. Therefore, there has been an increasing amount of financial support for different kinds of research projects, including those concerning Japanese history. In a word, thanks to the new requirements constantly proposed by the current situations of the Sino-Japanese relationship as well as the steady increase in the research funding, the studies of Japanese history in China have been significantly different and greatly stimulated during the past decade.

Secondly, young and middle-aged researchers have succeeded the older generation and become the major players in the studies of Japanese history. The past decade has witnessed the departure of prominent scholars of the older generation, such as Professors WU Jie, ZHOU Yiliang, WU Tingqiu and ZOU Youheng, who were active researchers of Japanese history in the 1940-50's and have left behind outstanding achievements. Scholars of the second generation, who started their studies of Japanese history in the 1960's, have retired but are still making contributions. On the whole, however, the third generation, who became mature in the 1980's, has taken the important responsibilities and come to the frontline of teaching and researching on Japanese history in China. Scholars of the fourth generation, who emerged at the beginning of the new century, are now announcing their presence and showing the hope of future development. When young researchers are playing the major role in the studies of Japanese history in China, the third and the fourth generations are also prominent in their academic qualifications. Since Nankai University established the first doctoral program on Japanese history in China in the early 1980's, universities, social sciences academies and other research institutions have followed suit, enrolling doctoral candidates for the professional and systematic training in Japanese history. Thus, every year there are a considerable number of doctoral candidates obtaining their degrees and becoming researchers of Japanese history in China. While doctoral candidates were basically trained domestically in the early 1980's, their successors have since benefited from the steady development of academic exchanges internationally. During their doctoral programs, students can expose themselves to the latest information of academic research overseas via lectures by foreign experts, international academic conferences and meeting and library exchange schemes domestically. Besides, with academic exchange agreements, they also have the opportunity to study in Japan by means of joint training, pursuit of academic degrees or government funding. During their studies in Japan, they can master the latest research development and methods and collect information which they cannot find otherwise in China, thus broaden their horizon and improving the quality of their doctoral dissertations. In the meantime, active players in this academic domain also include Chinese scholars who teach and study Japanese history in universities and research institutions in Japan as well as those returning to China from their oversea studies, who are all important forces in the studies of Japanese history. So, young scholars with prominent academic qualifications as well as international and diversified backgrounds have become the major players in the studies of Japanese history in China during the past decade.

Thirdly, the publication market has exercised omnipresent influence on the academic studies of Japanese history. Prices of books have constantly risen since the 1990's and reached new highs in the 21st century. Discovering the new business opportunities in the readers' eager to learn about Japan, publishing houses and publishers have become enthusiastic in printing books on Japanese history. Driven by the potential profits and aiming to take market shares, publishing houses often specify a number of research projects and publish multi-volume books on regional history, national history, general history of great nations, history of world civilization, cultural comparison, etc. Books on Japanese history are an important choice in the planning of publication series, and they are printed in great quantity due to the double stimuli of needs and profits. Moreover, the paces of social life have accelerated along with the rapid growth of China's economy, thus seeing increasing popularity of easy and interesting books on Japanese history, which feature succinct words and are accompanied by vivid pictures. Accordingly, publications on Japanese history in China have gradually downplayed the stereotype of textbooks and become lively and vivid.

Fourthly, in view of the great social attention to Japanese history, the Internet has become a new force in the research domain, allowing convenient and diversified communication of academic information, which marks the advent of "grass roots history". The latest statistics show that, as of December 2008, the Internet penetration rate is 22.6% in China, 0.7% above the global average. China has now 298 million netizens, including 270 million broadband users, with 13,572,000 national CN domains, being No. 1 in terms of all the indexes. With the advent of the IT era, research groups of Japanese history or Japan in various universities and academic institutions have set up their own websites. For example, the Institute of Japanese Culture Studies, Zhejiang Gongshang University has set up a website named "Japanese Culture Studies Online" (<http://www.zdrbs.com>), which publishes around 15,000 kinds of writings, theses, essays and historical data for online reference. The "Full-Text Retrieval System of Japan's Historical Materials Written in Chinese" collects around three million words of various literatures, with nearly 4,000 registered members. It is one of the most resourceful websites of its kind in the circle.<sup>2</sup> Now, research institutions publish and update their basic information via the network platform on a regular basis, including their profiles, academic achievements, faculty strengths, research topics and bibliographical materials, thus making themselves better known and understood. Thanks to the powerful Internet, the studies of Japanese history are no longer limited to a small circle of professional scholars. More and more amateur and young researchers, out of their great interest in Japanese history, have set up related websites, such as the "Forum on Japan's Ancient History", which has over 2,500 members and 550,000 posts, 3 sharing their free remarks and discussions on topics or research works of Japanese history. Academic monopoly has been replaced by the extensive social participation, and it has become an irreversible trend to adopt an information-based and diversified approach in academic studies.

All those new elements above-mentioned have contributed to the overall academic environment for the studies of Japanese history in China during the past decade or so. During that period, the studies of Japanese history in China have developed on both sides of the Taiwan Straits, as they have always been. Scholars of research institutions and universities on both sides have made progress based on the academic achievements in the 1980-90's.

Thanks to the strong stimulus of the reform and opening-up, Japan studies, including the studies of Japanese history have entered into an unprecedented period of prosperity and development on the Mainland. Incomplete statistics show that, as of December 1996, there were on the Mainland a total of 98 institutions and 43 societies of Japan studies, with around 10,000 persons being the members of at least two research groups concurrently, including 1,260 researchers. And there were 33 kinds of magazines and academic publications on Japan studies. In 1949-1993, 3,529 books were written or translated and 19,456 thesis were published, most of those research achievements being obtained after 1978.<sup>4</sup> Across the Taiwan Straits, Japan studies developed actively in the early 1980-90's. Since 1997, however, Japan studies on the island have been compromised since the forces of "Taiwan independence" have become obsessed with political stunt of "dezincification".

Generally speaking, the research panorama across the Taiwan Straits has had some changes since 1997. Based on the academic works already published, there are a number of major features. Firstly, the number of works on Japan's general history has significantly increased, with the quantity of research results on the modern and contemporary history exceeding those on the ancient history. Secondly, as far as Japan's ancient history is concerned, studies have been mainly focused on the history of remote ages and the modern history, with relatively few achievements in the domain of medieval history. Thirdly, studies of the topical history in modern Japan have exceeded those on the contemporary history in terms of the quantity of research results. And fourthly, mainland scholars have exceeded their Taiwan counterparts in terms of overall strength and the quantity of research results, playing a major part in the studies of Japanese history in China.

Research organizations of the studies of Japanese history established in the 1970-80's across the Straits are still active in their research. On the other hand, however, they are also facing difficulties such as disciplinary adjustments, brain-drain, resources relocation, etc. But even so, a number of research organizations of Japanese history are still carrying out their functions, including China Japanese History Association, China Association of History of Resistance War against Japan, the Center of Research on Japanese History of the Institute of World History and Culture under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing Society of Sino-Japanese Relations History, Beijing Society of History of Sino-Japanese Cultural Communications, Northeastern China Society of Sino-Japanese Relations History, Suzhou Society of Sino-Japanese Relations History, Nanjing Association of Research on the History of

Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders, Zhejiang Society of Sino-Japanese Relations History, etc. In addition, the Japan studies groups in dozens of universities and provincial academy of social sciences across the nation continue to develop. Some of those research institutions, such as the Institute of Japan Studies of Nankai University and the Institute of Japanese Culture Studies of Zhejiang Gongshang University, have their own buildings, dedicated teaching and research staffs, modern facilities and resourceful libraries, as well as funding support from Japan, showing marvelous academic vitality.

In Taiwan, the Japan Education Foundation established in 1996 plays the leading role on the overall scale. And Japan research groups have also been established in different universities. Among them, Soochow University set up the Institute of Japanese Culture Studies in 1980, with 115 master degree theses as of 1997 and 9 doctoral dissertations in 1990-1999. Established in 1983, the Graduate Institute of Japanese Studies of Tamkang University is engaged in the comprehensive research on Japan. And its master degree candidates had completed 147 theses as of 1997.

Academic publications include: Japanese Studies by the Institute of Japanese Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Japan Problem Studies by the Institute of Japanese Studies of Hebei University, Japan Issues the Institute of Japanese Studies of Liaoning University, Collection of Japan Studies by the Institute of Japanese Studies of Tianjin Academy of Social Sciences, Collection of Japan Research by the Institute of Japan Studies of Nankai University, Japan Studies by the Center for Japanese Studies of Peking University, Research on the History of Sino-Japanese Cultural Communications and Research on Japan's Ideology and Culture by the Institute of Japanese Culture Studies of Zhejiang Gongshang University, Collected Papers on Japanese Studies by the Institute of Japanese Studies of Fudan University, etc. In addition, core publications such as History Research and World History often carry weighty dissertations on Japanese history.

Across the Taiwan Straits, there are also a number of research publications for scholars to express their views, including: PCCU Academic Journal on Japanese Studies by Chinese Culture University, Japanese Literature jointly by the Japanese Department and the Graduate Institute of Japanese Studies of Fu Jen Catholic University, Academic Journal of Japan Research by the Japanese Studies Association, Collection of Works on Japanese Culture by the Institute of Japanese Culture Studies of Soochow University, Collection of Works on Japan jointly by the Japanese Department and the Graduate Institute of Japanese Studies of Tamkang University, Collection of Works by NTU Japanese Research Center by the same institute, etc.

## **II. Research results in the general history and Japan's ancient history**

**1. Japan's general history.** For the past 10 years, Chinese scholars have made

plentiful achievements in this domain, including:

ZHENG Liangsheng is the professor emeritus of Tamkang University and specialized in the history of the Ming Dynasty, of Japan and of Sino-Japanese relationship. He published 11 series of Collection of Research Works on the History of Sino-Japanese Relationship in 1990-2001, A General History of Japan in 1993 and A History on Sino-Japanese Relationship in 2001. On top of those works, his new book entitled A History of Japan (San Min Book Co., Ltd.) came out in 2002, showing his profound academic achievements. In 2006, A General History of Japan by Professor LIN Mingde of Taiwan's Academia Sinica was reprinted by San Min Book Co., Ltd. In that book, the author divides the history of Japan into several development stages, including the primeval times, the ancient nation, the nation under the ritsuryo codes, the samurai government, the unified regime, the modern age and the contemporary period, providing logical and systematic discussions. Guangxi Normal University Press printed the two volumes of Japan History by WANG Gongji, a senior scholar and a professor of Chinese Culture University. Dividing Japan's history into the ancient era, the medieval times, the near ancient times and the modern period, the two volumes focus on historical figures and answer in simple words some profound questions which the readers may be interested, such as Xu Fu's navigation eastwards, reign of empresses, contention between Genke and Heike for hegemony, confrontation between Northern and Southern Dynasties, shogunate generals and the vicissitudes of modern Japan. With good readability, they are popularizers on Japanese history.

On the Chinese Mainland, A New History of Japan by LIU Jianqiang (Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, 2002) is composed of four volumes and gives a popular introduction to Japan's general history, which is divided into the ancient era, the medieval times(early stages of feudalism), the modern times (later stages of feudalism) and the modern & contemporary period. The book features kana symbols for some Japanese proper names and unusual words which are difficult to pronounce, in addition to useful appendixes, thus making it more practical. A History of Japan by the University Institute of Japanese Culture Studies of Tamkang (Higher Education Press, 2003) delivers some new information in terms of viewpoints and materials. A Brief History of Japan by WANG Xinsheng (Peking University Press, 2005) focuses on the changes of rulers, dividing the general history of Japan into four major eras, including the ancient times ruled by aristocrats, the medieval times when the samurai were in power, the modern times dominated by soldiers and the contemporary times governed by bureaucrats. It details upon Japan's historical transition from the ancient era all the way till today with new research results, the latest historical materials and new methods. In 2006, WANG Baotian published A Brief History of Japan (Shanghai People's Publishing House), which pays attention to archeological results and tells the life of ancient people from multiple aspects. Starting from the macroscopic angle, the book includes four chapters for the ancient times, one for the modern era and one for the contemporary period, trying to depict Japan's characteristics at various historical



stages and to understand the vicissitudes in Japanese history from the view point of Sino-Japanese cultural communications and global interactions. SUN Xiuling's *A Very Short History of Japan* was also published in the same year (by Jinghua Publishing House). Starting from the image of Japan in the eyes of the Chinese people, it vividly introduces and comments on the development of Japanese history.

2008 witnessed the publication of three books on Japan's general history, making the number of similar works by mainland scholars total to eight since 2002. Among them, *A History of Japan* by WANG Zhongtao and TANG Zhongnan (People's Press, 2008) firstly tells the archeological forgery by Shinichi FUJIMURA, before it starts from Japan's stone age, to its ancient era, modern times all the way to the year 2006 when the Shinzo ABE cabinet was in power. The authors identify the influence of China's and international elements on the twists and turns of Japanese history, trying to summarize the development features of Japanese history with extensive analysis. They pay attention to the vividness in wording and provide either detailed or succinct descriptions in each chapter in a flexible and practical way. All those characteristics enhance the value of the book. *A General History of Japan* by FENG Wei (Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences Press, 2008) has a total of over 800,000 words, making a record in the length of a similar book by an individual author. *A Brief Textbook on Japanese History* by WANG Xuesong (Wuhan University Press, 2008) features vivid wording and pictures, thus helpful for the readers to understand the geographical conditions, social customs, historical progress and cultural features of Japan.

**2. Japan's ancient history.** Among the works on the dynastic history in ancient times, WANG Jinlin's *A Brief History of Ancient Japan* published in 1984 is still unmatched today. Since 1997, however, Chinese scholars have identified and made achievements in a number of new research topics, such as the ethnic origin of ancient Japanese, the correlation between the culture of rice growing in China and Japan in ancient times, the origins of jade culture in the two countries, the nations & sovereignty, religious beliefs and the capital city system in ancient Japan, spread of Confucianism eastwards, the social, family and marital structures in ancient Japan, the circulation of ancient Chinese books, Chonin Culture in the Edo Period, Japan and East Asia in ancient times, etc. Limited by space, I'd like to provide just a brief summary as follows:

Scholars of the first generation did pioneer work with great hardship, setting the example of dedicated research. The merits of senior scholars are well demonstrated in a number of topical research achievements concerning Japan's ancient history, such as *Historical Works on the Sino-Japanese Cultural Relationship* by Mr. ZHOU Yiliang (included in *Collection of ZHOU Yiliang's Works (4): Japanese History and History of Sino-Foreign Cultural Communications* Liaoning Education Press, 1998), ZHU Qianzhi's *Zhu Zi Studies in Japan, Ancient Studies and Yangming Studies in Japan* (People's Press, 2000) and *A History of Japanese Philosophy* (People's Press, reprinted in 2002), as well as the volumes on ancient, medieval and near ancient times of Japan

History by Mr. WANG Gongji. Among them, Mr. ZHOU Yiliang's works are impressive with their profound academic achievements and detailed textual research..

Scholars of the second generation are harvesting their academic results accumulated over the years and continuing their efforts. SHEN Ren'an's *Historical Works on the Tokugawa Period* (Hebei People's Publishing House, 2003) and *Origin of Japan* (Kunlun Publishing House, 2004) include a number of academic essays by the author on ancient Japan and the modern history, involving such basic issues as the formation of ancient Japanese nation, international relations in East Asia, evolution of the samurai class, historical features of the Edo Period, the three major reforms, civil movements and foreign relations. The works combine historical facts with academic comments, questioning some opinions of Japanese scholars and featuring detailed analysis. When we read and compare them with *Introduction to the Studies of Japanese History* published in 2001 (Hong Kong Social Sciences Press), we can easily notice that the author has been consistently aiming at and making efforts for the establishment of a system with Chinese characteristics for the research on Japanese history. WANG Jinlin, who are good at proposing innovative ideas in the studies of ancient history, have continued his efforts and published a number of works, including *Japan's Emperor System and Its Spiritual Structure* (Tianjin People's Publishing House, 2001), *Primitive Belief of the Japanese* (Ningxia People's Publishing House, 2005) and *Studies of Japan's Shintoism* (Shanghai Dictionary Press, 2008). Based on abundant literature, archeological and civil materials, the author conducts thorough studies of the spiritual world of the Japanese people from the evolution of the Emperor System, relationship between the imperial culture and Shintoism, as well as the correlation between Shintoism and Taoism. Vivid in texts and pictures, the works reveal the origins and development of the Emperor System and primitive belief, and are popular among the readers.

Scholars of the third generation have demonstrated their vigor and strength in expanding and renovating the research on Japan's ancient history, making a number of achievements. Some of the publications include LI Xiaobai's *Belief, Interests & Power: Promulgation of Christianity and Japan's Choice* (Northeast Normal University Press, 1999), ZHAO Deyu's *Spread of Western Civilization to the East and the Responses of China and Japan* (World Affairs Press, 2001), QI Yinping's *Research on the History of Early Jesuits in Japan* (Commercial Press, 2003), and LI Hu's *A Comparative Study of Western Civilization in China, Korea and Japan* (Central Compilation & Translation Press, 2004). Those works provide profound research and a lot of updated historical data concerning the studies of early European knowledge and Western knowledge in modern Japan, as well as the destinations and historical influence of the three major powers of East Asia. LI Zhuo has compiled a number of books, including *Traditional Culture and Family Culture: A Comparative Study between China and Japan* (Tianjin People's Publishing House, 2000), *Family System: A Comparison between China and Japan* (People's Press, 2004) and *A Study of Family Precepts in Japan* (Tianjin People's Publishing House, 2006), offering profound and

thorough studies of the similarities and differences in family systems and cultural features between Japan and China, creating a new domain with China's academic characteristics. There are also innovative works on the domains which Chinese scholars have rarely dealt with before, including LIU Yi's *Takamagahara Genre Painting: Japanese Mythology and The Life Philosophy of Enlightenment: Zen in Japan*(both reprinted by Liaoning University Press in 2000), WANG Baoping's *Shintoism and Japanese Culture*(Beijing Library Press,2003),WANG Weixian's *Philosophical Ideas of Suika Shinto in Japan*(Shandong People's Publishing House,2004), and WANG Jian's *Differentiation And Analysis of Shintoist Substance and Confucian Function*(Elephant Press,2006), WANG Yong's *Japanese Culture: The Path of Imitation and Innovation*(Higher Education Press,2001) depicts the panorama of the cultural development in ancient Japan based on a large number of updated historical materials and by identifying the two major features of imitation and innovation. It has been reprinted many times due to its popularity among the readers. XU Jianxin's *Research on the Rubbings of King Houtai Stele*(Tokyodo,2006) is a piece of prominent writing based on the author's diligent collection of the most stele rubbings from at home and abroad over the years, together with his own thinking and analysis. Upon publication, it has received favorable comments unanimously from academic circles both domestically and internationally. WANG Haiyan's *The Space and Rituals of the Capital of Ancient Japan*(Tamkang University Press,2006) expands the horizon to the capital city system in ancient Japan, featuring similarly innovative values in domestic and international academic circles. PENG Enhua's *A History of Japanese Haiku and A History of Japanese Tanka*(Academia Press,2004) as well as ZHAO Weiping's *A Study of the Transmission of Ancient Chinese Music Eastwards to Japan*(Shanghai Conservatory Press,2004) carry out new explorations into the domain of literature and arts. The above works all provide profound explorations into specific topics in the ancient history of Japan. And their publications indicate the overall strength of the scholars of the second generation in China.

During the past decade, the history of the Tokugawa Period has become a highlight in research. A Preliminary Investigation into the Tokugawa Shogunate by Taiwan scholar LIN Jingyuan (IPC International Publishing Co., Ltd., 1999) probes into the establishment of the Tokugawa Shogunate, the shogunate system, the power structure, the fall of the shogunate, Edo Culture, the life of common people and other topics, providing a comprehensive depiction of the Tokugawa Period. There has been new progress in the studies of Japan's foreign relations and academic schools in modern history. Research on Japan in Early Modern History and the Orders of China and Foreign Countries by CHEN Wenshou (Hong Kong Social Sciences Press, 2002) makes full use of the historical materials of China, Japan and Korea, offering an innovative description of the causes and development of seclusionism. HAN Dongyu's *A Study of New Legalists in Japanese in Modern History* (Zhonghua Book Company, 2003) reviews the schools of thoughts in the Tokugawa Period and offers new inspirations. In the well-examined domain of Confucianism in the modern history, there are also new works, such as HAN Lihong's *A Comparative Study of the*

Thoughts of ISHIDA Baigan and LU Xiangshan (Tianjin People's Publishing House, 1999), WANG Qing's A Study of OGYU Sorai, a Confucian in Modern Japan (Shanghai Classics Publishing House, 2005), YE Guoliang and CHEN Mingzi's A Continuing Investigation into the Sinology in Japan (East China Normal University Press, 2008), WANG Wei's Values of Honor for Japanese Samurai ,(Social Science Documents Publishing House, 2008), ZHANG Baoyu and XU Xingqing's edited Analects of Confucianism in Japan in the Tokugawa Period (East China Normal University Press, 2008), etc.

Besides, the Department of History of Peking University started publishing the collection of "Serial Studies of the History of the Tokugawa Period" in 2003, with the first works including SHEN Ren'an's Historical Works on the Tokugawa Period as above-mentioned and LI Wen's Japan's Samurai and Her Modernization (Hebei People's Publishing House, 2003). And there are still a number of doctoral dissertations on the currency system in the Tokugawa Period, the opening of Yokohama, Bushido, shogunate reform after opening of the country, the Ise Belief, etc. Those dissertations well-written, resourceful and full of China's academic characteristics, but unfortunately they are yet to be published due to financial difficulties. In recent years, the Institute of Japan Studies of Nankai University has also completed several doctoral dissertations on the family precepts, temple elementary school education and schools of thoughts in the Tokugawa Period. The School of History and Culture of Northeast Normal University has teamed up its research forces to study the history of thoughts in modern East Asia, and will soon publish their research results.

### **III. Research results in the modern and contemporary history of Japan**

1. Since 1997, there have been few works across the straits on Japan's dynastic history in modern times. The latest works by Taiwan and Hong Kong scholars during the past decade include CHEN Shuifeng's A Modern History of Japan with the second impression by Taiwan's Commercial Press in 1997, LIN Mingde's A Modern History of Japan with the third edition by San Min Book Co., Ltd. in 2006, and LIAO Dasi's Facets of the Modern History of Japan (Pan Ocean Development Co, Ltd., 1999). On the Mainland, SONG Chengyou's A New Modern History of Japan (Peking University Press, 2006) starts from the viewpoint of variation and consistency. It identifies the influence of Chinese factors on the development of Japan's modern history, trying to provide new explanations on some well-known historical phenomena. In the book, the author tries his best to quote and illustrate the research achievements by Chinese scholars in recent years. Compared with the scarcity of studies of dynastic history in modern times, there are plentiful works on the topical research concerning modern Japan.

2. Studies of the political and diplomatic history of Japan in modern and contemporary times. ZHANG Xiangshan's *Facets and Moments of Sino-Japanese Relationship* (Contemporary World Press, 1998), LIU Deyou's *Reflection: My Experience in Sino-Japanese Relationship* (Commercial Press, 1999) and WU Xuewen's *Difficult Times: My Experience in Sino-Japanese Relationship* (World Affairs Press, 2002) are all memoirs by witnesses of the development of the post-war Sino-Japanese relationship, revealing some rarely known details and featuring considerable historic value. YU Xintun's *Sino-Japan Diplomacy History during the Revolution of 1911* (Tianjin People's Publishing House, 2000) and *A Study of Sino-Japan Diplomacy History during the Revolution of 1911* (Oriental Bookstore, 2002) disclose the complexity of Japan's policies towards China during the Revolution of 1911 and the historical truth of Sino-Japanese relationship, based on a large quantity of archival and first-hand materials. The author wrote those books despite his chronic illness, which deserves respect. MI Qingyu has edited *On Japan's Diplomacy in a Century* (China Social Sciences Press, 1998), coauthored *Japan's Strategies and Policies towards East Asia in Modern Times* (People's Press, 2007) and written *Post-War Japanese National Security Strategy* (Xinhua Publishing House, 2000), which are consistent in detailing upon the development and changes of Japan's national strategies after World War II, with accurate remarks and analysis. HUANG Dahui's *Japan's Foreign Policies and Domestic Politics* (Contemporary World Press, 2006) and *Japan's Power Building-up and Sino-Japanese Relationship* (Social Science Documents Publishing House, 2008) are based on abundant historical data and offer persuasive remarks on and analysis of the normalization of Sino-Japanese relationship, Japan's new nationalism and new conservatism and other issues. In addition, MI Qingyu et al's *Japan's Policies towards the Middle East after World War II* (Tianjin People's Publishing House, 2000) and *US-Japanese Relationship*, LIU Shilong's (World Affairs Press, 2003), LI Fan's *The Japan-USSR Relationship 1917-1991* (People's Press, 2005) and QIAO Linsheng's *Japan's Foreign Policies and the ASEAN* (People's Press, 2006) have expanded the research horizon of Japan's diplomacy, gradually forming become a related research system in China. XU Siwei's *A Study of the Diplomacy Ideas of YOSHIDA Shigeru* (Xinhua Publishing House, 1999) and ZHENG Yi's *YOSHIDA Shigeru: An Iron-wrist Prime Minister* (World Affairs Press, 2001) both focus on YOSHIDA Shigeru, who established Japan's general diplomatic policies after World War II, carrying out their studies from different facets and demonstrating their academic strength..

There has been progress in the studies of Japan's political history. For example, after publishing *Japan in the Fifty Years after World War II* (World Affairs Press) and *The Vicissitudes of the Liberal Democratic Party* (Tianjin People's Publishing House) in 1996, WANG Zhensuo offered another prominent book entitled *Japan's Party Politics after World War II* (People's Press, 2004), forming a series of weighty works in the related domain. There are also works with thorough and detailed research on the parliamentary system, operation of political parties and policy establishment in

post-war Japan, including Japan's Rise and Fall in the 21st Century edited by JIANG Lifeng (China Social Sciences Press, 2000) and Japan's Government and Politics coauthored by the same scholar (Taiwan Yang-Chih Book Co., Ltd. , 2002), WANG Xinsheng's Japan's Politics in Contemporary Times (Economic Daily Press, 1997) and GAO Hong's A General Review of Japan's Political Party System (China Social Sciences Press, 2004).

3. Studies of Japan's Modernization. WU Tingmiu's A Study of Japan's Modernization (Commercial Press, 1997), LI Zhuo's The Family System and Japan's Modernization (Tianjin People's Publishing House, 1997), WANG Jiahua's Japan's Modernization and Confucianism (Rural Culture Association Press, 1998), ZHOU Songlun's A Study of the Social Transition Period in Modern Japan (Northeast Normal University Press, 1998), LIU Jincai's A Study of the Chonin Ethics Thought.' A New Insight into the Causes of Japan's Modernization (Peking University Press, 2001) and YANG Ningyi's Self-identification of the Modern Japanese People (Tianjin People's Publishing House, 2001) not only demonstrate Chinese scholars' profound reflection on the characteristics during Japan's modernization process, further highlighting the research on the elements of ideological culture and ethical consciousness, but feature a broader research horizon as well. Among them, investigations into the family system, together with the Chonin ethics and self-identification mark new trails for Chinese scholars to study Japan's modernization, thus offering some refreshing ideas. A Modern History of East Asia: Traditions and Modernization in China and Japan compiled by Taiwan scholar LI Feiwei explains the variation of culture and traditions in modernization, providing insightful comparison and analysis of the response by China and Japan to the Western culture in modern times.

4. There are a lot of research achievements concerning Japan's economic history in modern and contemporary times. The experiences and lessons in Japan's economy development have always been good reference for China since her reform and opening-up. Studies of economic history are valuable not only academically but practically as well. YANG Dongliang's National Power and Economic Development: Research on Japan's Policies on Industrial Rationalization after World War II (Tianjin People's Publishing House, 1998), An Analysis of Japan's Current Economic Situations (coauthored with XUE Jingxing, China Social Sciences Press, 1998), A Study of Reforms of Japan's Economic System since Modern Times (People's Press, 2003) and A Study of Economic Policies in Japan's Emerging Capitalism (Zhonghua Book Company, 2007) are based on actual conditions and trace back to history, providing insightful descriptions, supported by abundant historical materials, of such major issues as the establishment, implementation and adjustment of economic policies by the Japanese government in modern and contemporary times. Regional Economic Cooperation in East Asia: China and Japan edited by WANG Zhensuo (Tianjin People's Publishing House, 2002) focuses on major issues of the further development of the East Asian economy, expressing the viewpoints of Chinese scholars by analysis of key factors for realizing regional economic cooperation.

ZHANG Jian's *The Post-war Economic Diplomacy of Japan* (Tianjin People's Publishing House, 1998) points out the economic essence of national political behaviors and concludes the basic characteristics of Japan's diplomacy, offering a lot of new ideas. BAI Xuejie's *A Study of Japan's Industrial Organizations* (Tianjin People's Publishing House, 2001), ZHANG Yulai's *A Study of the Corporate Innovation of Toyota: With a Sideline Discussion on the Development Pattern of Japan's Automobile Industry* (Tianjin People's Publishing House, 2007) and LEI Ming's *A Study of Japan's Control/ed Economy in Wartime: With a Sideline Discussion on the Second Economic Reform in Japanese History* (People's Press, 2007) start from more specific research objects, providing marvelous and impressive analysis of the major players in Japan's economic development. WEN Juan's *A Fundamental Study of the Promotion of Land Rent Related Businesses in the Early Meiji Period* (published by Seseragi, 2004) conducts regional case studies in the Meiji Period, demonstrating the historical features of land tax reform. The above works provide topical studies from multiple facets including the economic policies, systems, organizations and patterns in modern and contemporary Japan, featuring both academic values and realistic significance.

5. Studies of the history of thoughts in modern Japan. WANG Zhongtian's *An Outline of the History of Human-oriented Thoughts in Japan* (Beijing Publishing House, 1999), CUI Shiguang et al's *Social Thoughts and National Emotions in Japan* (as a coauthor, Peking University Press, 2001), JI Tingxu's *Modern Japanese Society and Social Thoughts* (China Social Sciences Press, 2007) further investigates the evolution of Japanese society and trends of thoughts after World War II, offering some important information for understanding Japanese society in modern times. Those works also provide thorough exploration into the ideological evolution in modern and contemporary Japan. In 2004, Zhonghua Book Company released LIU Ping's *A Study of TSUDA Soukichi*, QIAN Wanyue's *A Study of NAITO Konan* and ZHANG Zhejun's *A Study of YOSHIKAWA Kojiro*, which introduce those famous Japanese scholars to Chinese readers and provide related evaluations, by means of serious studies for the first time. Following the publication of *A Study of Confucianism in Modern Japan* (Commercial Press), LIU Yuebing published *Meiji Confucianism and Modern Japan* (Shanghai Classics Publishing House, 2005) and *Thoughts and Confucianism in China and Japan in Modern and Contemporary Times* (Sanlian Bookstore, 2007), carrying out a profound exploration into the development of Confucianism in Japanese Society.

6. Studies of Sino-Japanese relationship. YU Xinchun's *A War of Words: Diplomacy of China and Japan during the September 18th Incident* (Guangxi Normal University Press, 1997) and *Secret Records of HUANG Xing's Activities in Japan* (Tianjin People's Publishing House, 1998) as well as WANG Xiaoqiu's *A Study of the History of Sino-Japanese Relationship in Modern Times* (China Social Sciences Press, 1997) and *A Study of the History of Sino-Japanese Cultural Communication in Modern Times* (Zhonghua Book Company, 2000) have furthered related studies by

means of archival materials in large quantities obtained from Japan. There are also other works which have enhanced related research by means of discussions from different aspects, including Japan's Colonial Rule in China in Modern History coauthored by SONG Zhiyong and QI Jianmin (Tianjin People's Publishing House, 1998), External Penitence: Remaining Days of Japanese War Criminals after Return to their Home Country translated and edited by ZHOU Weihong et al (Liberation Army Publishing House, 1999), Japan in the Eyes of Chinese in the Early 20th Century by SUN Xuemei (Tianjin People's Publishing House, 2001), ZHOU Enlai and Daisaku IKEDA by JI Yaguang (CPC Central Literature Press, 2001), A History of Post-war Sino-Japanese Relationship by JIANG Lifeng et al (China Social Sciences Press, 2002), Japan's Policies Towards China and Sino-Japanese Relationship by LIU Tianchun et al (People's Press, 2004) and LIANG Qichao and Japan by SHI Yunyan (Tianjin People's Publishing House, 2005).

There has also been significant attention to the increasing political confrontation in the Sino-Japanese relationship during Koizumi's administration. LIU Jiangwu, who created the expression of "cold politics and warm economy", has published Twenty Issues in Sino-Japanese Relationship (China Renmin University Press, 2007) and China and Japan: "Cold Politics and Warm Economy" in the Change (People's Press, 2007), which provide profound analysis in simple words of the current situations, development and restraints of the Sino-Japanese relationship, clearing the readers' doubts and becoming popular among them. Similar prominent works also include FENG Zhaokui and LIN Chang's A Report on Sino-Japan Relations (Shishi Publishing House, 2007), LIANG Yunxiang's Japan's UN-centered Diplomacy in the Showa Period (China Social Sciences Press, 1998) and Japan's Politics, Economy and Diplomacy in the Post-Cold-War Era.

In recent years, the relationship between Japan and Taiwan has drawn the attention of researchers, who have carried out instructive explorations into the issue by a number of works, including CHEN Fenglin's A History of Post-war Relations Between Japan and Taiwan (1945-1972) (Hong Kong Social Sciences Press, 2004), ZHANG Yaowu's Taiwan Issue in Sino-Japanese Relationship (Xinhua Publishing House, 2004) and GONG Qian's A Study of Relations between Japan and Taiwan since Normalization of Sino-Japanese Relationship (1972-2003) (Hong Kong Social Sciences Press, 2008).

7. As for modern and contemporary cultures, a number of works have continued the research on Japanese culture or comparative studies of cultural mentality between China and Japan, including LI Zhuo's edited book of Japanese Culture Research: Centered on Comparison of Chinese and Japanese Cultures (China Social Sciences Press, 1998), SHANG Huipeng's A Comparative Study of Chinese and Japanese in Terms of Social Groups, Behaviors and Cultural Mentality (Peking University Press, 1998), LI Shuguo's Japan's Popular Novels and Novels in the Ming and the Qing Dynasties (Tianjin People's Publishing House, 1998), HAN Lihong's A General



Introduction to Japanese Culture (Nankai University Press, 2006), and LI Wen's Spread and Influence of Japanese Culture in China (1972-2002) (China Social Sciences Press, 2004).

8. Studies of wartime Japan and the history of War of Resistance against Japan. "January 28th" Songhu Anti-Japanese War by YU Zidao and ZHANG Linlong is (Shanghai Publishing House, 2000) is one of the series edited by WANG Kuilin on China's War of Resistance against Japan. The large series, published by Guangxi Normal University Press with a total of over 10 million words, concerns various aspects of the Sino-Japanese relationship during the 14 years from the September 18th Incident to the surrender of Japan. SU Zhiliang's A Study of Comfort Women (Shanghai Bookstore Publishing House, 1999), Sex Slaves of the Japanese Army (People's Press, 2000), Monstrous Crime: Comfort Women System of the Japanese Army during World War II (as chief editor, Academia Press, 2000) and Left-over Problems and Compensation Issues Related to Japan's War of Aggression against China (co-edited with RONG Weimu and CHEN Lifei, Commercial Press, 2005), as well as HU Peng's Women Organizations in Japan during World War II (1931~1945) (Jilin University Press, 2005) put forward new research topics and conduct breakthrough studies of civil compensation claims by "comfort women", women organizations in Japan and other related issues by means of detailed materials. Some works offer positive remarks on the contributions by Kuomintang troops in the Anti-Japanese War, which have long been neglected on the Chinese Mainland, thus being conducive to related studies on a comprehensive and true basis. Such works include XU Kanming's A Military History of Chinese Expedition Troops (Military Science Press, 1995), On the War of Anti-Fascist Allies against Japan (Yunnan University Press, 2005), Flying Over the Hump: The Largest Strategic Airlift in World War II (coauthored with LI Lianfen, Liberation Army Publishing House, 2005), A History of Anti-Japanese War on the China-Burma-India Battlefield (Liberation Army Publishing House, 2007), as well as SHI Guangdong and JI Boxiang's A History of the Chinese Expedition Troops (Chongqing Publishing House, 2001), GUO Rugui and HUANG Yuzhang's China's Anti-Japanese War Combat Operations (as chief editors, Jiangsu People's Publishing House, 2002) and Phoenix Satellite TV's Chinese Expedition Troops (China Friendship Publishing Company, 2005). Works in the domain also include YANG Ningyi's Seizure of Power by Japanese Fascists (Normal University publisher in Beijing, 2000), which provide analysis from the aspect of modernization, HAN Yongli's Macro Strategies of USA and Anti-Japanese Battlefield in China during World War II (Wuhan University Press, 2003), WANG Zhen's The Anti-Japanese War and China's International Status (Social Science Documents Publishing House, 2003), HU Dekun and LUO Zhigang's An Outline of the History of the Second World War (as chief editors, Wuhan University Press, 2005), JIANG Lifeng's On Japan's Militarism (as chief editor, Hebei People's Publishing House, 2005), LEI Yuanshan's A Study of the Decision-making History during Japan's Aggression against China (Academia Press, 2006), QI Hongshen's A Study of Education in Northeast China during Japanese Occupation (People's Press in Liaoning,

1998), and LI Hongxi's *A Study of Japan's Consulate and Police Organs in Northeast China* (Yanbian University Press, 2008). Those works start from various aspects and carry out new exploration into and review of the historical status of the War of Resistance against Japan, Japan's militarism and its policies of aggression against China, the dictatorship of Japanese fascists and the colonial rule.

9. Studies of Japanese history from the East Asian viewpoint *A History of Sino-Korean-Japanese Relationship* edited by KIM Gu-chun (Heilongjiang Korean Nationality Publishing House, 2000) is based on comparative studies concerning the East Asian kingdoms from ancient times to the end of World War II, and details upon the evolution from the Northeast Asian Cultural Circle in ancient times to the modern framework of diplomatic relations among the three countries in Northeast Asia. The author deals with the relations among China, Korea and Japan as an organic whole, expanding current studies from bi-lateral to multi-lateral relations, broadening related horizon. LEE Chang-sik's *Formation of and Comparative Research on Modern Thoughts in Korea and Japan* (Jilin Education Publishing House, 2000) investigates the ideological reasons for the different paths of development of Japan and Korea in modern times, by means of a comparison of LEE Hang-re, BAK Gyu-su, KIM Ok-kyun, YU Kil-chun, SO Chaep-il and other reformists in Korean history. *A History of Sino-Korean Relationship in the Qing Dynasty* (Jilin Literature & History Publishing House, 2006) coauthored by GANG Ryong-beom and LIU Zimin depicts the evolution of relations between the Qing Dynasty and Korea from the rise of Nurhachi to the signing of the Treaty of Shimonoseki, offering a number of new ideas. *A History of Northeast Asia* edited by LIU Debin (Jilin People's Press, 2006) starts from the evolution of the framework of international relations and discusses the vicissitudes of Northeast Asian countries on the regional stage. Such a research viewpoint is of macro values to understand the changes in Japan's international status. AN Seong-irs *On the History of International Relations in East Asia* (Jilin Literature & History Publishing House, 2005) focuses on Japan's relations with China and Korea, offering an insight into Japan from the Chinese and the Korean points of view. *A Modern and Contemporary History of East Asian Nations* as jointly compiled by China, Japan and Korea (Social Science Documents Publishing House, 2005) is a work refuting right-wing history textbooks in Japan and revealing the truth of historical development in East Asia, thus setting an example for the joint research and compilation of history textbooks among the three countries.

10. New progress in the compilation and publication of material collections and reference books. The compilation of material collection is the barometer of the attention by studies of Japanese history in China to classroom teaching. Distortion of history and denial of invasion have become the clichés of some Japanese politicians, with the understanding of history being a great obstacle in the sound development of Sino-Japanese relationship. In the circumstances, Chinese researchers of Japan's modern and contemporary history have collected and arranged corresponding historical data earnestly and thoroughly, and have published a number of weighty

material collections, laying the foundation for the right and correct understanding of historical facts. The War of Resistance Against Japan compiled by ZHANG Bofeng and ZHUANG Jianping (Sichuan University Press, 1997) is a large series of comprehensive material collection with 7 volumes, 11 chapters and a total of around 10 million words, providing resourceful and reliable proofs of historical facts for the studies of the War of Resistance Against Japan. 2003-2004 witnessed the publication of A Collection of Historical Materials on Resistance by Koreans in Northeast China Against Japan (Heilongjiang Korean Nationality Publishing House). The 10-volume work, edited by KIM U-jong, includes a large number of first-hand historical materials such as the documents, reports, resolutions and work reports by the CPC Provincial and Special Committees in Manchuria from 1927 to 1945, providing a true record of the resistance by ethnic Koreans in Northeast China against Japan and important historical materials for related studies.

Another highlight in the recent decade is the publication of material collections revealing the crimes of Japanese invaders in China. A New Collection of Files on the Crimes of Japanese Invaders compiled by Liaoning Provincial Archives (Guangxi Normal University Press, 1997) includes various evidences of crimes of Japanese invasion in 1903-1947. A Complete Collection of Historical Data on "The 21 Articles" between China and Japan edited by HUANG Jilian collects materials of various aspects concerning the proposal by the Japanese government to turn China into a protectorate and the eventual failure of the conspiracy, thus conducive to studies of "The 21 Articles". Six years after the publication of ZHU Chengshan's Testimonies by Foreigners on the Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders (Jiangsu People's Publishing House 1999), the first 8 volumes of A Collection of Historical Materials of the Nanjing Massacre edited by ZHANG Xianwen was published in 2005, and the work will include a total of 12 million words after the publication of all the 25 volumes. The data in this material collection provide sufficient factual basis for revealing the historical truth of the massacre. There are also material collections exposing the bacteriological warfare, forced labor and many other crimes of Japanese militarism during the invasion of China, including Blood-weeping Accusations: True Records of Survivors of Japanese Anthrax and Glanders Attacks edited by LI Xiaofang (CPC Central Literature Press, 2005), Ironclad Proofs of Crimes of Unit 731: Archives on "Special Transmission" by Kanto Gendarmeries compiled by Heilongjiang Provincial Archives (Heilongjiang People's Publishing House 2001), A Collection of Historical Materials on Kidnapped and Forced Laborers by Japanese Invaders in North China compiled by JU Zhifen and ZHUANG Jianping (Social Sciences Academic Press, 2003), An Oral History of Chinese Laborers Kidnapped to Japan during World War II edited by HE Tianyi, and Historical Materials on Japan's Economic Plundering in Central China compiled by Shanghai Municipal Archives (Shanghai Bookstore Publishing House, 2005).

Although not many reference books have been compiled or published, their quality has been improved. The year 1997 saw the publication of Japan Studies in

China edited by LUO Weilong and XU Yiping (Social Science Documents Publishing House). This reference book was compiled in the charge of Chinese Association for Japanese Studies and the Beijing Centre for Japanese Studies, sponsored by the Japan Foundation and with the cooperation of institutions and scholars of Japan studies on the Mainland. The book provides a clear picture of the general situations of Japan studies in China, profiles of major institutions, societies and scholars of Japan studies, reference to major works in that regard and related miscellaneous information. While studies of Japanese history are just part of its contents, the book still helps us understand relevant developments before 1995.

In 2000, the World Affairs Press published *Studies of Japanese History in China* edited by LI Yu, TANG Zhongnan and LIN Zhen, as well as *Research on the History of Sino-Japanese Relationship in China* edited by LI Yu, XIA Yingyuan and TANG Zhongnan, which can cover the inadequacy of Japan Studies in China in terms of historical remarks. Those two works describes the studies by Chinese scholars of Japanese history and the history of Sino-Japanese relationship from ancient times to the mid-1990's, dividing the historical process into several special topics and reviewing the research results of Chinese scholars; therefore they are very good books in helping the readers understand the progress and basic viewpoints of studies of Japanese history and the history of Sino-Japanese relationship.

#### **IV. Translation and publication of foreign works**

Importance has always been attached to the translation of works by foreign scholars on the studies of Japanese history. During the last 10 years, a lot of works by Western and Japanese scholars have been translated and published. Among them, works on Japan's general history at least include Hall's *Japan: From Prehistory To Modern Times* (translated by DENG Yi and ZHOU Yiliang, Commercial Press, 1997) and Kenneth Henshall's *A History of Japan: From Stone Age to Superpower*, which has been translated and published by both Taiwan's Juliu Publishing Company (2003) and World Publishing Corporation (2007).

The past decade has witnessed the publication of translated works on historical figures, but the most popular ones are those on TOKUGAWA Ieyasu and Emperor Hirohito. For example, historical novels by the famous writer YMAOKA Sohachi, such as TOKUGAWA Ieyasu, TOYOTOMI Hideyoshi, ODA Nobunaga and DATE Masamune, have been selected for publication by Chongqing Publishing Group, Hainan Press and many other publishers across the straits, and the multi-volume TOKUGAWA Ieyasu have become a bestseller and popular among the readers. Although those books are not research works in a strict sense, they are still conducive to encouraging Chinese readers to pay attention to Japanese history.

Herbert Bix's *Emperor Hirohito* (translated by LIN Tiangui, China Times

Publishing Company, 2002), KOMORI Yoichi's *The Emperor's Imperial Voice Broadcast* (translated by CHEN Duoyou, Sanlian Publishing House, 2004) and Bix's *Hirohito and the Making of Modern Japan* (translated by WANG Liping, Xinhua Publishing House, 2004) are of resourceful archive materials, including a number of data published for the first time, thus of very high historical values. The publication of those historical data provides important proofs of identifying Hirohito's historical orientation and disclosing his responsibilities for the war.

Some other works are of academic values in understanding the views, research methods and archival data of Western and Japanese scholars, including MARUYAMA Masao's *FUKUZAWA Yukichi: A Thinker in Modern Japan* (translated by OU Jianying, World Affairs Press, 1997) and *A Study of the History of Political Thoughts in Japan* (translated by WANG Zhongjiang, Sanlian Bookstore), MURAKAMI Senjo's *An Outline of the History of Japanese Buddhism* (translated by YANG Zengwen, Commercial Press, 1999), UMEHARA Takeshi's *Kamigami No Ruzan* (translated by BIAN Liqiang, Economic Daily Press, 1999), MASUMI Junnosuke's *A Political History of Japan* (translated by DONG Guoliang et al, China Commerce and Trade Press, 1997), Yoshiie YODA's *Japan and China in Modern Times* (translated by BIAN Liqiang, Shanghai Far East Publishers, 2004), John Toland's *The Decline and Fall of the Japanese Empire(1936-1945)* (translated by GUO Weiqiang, New Star Press, 2008), IOKIBE Makoto's *1945-2005: A History of Japan's Postwar Diplomacy* (World Affairs Press, 2007), and John W. Dower's *Embracing Defeat* (translated by HU Bo, Sanlian Bookstore, 2008), etc.

As the history of Japan's economy development is of important reference for China's reform and opening-up, the eight-volume *A History of Japan's Economy* by metrological historians (Sanlian Publishing House, 1997-1998) have been published in succession. Among them, HAYAMI Akira's *Establishment of Economic Society in the 17th-18th Centuries*, Hiroshi SHIMBO et al's *Quickening of Modern Growth*, UMEMURA Mataji and YAMAMOTO Yuzo's *Port Opening and Restoration*, Shunsaku NISHIKAWA's *The Age of Industrialization (Volumes I & II)*, Takafusa NAKAMURA et al's *A Dual Structure*, Takafusa NAKAMURA's "Planned Economy" and "Democracy" and YASUBA Yasukichi's *High-speed Growth* have been translated and published by LI Yiping, LI Rui, LIAN Xiang, YANG Ningyi and HU Qilin. MORISHIMA Michio's *Perspective of the Strange Circle of Japan's Prosperity and Decline* (China Financial and Economic Publishing House, 2000), Bai Gao's *Japan's Economic Dilemma: The Institutional Origins Of Prosperity And Stagnation* (translated by LIU Er, Commercial Press, 2004) and *Economic Ideology and Japanese Industrial Policy: Developmentalism from 1931 to 1965* (translated by AN Jia, Shanghai People's Publishing House, 2008) are inspiring for the comprehensive and objective understanding of Japan's economic development.

The translation and publication of the diaries, communications and other firsthand materials by foreigners on the Nanjing Massacre are proofs with important

historical values. Such works include *The Diaries of John Rabe* (Jiangsu People's Publishing House, Jiangsu Education Publishing House, 1997), ZHANG Kaiyuan's translation and publication of the original archives of the International Committee for the Nanking Safety Zone as well as letters, diaries and other historical materials by some of its members, *American Missionary Eyewitnesses to the Nanking Massacre (1937-1938)* (Nanjing University Press, 1999), *The Diary of Minnie Vautrin* (Jiangsu People's Publishing House, 2000), *The Diary of AZUMA Shiro* (Jiangsu Education Publishing House, 1999), *The Battlefield Diary of AZUMA Shiro* (World Affairs Press, 2000), etc.

## **V. Brief comments and outlook**

During the past decade, Chinese scholars of Japanese history have catered to social demands and seized relevant opportunities, making significant progress in terms of innovative ideas, publication of theses and academic works, as well as compilation of historical materials, in addition to proposing a number of valuable frameworks for academic discussion. During the transitional period, the academic community has become younger and better qualified, with international and diversified backgrounds. The third and the fourth generations of scholars have become the major forces in the teaching and studies of Japanese history in China, marching ahead following the path of their predecessors. We have also witnessed the advent of the "grass roots history" and the increasing social participation in the studies of Japanese history thanks to the Internet. All those indicate that the studies of Japanese history have entered into a new era of development in China.

However, there are also a lot of challenges, e.g.: how to establish a system with Chinese characteristics for the studies of Japanese history system; how to coordinate fundamental research and applied research; how to give consideration to both learning & introduction and independent innovation; how to make a balance between the research on the history of different dynasties and that of various features; how to further explore new research topics; how to further enhance trans-regional and multinational studies; how to carry forward the merits of previous scholars in terms of research and accomplishments; how to strive for and maintain the discourse power of Chinese scholars in the process of aligning ourselves with international standards, etc.

Among all those challenges, it is apparently the greatest one in the new century to demonstrate China's academic characteristics of the studies of Japanese during the process of international exchanges. Only by resolving that problem properly can we make new progress and achievements in the domain of Japanese history studies in the new century, in addition to establishing a related research system with Chinese characteristics.

Opinions on "China's academic characteristics", however, naturally differ. At the

risk of oversimplification, I'd like to summarize my opinions here. Firstly, we should observe Japan from the our viewpoint and offer our opinions as Chinese scholars, instead of just copying and paraphrasing the ideas of our foreign counterparts, or even worshipping foreign scholars and belittling domestic ones. Secondly, we should exhibit the merits of comprehensive thinking of Chinese scholars and conduct our studies with a macro mechanism and "see the big picture". To be specific, we should combine different parts and the whole as well as individual spots and the entire facet in our thinking, and we should study the origins and development of things in a comprehensive and complete manner, rather than in an isolated and scattered way. We should understand not only "what" and "who", but "how" and "why" as well. Thirdly, we should combine research and application together and learn from the historical experiences and lessons of foreign countries, In that process, we should differentiate, select and arrange others' opinions for the sake of discovery, instead of uncritical acceptance, self-depreciation or irrational admiration. Fourthly, we should write in accurate and fluent Chinese rather than copying Japanese words or using the so-called "Manchukuo dialect".

We cannot talk about China's academic characteristics in Japanese history studies without referring to the achievements of the preceding scholars in different domains. For example, research works in the dynastic history and the general history include *A Modern History of Japan* by WAN Feng (China Social Sciences Press, reprinted in 1981), *A Brief History of Ancient Japan* by WANG Jinlin and *A Brief History of Modern Japan* by LV Wanhe (both printed by Tianjin People's Publishing House, 1984),, *A General History of Japan* edited by ZHAO Jianmin and LIU Yuwei (Fudan University Press, 1989), *A History of Japan* by WU Tingmiu (Nankai University Press, 1994), etc. Although those works only reflect the level of Japanese history studies on the Chinese Mainland in the 1980's, they can be well revered as the cornerstones of the mainland's research on the general history and the dynastic history of Japan. Those works might have some inadequacies in terms of materials and individual expressions, but they are indeed good examples of China's academic characteristics in terms of research viewpoint, theoretical framework, general understanding, summary of historical experience and lessons, as well as wording and phrasing, which deserves the careful reading, contemplation, inheritance and promotion by succeeding scholars. We would be making a spectacle of ourselves if we ignore those previous achievements and just talk wishfully about "breakthrough".

On the long way towards establishing the system of Japanese history studies in China, the horizon is encouraging if the succeeding scholars can follow the path of their predecessors and continue blazing new trails. It is undoubtedly, however, the academic circles, including the studies of Japanese history in China, have been affected by the showy, boastful and impulsive tendencies in the publication market during the past decade. The sound development of a macro-environment for dedicated research does not benefit from the project proposal and operation under the system of planned economy, the "invisible hand" in the publication market, the pressure from

evaluation of professional titles, or the inflexible procedures in organizational review, which all go against the rules of academic research. Perhaps it is not exaggerating to regard those phenomena as the causes for the said unhealthy tendencies. But we believe that those problems during development will be gradually resolved with the elapse of time. And we can foresee greater achievements in the studies of Japanese history in China by that time.

(Translated by SONG Zhiqiang)



# Chinese Scholars' Research on Japanese Culture and Society (1997 — 2007)

Li Zhuo

In the ten-year period between 1997 and 2007, with China's comprehensive national strength being improved and conditions for academic research getting better, a large number of researchers went to Japan for research and exchange and their academic capability has thus been enhanced; in the meanwhile, many young and capable Ph. D students have entered into their own field for special research, and a growing number of Chinese students returned to the nation after finishing their study abroad and presented themselves as the new emerging forces among the Chinese legion of Japan research. Among the thriving researches on Japan which were prompted by these favorable conditions mentioned above is the research on Japanese culture and society, one of the areas with the biggest advancement, the strongest social influence and the most research fruit.

## 1. Unprecedented Concern about Japanese culture

China and Japan enjoy adjacent geography and similar cultures. People of both countries shared a time-honored history of mutually friendly exchange ever since the ancient time as well as a harrowing experience of being invaders and the invaded in modern times. Since 1970s when diplomatic relations between China and Japan were restored, mutual economic and trade exchanges have been getting closer as time went by. As far as the scope and depth are concerned, China's research on Japan has gone quite ahead of that on other countries within the first two decades since the reform and opening-up. Albeit Sino-Japanese relationship having entered into a frozen period in the past decade, we have to notice that instead of being reduced to stagnation due to twists and turns in politics, Chinese research on Japan has proceeded further, particularly when it comes to enhancing the public's desire further understanding and analyzing the Japanese people. It has become an important topic to examine the Japanese people from a cultural perspective. It is safe to say that the attention that has been paid to Japanese culture was unprecedented in the past decade, as we can find out from the following:

### (1) Successive publication of research series on Japanese culture

In *The Collection of Eastern Culture* with Ji Xianlin as the chief editor, there are many works on Japanese culture, such as *The History of Japanese Literature*, *Mono no aware and Yugen—the Aesthetical Idea of the Japanese* written by Ye Weiqu

and Tang Yuemei, *The System of Emperor of Japan and its Spiritual Structure* written by Wang Jinlin, Wang Xiaoqiu' *Modern China and Japan— Interaction and Influence* and translation works like *Gods Going Around: on Kojiki of Japan* written by Umehara Takeshi and translated by Bian Liqiang and Zhao Qiong, and *The Theory of Japanese Culture* written by Shuichi Kato and translated by Ye Weiqu. *New Series of Humanistic Japan* published by Ningxia Renmin Publishing House has been up to now published in 20 volumes and it is a series of research books on Japanese culture with the most comprehensive content and the largest quantity within China so far. All writers of such series are domestic famous experts or accomplished scholars in related fields. In this series, they located themselves in the academic frontiers and collected many a subject; through simple explanation of profound matter and illustrated writings, they combined research and popularity in the books and presented the audience a stage to learn about the panorama of Japanese culture. Among 37 volumes of *Nankai Series of Japanese Study* published by The Institute of Japanese Study of Nankai University, 12 of them are about Japanese culture and society. There are two series chiefly compiled by Wang Yong and published by Shanghai Ancient Books Press, namely *Library of Cultural Research of China and Japan* and *Lecture Room of Japanese Culture*. The former was first published in 2001 and has 11 volumes up till now, and as for the latter, there are four volumes coming out, i.e. *The Art of Chess*, *Ikebana* (the art of flower arrangement), *Music* and *Martial Arts*. Lectures on Culture of East Asia initiated by Tsinghua University in 2004 is a forum aiming at expounding Japanese culture from multi-perspectives and it has been held for over 60 times till now, and on such basis, a series of books named *Books of Japan •Humanism in East Asia* has been published with academic essays and writings about feelings of traveling in Japan as its major part. Apparent systematization and specialization are ready to find out in these series of books, which symbolizes that the research of Japanese culture within China has gone far above that of a decade ago in terms of both depth and scope.

(2) Researchers are no longer limited to special research institutions and a growing number of people are concerning about the research on Japanese culture. In the past decade, the development of Sino-Japanese cultural exchange and the deepening of mutual economic and trade relations as well as the diplomatic frictions of the historical problems all provided the public with chances to learn about Japan. Many non-specialists of Japanese research have observed Japan from different angles and have left us their distinctive thought. *Japan in the Transition* written by Zhao Yining is “a transnational report of investigation given by a Chinese reporter crossing the border” and it is a relatively comprehensive, in-depth report-style research on

Japanese culture. The writer of *Sakura and Samurai* is a doctor of economy of agriculture and forestry, who lived for a long time in Japan and had personal experience over its culture. In this book, the author interpreted and analyzed the “inherent gene” —customs and social rules— that determined the trace of modern Japan’s growth, and disclosed the characters and behavioral habits of the Japanese and categorized Japanese culture as “a culture of humiliation”. The author of *The “Ambiguous” Neighbor* is Yu Jie, a young writer particularly appreciated by youngsters interested in literature. The book is based upon the interviews the author had with Japanese congressmen and nearly one hundred average Japanese people. The author realized from his experience that he himself had known so little about the real Japan and that it was a tough task to learn about Japan in a real sense. Yu’s idea is rather enlightening that “Caring about Japan” is a vital link of “caring about China”. Wu Jisong, a governmental official, wrote the book of *See the World—Japan’s Recycling Society*, and made a faithful account and rather insightful analyses on what he saw and heard in Japan from the aspects of geography, history, humanities, ecology and management of water resources. Although these “non-special” works are not the research in its real sense, these writers’ observation might be more realistic and have greater influence than that of specialists.

(3) The participation of mass media such as TV and the Internet greatly deepens public learning about Japanese culture. TV is the most popular and the fastest information communication medium with the widest range of audience so far. *Japan*, the 7<sup>th</sup> period of TV series “*The Emerging of Powers*” filmed by CCTV and many experts and scholars, tells us how Japan leapt into the only capitalistic power in Asia from a weak and backward feudalistic country in the east, and how it stepped on the wrong road of militarism from its original path of development. In addition to the telling of history, the TV show also covers Japanese cultural traditions and their national spirit, which has stirred strong reactions among the public. Another TV series *Japan in the Eye of Yansong* made by CCTV with a media perspective and the sensitiveness of a reporter was put on show in 2007 and offered the audience close-up observation on Japan’s politics, economy, life, culture, fashion, and entertainment. The content of this feature program is not as deep as experts or scholars’ research, and there are no emotional comments or empty talking. The makers try to present a real Japan to the audience through plain and objective description and thus this program has much greater visual impact than print media. Lectures have achieved great effects of propaganda as of Hu Ping’s “*See Japan through Its Culture*” on Aug.12, 2006, Tang Zhongnan’s “*The Road of Powers — — the Emergence of Japan*” on Jan.27, 2007 and Yang Dongliang’s “*Imperial Power and Japan’s Modernization*” on Jul.8,

2007 in Century Auditorium of Phoenix TV. As for the Internet, special websites about Japan starts from the scratch, and one of the best of them is the web of Japanese culture research (<http://www.zdrbs.com>) set up by the Research Institute of Japanese Culture of Zhejiang Gongshang University, in which there are about 1500 works, papers, travels, essays and historical materials and the amount of literatures collected in the full text retrieval bank of Japanese and is about three million words. The web now has nearly 4000 registered members and is one of the most resourceful website among domestic similar websites.

## **2. Remarkable achievements of multi-perspective research on Japanese culture**

On the aspect of macro research, *Japanese Civilization* chiefly compiled by Ye Weiqu is one of *The Collections of World Civilization*, in which there is detailed account about the origin, evolution of Japanese civilization and its means, channels to contact other continental civilizations as well as their differences, and is the most complete works introducing Japanese culture in China up till now. In this book, the exchange of Japanese civilization and foreign civilizations is concluded as the collision between two civilizations, which has undergone the continuous cycle of “imbalance→ self-consciousness and reflection of two civilizations→ the beginning of containment→ disintegration and combination of two heterogeneous civilizations→ creation and restructuring→ a new balance”. Ye Weiqu also wrote *The History of Japanese Culture*. If we take these two books as works examining Japan from the external environment, then Tang Zhongnan’s *Japanese Culture and Modernization* is a book that focuses on locating the underlying causes of Japan’s modernization from its internal structure. In this book, the author discourses upon the relationship of traditional culture and modernization from the aspects of the change of social structure, the continuance of family system, the advancement of culture and education and the modernization of human beings.

On the research of exploring the historical and cultural features of Japan, Gao Zengjie’s *The Collision of East Asian Civilizations: The History and Features of Japanese Culture* is a book committed to examine the features of Japanese culture from the view of civilizations in East Asia. In the book of *Japanese Culture: The Trace of Imitation and Creation*, Prof. Wang Yong gives an account of the development of the Japanese people from its origin to Edo Period, and proposes that the fundamental features of Japanese culture is “the fusion of imitation and creation”. This book is not only a textbook for undergraduates and postgraduates, but an ideal introductory book to learn about Japanese culture. Wang Yong chiefly compiled *The Research of Book Road between China and Japan*, and in this book he explained with

details the meaning of “Book Road” proposed by himself that if silk is the symbol of Chinese material civilization, then books must have congregated spiritual creation of Chinese civilization and therefore possesses so strong power of revival that it can pass benefits on to the descendents through the time. The proposal of the idea of “Book Road” is aimed at breaking the traditional concept of “Silk Road” and building up a new pattern of exchange in East Asia. In the book of *Tradition and Modern Times: the Research on the Culture in Japanese Society*, Wang Xiuwen, the writer, made careful examination upon the historical evolution of Japanese cultural customs in terms of the system of family name, marriage customs and features of education development.

Yan Dexue’s *The Path of Samurai: Japan’s Strategic Culture and Military Trend* is an analysis on Japanese culture from its military history, which provides us with a new angle of research. In this book, the author points out that the blood bondage among the Japanese and their spiritual homogeneity have no match around the world, and the high organizational efficiency of Japanese society, particularly in military aspect, is rather rare in the global history. Researches about the impact of Chinese culture upon Japanese culture remains the mainstream in studies conducted from the angle of Sino-Japanese cultural exchange. For example, there is Li Qihu’s *The Study of Book of Documents in Japan and Its Literature*, Zheng Pengnian’s *The History of Japanese Assimilation of Chinese Culture*, Li Yinsheng’s *On the Impact of Chinese Culture of the Tang Dynasty upon Japan*, Zhang Yue’s *The Theory of Wealth—The Development of the Thought of Righteousness and Wealth in Ancient China and its Influence on Japan*, Cai Yi’s *Traditional Chinese Culture in Japan*, and so on. In *The Research about Zhu Shunshui’s Teaching in Japan*, Qin Qixun investigates and examines in a comprehensive and careful way the reasons, targets and contents of Zhu Shunshui’s teaching in Japan (Zhu is a scholar at the transitional period of Ming and Qing dynasties) and the great impact of such an activity on modern Japanese culture. On the other hand, since modern times, particularly after China’s reform and opening-up, foreign cultures has produced huge influence in China, among which Japanese culture comes first. The issue of how Japanese culture influenced China has entered into scholars’ sight as well. In *The Spread and Influence of Japanese Culture in China (1972-2002)*, Li Wen completely and systematically summarized the channels of spread and contents of Japanese culture in China since the restoration of Sino-Japanese diplomatic relationship and evaluated objectively the role of imported Japanese culture in China’s modernization. In *Liang Qichao and Japan*, Shi Yunyan, the writer, examined Liang Qichao’s political and cultural activities in his 14-year exile in Japan, reactions of Japanese government and the influence he received from thinkers of Meiji Period. Shi’s book moved forward by a

big step the research on Liang Qichao within the academic circle. Feng Tianyu's *Chitose maru's Trip to Shanghai* is a book about Chitose maru's (a Japanese official boat) trip to Shanghai for observation and study initiated by the shogunate in 1862. The account in this book reflected Japanese government's change of their view about China and honestly described the conditions of China at that time, and therefore is of great value as historical materials.

It is the new sparkling point in the research of Japanese culture in the past decade to study Japanese figures. The first research achievements of The Research Databank of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century International Chinese Studies are all studies upon Japanese famous scholars, including Qian Wanyue's *The Study of Kodawari*, Zhang Zhejun's *The Study of Yoshikawa Kojiro*, and Liu Ping's *The Study of Tsuda Mizuhiki*. Though these studies aim at Chinese studies, the relatively deep research on Japanese spirit and masters is no doubt important progress of domestic study on Japanese culture. On top of that, in *Review of Jian Zhen*, Hao Runhua accounted Jian Zhen's life and had in-depth discussions about his contributions to Japanese Buddhism and his status and influence on the history of cultural exchange between China and Japan.

It is an important topic in the research of Japanese culture in the past decade to study it from the angle of historic problems. In *The Theory of Japanese Militarism*, a nearly one-million-word works chiefly compiled by Jiang Lifeng and Tang Zhongnan, there are accounts about the geographical environmental influence on the formation of Japanese national character, the tradition of worshipping martial art and the spirit of Bushido, the belief of the nation of God and the admiration of Japanese Emperor and so on. The authors explored the original source to produce the thought of Japanese militarism, the process of its formation, its mechanism and so on, analyzed the historical origin of the outward aggression and expansion by Japanese militarism, and disclosed in an all-round, multi-level way the fundamental origin of the occurrence of Japanese militarism. In *The Research on Postwar Japanese Culture and Warfare Cognition*, Liu Bingfan explored Japanese cognitive ideal on warfare after WWII, and analyzed its underlying reasons. In *Japan's Cultural Invasion to China—Aggressive War of Scholars and Intellectuals*, Wang Xiangyuan used lots of first-hand Japanese materials and disclosed comprehensively the strategies, channels of implementation, means and harms of Japan's cultural invasion to China.

### **3. Prolonged flourish of researches on the theory of Japanese culture and the theory of the Japanese**

Along with the ending of “the era of bubble economy” and Japan's economic recession in “the lost decade”, the theory of Japanese culture and the theory of the

Japanese begins to lose its previous attractiveness in Japan. However, Japan's economic and social change has instead offered domestic scholars a good opportunity to further examine the Japanese and their culture, and the theory of the Japanese and their culture becomes a lasting hot issue.

The so-called "theory of Japanese culture" and "theory of the Japanese" are doctrines that systemize and emphasize the behavioral pattern and thinking pattern of the Japanese. In other words, they are accounts about Japan's culture, society and national characters. In the past decade, works about such matter are quite many and there have emerged many studies with profound and insightful observations compared with those 20 years ago.

As far as the theory of Japanese culture is concerned, Bian Zhongdoa wrote the book named *Leap and Ponder: Japanese Culture in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* in which the author disclosed in a deep and broad way the complicated dual character of Japanese culture by accounting the spirits of various Japanese cultures in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In *Japanese Cultural Pattern and Social Change*, Yang Wei emphasized the leading and restrictive role of local Japanese culture in assimilating foreign culture, and explored the melting pattern of local culture of Japanese Isles and foreign cultures from the aspects of spirit, system, material and the way of life before showing to the readers the change of Japan's society and history. As for various theories of Japanese cultures such as "the culture of variation", "the culture of disgrace" and "the culture of alloy", Wang Yong interpreted each and every doctrine in *The Theory of Japanese Culture: Interpretation and Restructure* published in *Japanese Studies* (6<sup>th</sup> issue, 2007) and pointed out that the mechanism of Japan's culture of creation should be "the culture of reproduction" rather than a culture of imitation nor one of independent creation.

In the study of "the theory of Japanese culture", many a scholar tried very hard to explore "Japanese spirit". In the last decade, there were at least two books named *Japanese Spirit* having been published. In his book of *Japanese Spirit*, Qin Qixun started from analyzing scholar's success and failure in studying Japanese spirit and explored the formation, development of change of such spirit. He pointed out that the essential spirit of the Japanese was their independent pioneering spirit, which was the underlying internal reason that drove them to march forward and was the fundamental reason of the success of Japan, an island country. Another *Japanese Spirit* features on the account of such spirit through detailed observation upon Japan and the personal experience of the author. There is a third book discussing about Japanese spirit, i.e. Li Dongjun's *The Moment when Flowers Fall: Bottom Colors of the Spirit of the*

*Japanese*. In this book, the author employed refined and beautiful diction, and discoursed upon ideas such as flower arrangement, tea ceremony, poetic drama, and Bushido before her exploring over the appreciation of “beauty” of the Japanese and their understanding over life and death from the cultural perspective.

The study on “the theory of the Japanese” is a topic people are more concerned. Works about it are the largest quantity as well, and most of them are based on writers’ close observation on the Japanese and their personal experience of Japanese culture. Shang Huipeng has been engaged in the study of Japanese national character and the deep structure of behavioral pattern of the Japanese; he has published in the last decade works such as *To Know the Japanese, Chinese and Japanese—a Comparative Study on Their Social Groups, Behavioral Patterns and Cultural Psychology*, and *Case Study on Cultural Conflicts and Understanding between China and Japan*. In these books, he made in-depth analyses on the character, behavioral pattern and cultural psychology of the Japanese. Yang Ning’s *To Learn about the Japanese: the Self-consciousness of the Japanese* is a book that introduces and studies how the Japanese see themselves. In this book, the author pointed out that Japanese self-consciousness of Meiji Period is the start of their self recognition, which contained both the dangerous theory of Japanese excellence and the precious theory of introspection. In *The Ambiguous Japanese*, Li Zhaozhong analyzed the conflict of personality that lay in the inner heart of the Japanese and that contained extreme self-conceit and inferiority, extreme modesty and brutality, extreme elegance and cruelty, and extreme intelligence and foolishness, and he also pointed out that such contradictory personality left the Japanese an ambiguous impression. The author then analyzed the causes of such ambiguity from the aspects of historical change, geographical conditions and resources and environment. In addition, books such as Sheng Banghe’s *The Japanese in Perspective*, *The Japanese That Cannot Be Sketched with One Stroke* chiefly compiled by Gao Zengjie, Wang Zhiqiang’s *Such Japanese*, Zhou Xingwang’s *What Does the Japanese Rely On?* and Cui Xia’s *See Japan through the Third Eye—the Postwar Japanese National Character in the Eye of a Women Journalist* are all works examining and analyzing the national character of the Japanese. Seen from the contents, perspectives and depth of these books, it can be found that Chinese people’s understanding about Japan is gradually deepening.

Chinese people’s view on the Japanese has been changing along with the long-term, various exchanges with Japan. The academic circle of China is carefully summing up the change of the view on the Japanese from various studies on “the theory of the Japanese”. In Li Zhaozhong’s *Japan beyond Exact Definition—Japan*



*in the Eyes of Chinese Cultural Elites*, the interpretations of Japan given by 16 Chinese cultural elites such as Lu Xun, Guo Moruo, Yu Dafu and so on, who had personal experience in Japan; these masters' understanding reflect Chinese people's view on the Japanese to some extent. Similar books include *My Impressions of Japan* which is compiled by Jia Zhifang and has collected writings about Japanese impressions given by Lu Xun, Guo Moruo, Ba Jin, Feng Zikai and so on, and *Lu Xun's Impression of Japan* compiled by Fan Ping, *Zhou Zuoren's Comments on Japan* published by Shaanxi Normal University Press, *The 7<sup>th</sup> Volume of the Collection of Zhou Zuoren's Literature—A Glance at Japan* chiefly compiled by Zhong Shuhe and so on. Moreover, books on Chinese view on Japan include Wang Xiangrong's *The View of Ancient Chinese on Japan*, and Sun Xuemei's *Chinese View on Japan at the Transitional Period of Qing Dynasty and Republic of China—with Zhili Province as the Center*. In *The Collection of Travels in Japan at the Late Period of Qing Dynasty* chiefly compiled by Wang Baoping, some books have been published such as *The Collection of Chinese and Japanese Poems*, *The Investigation on Military Affairs in Japan*, and *The Investigation on Japanese Politics and Law*.

#### **4. Obvious progress of the research on Japanese thought and religions**

The research on Japanese thought and religions has been a brilliantly shining point in the field of Japanese culture research in the past decade which is in the meanwhile theoretically demanding and calls for rather special knowledge and great skills in discoursing. Particularly in the field of the history of Japanese thought, many profound works came into being. In *East Asia and Integration—An Interpretation on the Unification of Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism*, Li Suping and He Chengxuan studied comprehensively and systematically the trinity of Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism in East Asia from the perspective of integration. In *Tradition and Transcendence: the Spiritual Trace Japanese Intellectuals*, Wu Guanghui analyzed the ideological features and philosophical ideas of typical Japanese thinkers of modern times.

Japanese society of modern times experienced a period flooded with various thoughts. Wang Qing's book *A Survey on Japanese Thoughts in Modern Times* covers Confucian teachings, Chinese national culture, Dutch learning, the thought of chonins and farmers, and is a book that is rather rare in our country and that briefly summarizes and introduces the history of thought in modern Japan. In *The Research on New Legalists in Modern Japan*, Han Dongyu pointed out that "getting rid of Confucianism" went through the entire process of Japan's modernization in order to refute the idea that Japan has carried out Confucian capitalism. Sorailism created by

Ogyuu Sorail, an thinker in the middle-and-late part of Edo Period and his disciples led to the birth of New Legalists in Modern Japan and resulted in the campaign of “giving up Confucian thoughts and following legal ideas” in the thinking circle of Edo Period, which directly and indirectly stimulated the occurring of Meiji Restoration and became the theoretical herald of “Japanese leaving behind Asian neighbors and keeping company with European countries”.

The research on Japanese Confucianism has always been the field where Chinese scholars have put much emphasis on. Wang Qing’s *The Research on A Modern Japanese Confucianist—Ogyuu Sorail* is the first book written by domestic scholars that systematically studies Ogyuu Sorail, an extremely important scholar in the academic history of modern Japan. For quite a long time, Confucian research in Japanese academic circle has been carried out around that in Edo Period, and domestic scholars thought that there was no point in studying Confucianism in modern Japan. Liu Yueging disagreed to the idea mentioned above and wrote and compiled successively three works about the study of Confucianism in modern Japan, namely *The Research on Confucianism in Modern Japan*, *Confucianism in Meiji Period and Modern Japan* and *Modern and Contemporary Thoughts in China and Japan and Confucian Teachings*. Liu pointed out that modern Confucianism in Japan is an independent stage and form in Japanese history of Confucianism, and it is the inheritance and development of the traditional Confucianism in a new historical period. After Wang Jiahua’s study on Japanese Confucianism in the last decade which had caused great reaction in Japan, Liu Yuebing’s research mentioned above received once again concern and credit in the Japanese academic circle. Moreover, in *The Discrimination of Theology as the Base and Confucianism for Application: Cultural Destiny of Confucianism in Japanese History*, Wang Jian put forward the idea of theology as the base and Confucianism for application—the Japanese psychological structure, and expounded the destiny and value of Confucianism in Japan.

Shintoism is a mysterious and strange area for Chinese scholars, about which there was little study. In recent years, scholars have made pioneering achievements in this field through their hard work. Se Yin’s *Japanese Shintoism and Culture* published in 1999 was a brief and general introduction to Shitoism. In *A Religion with No Scriptures: Japanese Shintoism* published in 2005, Liu Lishan made comprehensive investigation on Shintoism which covered the emergence and evolution of Shitoism, its sects, Shitoists’ political practice in modern society, and the feature of Shintoism. As an introductory book, it is quite readable. Wang Jinlin, who had been working very hard in the field of Japanese culture research for quite a long time, devoted himself to

the study of Shintoism in recent years. His book *Primitive Belief of the Japanese* is interpretation and exploration on the early Shitoism, and on such basis, he published the book named as *The Study on Japanese Shintoism*, in which he began his narration from the primitive Shintoism, and then discussed about the impacts of Chinese Taoism on Japanese Shintoism, the establishment of Japanese Royalty, the opposition and combination of Shintoism and Confucianism and foreign Buddhism, the formation, role, disintegration of national Shintoism in Japan and Shintoism in the postwar period. The complete content and insightful analysis make this book the greatest study of Shintoism ever made by Chinese scholars so far. In *Shintoism and Japanese Culture*, a collection of research papers compiled by Wang Baoping, there is in-depth study on the culture of Shintoism conducted from different angles.

As for the research on Buddhism in recent years, the book of *Japanese Zen* written by Liang Xiaohong introduces the origin, development and maturation of Japanese Zen. In this book, the author holds that Japanese Zen was originated in China, and it formed and developed along with the close exchange between Zen masters in both countries. In spite of its Chinese origin and each sect's rough keeping of the characteristics of Chinese Zen, it is the outgrowth of Chinese Zen and has its own features no matter in ideological systems or in the way of practice. In He Jinsong's *Modern Buddhism in East Asia with Japanese Militarism's Aggressive War as Its Clue*, we can find out detailed analyses and judgment on the role of Japanese Buddhism in the war of aggression.

Researches on Christianity are small in quantity, but Li Xiaobai's *Belief • Interest • Power — Christians' Preaching in Japan and The Interaction of Eastern and Western Civilization*, and Qi Yinping's *The Research on the Early History of Society of Jesus in Japan* are both works with detailed materials and incisive analysis, which are also the representative works in this field.

## **5. The Research on Japanese popular culture rising as the focus**

As time passed, Japanese popular culture has undergone fast changes in the blending of traditional customs and modern civilization. Along with the frequent and deepening exchange between China and Japan, domestic scholars have been continuously expanding their research on Japanese popular culture and a large number of great works thus came out. Among them is Cao Yongdi's *The Popular Culture of Modern Japan*, in which the author took as his clue the food, clothing, shelter and transportation of average people in contemporary Japan, and expounded the life in modern Japanese society and the process of cultural transition through describing Japanese clothing, residence, diet, transportation, radio and TV, publication, education,

newspapers, ads and magazines. Wang Ruilin and Wang He's *Chatting about Japan: a New Perspective of Japanese Culture* is another book which introduces popular culture through examining historical cultural exchange between China and Japan. In *An Overview of Japan's Customs*, Gao Guanzhong introduced the historical changes, geography, economy, culture, scenic spots, historical sites, local legends, anecdotes of celebrities, local conditions and customs of 47 administrative areas and over 70 cities in Japan, and he also provided readers with special chapters about the overall conditions of Japan, its brief history, climate, transportation, urban scenery and traditional art of architecture. It is a book full of knowledge and interest.

The traditional Japanese art is elegant and delicate, soft and meaningful, and is a cultural form that typically reflects oriental sense of aesthetics in the world history of art. The research on the traditional Japanese art moved much further in the past decade. There are ten volumes in the collection of *The Traditional Japanese Art* chiefly compiled by Li Shumin, in which there were accounts about narrative painting, Yamato-e, Buddhist painting, armor, Japanese sword, wood architecture, and ancient ceramics and so on. It is also the first series of illustrated works which introduced and evaluated traditional Japanese art on a grand and comprehensive scale. In *The Account about Japanese Art till the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*, Teng Jun combined the research of history, art and folklore and the actual experience, revealed to us typically traditional Japanese art forms such as sculpture, gagaku (Japanese court music), Yamato-e (traditional Japanese painting), masquerade tragedy and comedy, yards and gardens, chado (tea ceremony), ikabana (flower arrangement), ukiyo-e (Japanese woodblock prints), and kabuki (Japanese dance-drama), etc.

What's more, there appeared some special researches. On the research of kabuki, Li Ying wrote the book of *The Art of Japanese Kabuki*, in which he reviewed the historical origin of artistic exchange between China and Japan, explored the evolution of Japanese kabuki and analyzed its artistic features. In *The Comparison of Beijing Opera and Japanese Kabuki*, Zhu Xiangchai introduced the similarities and differences in the performance of these two art forms. On the study of Japanese tea ceremony, its development was introduced in Jin Fei's *The Shared Flavor of Tea and Zen: the Culture of Japanese Tea Ceremony*, and Zhao Fangren's *Anecdotes about Japanese Tea Ceremony*. On the study of the art of flower arrangement, Gu Chunfang and Hu Lingyuan's *The Art of Flower Arrangement*, a volume of the series books of Lecture Room of Japanese Culture chiefly compiled by Wang Huayong examined and described the attitude of the Japanese people held towards flower arrangement and revealed their longings, pursuits and thoughts of beauty. On the research of painting

like Yamato-e, there are Pan Li's *Yamato-e*, Li Peiling's *Yamato-e from Japan • Cultural Character of Japanese Design*, Mei Zhongzhi's *Elaborate Works of Japanese Yamato-e* and so on. As for sports like sumo wrestling, Chen Hongbing, Jin Shuying and Liu Ying wrote *Japanese Sumo Wrestling and Sumo Wrestlers*, in which the authors described the history and current situation of sumo wrestling.

Japan has always been in the lead as far as the application of modern technology is concerned. The emergence and popularity of fashion comic and animation are an epitome of application of modern technology in the field of popular culture. In *Japanese Comic and Animation*, Bai Shaohuang introduced the features of Japanese comic and animation, comic publishing industry in Japan, the status of comic and animation industry in the national economy of Japan, its influence on China, Europe and the U.S., and the rising of China's comic and animation industry.

Moreover, in *Comparative Study on Chinese and Japanese Dietetic Cultures*, Jia Huixuan examined China and Japan's farming cultures, dietetic ideas and customs and the origin of food cultures from the following aspects, namely archeology, history, folklore, cultural anthropology and so on. The book is a good reference for the public to learn about Chinese and Japanese food culture, and also provides scholars a unique point of view to study Japanese culture.

## **6. New harvest in the comparative study of cultures in China and Japan**

China and Japan are geographically close and culturally connected, but the paths of development and social system these two countries have taken are quite different. Along with the deepening of the study in Japanese culture, it has drawn the attention of domestic scholars to carry out comparative research on the cultures of China and Japan so as to make clear the similarities and differences between these two cultures, summarize each nation's experience and lessons, and ponder over the value of the traditional cultures of both countries. Moreover, the comparative study has also become the new field of researchers. Although it is rather difficult to conduct a cross-cultural and transnational comparison, scholars worked very hard and accomplished a great deal. Shang Huipeng's *Chinese and Japanese: Comparative Study on Social Groups, Behavioral Patterns and Cultural Psychology* mentioned above is a typical works of comparative research on the national character of Chinese and Japanese people.

The comparative study on Chinese and Japanese cultures is mainly centered on two nations' social transition in modern times. In the late stage of feudalistic society, China and Japan have adopted quite different attitudes towards the impact of western

culture, which produced remarkable impact on the development of their respective history. As far as the impact of western culture is concerned, both Zhao Deyu's *The Progressively Eastward Spreading of Western Learning and Reactions of China and Japan— Comparative Study over Western Learning in China and in Japan* and Yu Guifen's *The Progressively Eastward Spreading of Western Learning: Comparative Study on China and Japan's Assimilation of Western Culture* are great works. The former focused on the historic reflection and the latter positive research. In *Comparative Research on the History of Western Learning in China, Japan and Korea*, Li Hu expanded his review to the three nations in East Asia and tried to find out the caused that resulted in their different transitions into modern countries. In *Comparative Study on Western Learning in China and in Japan before the Sino-Japanese War of 1894*, Li Shaojun pointed out that the huge difference in spreading and taking-in western learning was a major cause that led to two nations' distancing in their process of modernization. Chen Jingyan wrote the book *Comparative Research on Chinese and Japanese Intellectual in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*. He conducted comprehensive comparison over the formation of intellectuals in two countries, their reactions to the impact of foreign powers and western culture, and he discussed the difference of "worshipping civility" and "admiring force", and the difference of "having Chinese learning as the base and western learning for application" and "possessing Japanese soul and mastering western techniques ". In this book, the author maintained that given the different domestic and foreign environments and the different cultural backgrounds, the intellectuals of China and Japan would play different roles and have different endings in modern society.

*Family Culture and Traditional Culture— Comparative Study on China and Japan*, and *Comparative Study of Family Systems in China and Japan* are two books written by Li Zhuo which are devoted to the comparative research on the family systems in China and Japan. In these books, the author carried out his analyses by deploying macro theoretical analysis and positive study the differences between Chinese and Japanese family systems, and pointed out that a Chinese family is a group bonded by blood, while a family of Japan is an operating organization with domestic possessions as its center. Consanguinity and sociality of Chinese and Japanese families consisted of the origin of every difference between families in these two countries. They resulted in the closeness of a Chinese family and the openness of a Japanese family, which further influenced the social and economic development of both countries and led to the formation of different national characters.

In addition, there are many other comparative studies on China and Japan

conducted from different perspectives. As far as the writer has seen, there are books including Cai Yanwei's *Comparative Study on Urban Structures of China and Japan*, Jia Huixuan's *Comparative Study on Chinese and Japanese Dietetic Culture*, Tie Jun, Zhou Jie and Jiang Xinxing's *The Research on Native Culture in China and Japan*, Liu Tingfeng's *The Comparison on Chinese and Japanese Classic Gardens*, Cao Lindi's *The Comparison on Classic Garden Culture of China and Japan*, Chen Qinjian's *Folk Customs: Blending and Conflicts of Chinese Japanese Cultures*, Liu Xiaofeng's *The Time of East Asia— Comparative Study on Calendrical Cultures*, Jiang Wenqing's *Eastern Classic Beauty— the Comparison on Traditional Chinese and Japanese Sense of Aesthetics*, Cao Wei's *Chinese and Japanese Cultures of Habitation*, Lin Huizi's *Chinese Women • Japanese Women*, Xu Yuanyong's *Comparative Study on Chinese and Japanese Music Cultures*, Wang Lirong's *Comparative Study on Contemporary Moral Education in China and Japan*, Liu Dalin's *Floating Life and Fancy Dreams: Comparison on Chinese and Japanese Sex Cultures*, etc. From the names of these books, we can find out that comparative study on Chinese and Japanese cultures has proceeded with an amazing scope as well as with certain depth.

## **7. Pioneering progress in the research on Japanese society**

The new works coming out in the past decade led our eyesight on Japanese society to its various social relations, social groups and social life. The emergence of new research perspectives, targets and methods symbolized that Chinese scholars had made pioneering progress in their research on Japanese society.

Li Zhao has long been engaged in the research on the family system in Japan and he has published successively *Family System and Japan's Modernization*, and *Comparative Study on Family Systems in China and Japan*, in which the author made detailed discussions on Japanese systems as of marriage, family, and inheritance from the social-historical point of view. For example, in the book of *The Research on Japan's Family Dictum*, Li took the family dictum of Japanese families as his research target, and carried out his exposition on Japan's family system, ethics and family dictums by chapters in accordance with the order of family dictum of the samurai, the businessmen and moral code of women. The family constitution in modern Japanese enterprises and the corporate code of contemporary companies are actually the extension or outgrowth of pre-modern family dictum, and they are the characteristic of the history of the development of family dictum, which is naturally the major part of this book. In this book, the author has chosen and collected typical samples of family dicta of the samurai, businessmen, and moral code of women, correspondences and corporate dicta and then translated them into Chinese, which

facilitates further research in terms of materials. Till now, these researches have formed a system, which can provide reference for domestic research circles and help the public learn about the Japanese and their society. Researches on the inheritance system in Japan also include Guan Wenna's *The Adoption System in Japanese History and Its Cultural Features* published in *Historical Research* (2<sup>nd</sup> issue, 2003) and Hou Qingxuan and Wang Weiwei's *Japan's Family Ethics and Modernization* in which the author discoursed mainly upon the role of family ethics in Japan's modernization, particularly in the operation of enterprises.

Pioneering progress was also made in the research on Japan's society from the perspective of gender. In *Japanese Women's Groups under Wartime System*, Hu Peng examined from the angle of gender the appearance, development, declination and disappearance of women's groups, their activities and roles; the author revitalized the overall image of Japanese women's groups during the wartime and conducted profound thought and objective comment on their doings during the wartime. Similar works include Li Jianjun's *Women of the Military Nation: Japanese Women and Great East Asia War*, a book about Japanese women and the war. *The Research on Women's Education in Modern Japan* is a book about the history of women's education development in Japan. Wang Huirong, the author, divided it into different stages according to features revealing in different times and she systematically introduced modern Japanese women's achievements in promoting education among women through examining typical female educators in different periods.

As far as the research on different social classes in Japan, scholars have achieved many accomplishments by carrying out their research from revealing the underlying causes of Japan's modernization. Liu Jincan's *Research on Chonin's Moral Thought—A New Theory on Underlying Causes of Japan's Modernization* is the only book in our country that takes Japanese chonins as its research target. In this book, the author carefully examined the formation of chonin class in modern Japan and the role of their ethics in Japan's modernization. The author held that chonin's morals were the original driving force that prompted Japan's change from a feudalistic society to a modern capitalistic one. Such an idea provided us with a new perspective to examine the causes of Japan's modernization. *The Class of Samurai and Japan's Modernization* is a book not limited to the traditional research on samurai's morals. In this book, the author carried out his research on the relations between the class of samurai and Japan's modernization from the following aspects as of the internal organization, social status of the samurai class and formation of their morals, the class of samurai and Meiji Reformation, and families of scholar-officials



and the take-off of Japan's modernization, and thus brought the research on the samurai class by a big step forward. Lou Guishu has published a great many papers on the samurai and their traditional code of morals and a book named *The Culture on the Blade: Samurais and Bushido*.

Social thoughts and public consciousness in Japan have attracted scholars' attention as well. In *The Contemporary Japanese Society and Social Thoughts*, Ji Tingxu combined the static character of the Japanese people and the tradition of their social thoughts and the dynamic change of contemporary social thoughts in Japan by using methods of history, sociology and politics, and attempted to explore the trend of social changes in modern Japan and the relations between political development and social thoughts. In *Japan's Social Thoughts and National Emotions*, Gao Zengjie, the chief-editor, expounded the interaction between the thought of nationalism and the thought of pacifism in the postwar society of Japan and analyzed the social bases of such changes and its impacts on Japan's domestic politics and its foreign policies by employing structural analysis of sociology and macro operation used in the history of thought. Similar works including Xu Jingbo and Hu Lingyuan's *Major Social Thoughts in Postwar Japan and the Sino-Japanese Relationship* and Zhao Jinghua's *Japan's Post-modernism and Intellectual Left-wings* describe Japan's social transformation and social thoughts since 1970s.

## **8. Growing concern on the research of social problems**

Along with the economic development in China, the issue of people's livelihood is attracting growing concern from both the government and the people. Japan, our neighbor to the east, endowed with well-developed economy and having a cultural background similar to that of China, has done a better job in the respects of social welfare and social insurance, so the research on social reality of Japan rises as the new hot issue nowadays.

The research on social security system in Japan is becoming the new focal point. In *Social Security System in Japan*, Lv Xuejing analyzed and commented comprehensively on the history of the establishment and development of social security in Japan, and Japanese systems of annuity, medical insurance, employment insurance, worker's compensation insurance, minimum subsistence security and social welfare. In the book of *The Development of Japanese Social Security System*, Shen Jie divided her introduction in terms of incubation period, period of formation and establishment, developing period and period of adjustment and restructure. In Song Jinwen's book, *The Rural Social Security in Japan*, we can find detailed description of the transformation of family support to social support of the seniors in the country of Japan and effective measures the government has taken in maintaining

rural social security.

To be honest, the research on the issue of Japan's social security within China is still in its initial period in that there are few voluminous works and most of research results are presented in research papers. For example, in the aspect of pension system, there are Bian Wei's *Payment Crisis of Public Annuity and Reform of Endowment Insurance System in Japan* published in *Japanese Studies* (3<sup>rd</sup> issue, 2003) and Wang Wei's *Review on Japan's Reform on Public Pension System* published in *Japanese Studies*(4<sup>th</sup> issue, 2007); in the research about medical attending insurance, there are Li Guangyong's *An Analysis on Reasons of the Establishment of Japan's Social Attending Insurance System* published in *Contemporary Economy of Japan* (2<sup>nd</sup> issue, 2003) and Lin Xianpeng's *Japan's Medical Insurance System for the Aged: Status quo, Plight and Countermeasures* published in *Japanese Studies* (3<sup>rd</sup> issue, 2005); in the respect of Business Annuity, there are Mao Huihong and Dai Weizhou's *Japan's Business Annuity System and its Indications to China* published in *Japanese Studies* (4<sup>th</sup> issue, 2004) and Zhu Mengnan and Yu Haiyan's *The Choice of Development Mode of Business Annuity System: Japan's Experience and Enlightenment* published in *Japan Problem Studies* (3<sup>rd</sup> issue, 2007) and so on.

In recent years, the issue of aging and decreasing of reproduction has drawn increasing public concern. There are many a papers in which the authors described the features and the present situation of Japan's aging society, analyzed its causes and listed its impacts on Japan's economy and society. Moreover, they introduced the measures the Japanese government has adopted in dealing with the aging society. Such papers include Chen Hongbin's *Aging and Low Birth Rate—A Difficult Problem Japan Cannot Solve* published in *Japanese Studies* (3<sup>rd</sup> issue, 2003), Song Jinwen's *A Theory on Modern Japanese Family and Supporting of the Aging* published in *Sociological Studies* (5<sup>th</sup> issue, 2001), Wang Wei's *The Trend of Japan's Population Structure and Its Impact on Society* published in *Japanese Studies* (4<sup>th</sup> issue, 2003), Che Weihang's *Japan's Aging Society: Status quo, Impact, and Countermeasures* published in *Japan Problem Studies* (4<sup>th</sup>, 2004), Chen Ming's *The Status quo of Japan's Aging Industry and Its Related Policies* published in *Population Journal* (6<sup>th</sup> issue, 2002) and so on. In the paper of *The Comparison of Aging in China and Japan* published in *Population & Economics* (2<sup>nd</sup> issue, 2003), Wang Guixin attempted to explore Japan's experience and lessons in dealing with the aging problem and its indications to China.

In the past decade, there were some research papers committed to the once cold

issue of population. In the paper of *Japanese Society's Population Growth Control in the Period of Modern Transformation* published in Journal of Northeast Normal University (3<sup>rd</sup> issue, 2007), Li Xiabai explored through a series of statistics and analyses Japan's control on population growth in late Edo Period and its deep reasons. The issue of population in modern Japan was discussed in the following papers, i.e. Li Tongping's *The Impact of Population Growth on Economy: Japan's Experience* published in Population Research (6<sup>th</sup> issue, 2002), Wang Guixin's *Change and Growth of Populations in China and Japan* published in Population and Family Planning (6<sup>th</sup> issue, 2002), Gu Yangmei's *The Research on Sustainable Development of Japan's Population, Resources and Environment* published in Population Journal (6<sup>th</sup> issue, 2005), Hao Bingjian and Chen Xinan's *The Population Factor of Japan's Modernization* published in Journal of Historical Science (2<sup>nd</sup> issue, 2003) and Wang Wei's *The Trend of Japan's Population Structure and Its Impact on Society* published in Japanese Studies (4<sup>th</sup> issue, 2003).

## **9. Two features of Chinese Translation of Japanese works**

A vital part of the research of Japanese culture and society lies in the translation and introduction of research accomplishments made in Japan. In the past few years, Chinese translation of Japanese works reveals two major features:

Firstly, the selection of works to be translated is more concerned about academy and masterpieces of scholars with academic influence are much more susceptible to be chosen. *Why did Japan Succeeded?* written by Michio Morishima in 1980s, a professor of London Institute of Politics and Economy, once stirred a major reaction among Chinese readers. In 1999, Morishima Michio wrote upon such basis another book, *Why Will Japan Fall?*, which was translated by Tianjin Compilation and Translation Center and was published by China Financial & Economic Publishing House in 2000. In this book, the author analyzed the Japanese society in terms of population, spirit, finance, industry, education, etc. and predicted that Japan would fall in 50 years. He proposed that the only remedy for Japan should lie in the connection of the fate of Japanese people with that of people in the entire Asia, and only in such common prosperity and development could Japan realize its long-term growth. Minami Hiroshi is one of the key post-WWII scholars who introduced American socio-psychology into Japan. His works *The Theory of the Japanese: from Meiji Restoration to the Modern Times* translated by Qiu Shuwen was accredited as "the masterpiece in exploring the people of Japan over a century". The time span of the book ranged from Meiji period, through the periods of Taisho, Hirohito to the modern times, and it is safe to say that it was a history of self-consciousness of the Japanese people and a book specially committed to objective comment on "the Japanese reviewing Japan". Koizumi Yakumo's book *Japan—the Country of God* was his

masterpiece in which he made an overall investigation on the evolution of the belief of God and the religious beliefs among the folks throughout the Japanese history, and traced back to the very origin of the formation of the Japanese character. Such writing was the earliest attempt of the westerners' interpretation on the fundamental drive of the exotic civilization of Japan. There were a good many translated works like these with similar strong influence, such as *The Research on the Spread of Chinese Classics in Japan in Edo Period* written by Ooba Osamu and translated by Qi Yinping and others, *The Variation of State Power and Civil Power—Spiritual Structure of the Japanese in Meiji Period* written by **Matsumoto Sannosuke** and translated by Li Dongjun, *Japanese Legends and Heart* written by Kawai Hayao and translated by Fan Zuoshen, *The Theory of Japanese Society—Sociology of the Family and the Society* written by Torigoe Hiroyuki and translated by Wang Jie, *Social Stratification of Modern Japan* written by Takazaka Kenji and translated by Zhang Xian and others, and the Bushido classics Hagakure *The Book of Hakaku* translated by Li Dongjun, etc.

Secondly, translated works are often published as the fruit of planned and organized teamwork and are often in the form of series of books. The Commercial Press translated and published in the past decade starting from 2004 over 150 academic works about Japan, among which there were on market *Native Customs* written by Watsuji Tetsuro, *The Psychological Structure of the Japanese* written by Doi Takeo and *The Research on Bureaucratic System of Japan. The Collections of Translated Classics of Japanese Sociology* translated under the organization of Beijing Research Center on Japanese Study consisted of ten volumes, including Tominaga Ken'ichi's *Modernization and Social Change of Japan*, Kumazawa Makoto's *Reform and Development of Japanese Business Management*, Hirota Yasuo's *Immigrants and the City*, Fujii Masaru's *Historical Sociology of the Family and the Clan*, Yoshino Kosaku's *Sociology of Cultural Nationalism—Orientation of the Self-defining Consciousness in Modern Japan*, Eta Yumiko's *A Device of Sex Domination*, SakuTa Keiichi's *Sociology of Value*, Ueno Chizuko's *Formation and Ending of Modern Families*, Masamura Toshiyuki's *Secret and Disgrace—Exchange Structure of Japanese Society*, and Tachibanaki Toshiaki's *The Disparity of Wealth in Japan: Analyzed from the Perspective of the Income and Assets*. These books were all the latest sociological works published after 1990 and had won great appraisal within the academic circle of Japan. Not only are they of help for our research on Japanese society, but they have important value of reference to our research on the society of China.

Apart from the works of Japanese scholars who enjoyed the advantage of geography and materials, the huge number of translated works about Japan included also the introductory research concerning Japan made by scholars of other countries. For instance, *The Religion of Tokugawa: the Origin of Modern Japanese Culture* written by Bella of the U.S. and translated by Wang Xiaoshan and Dai Rong is a works with profound research on the social structure and economic ethics of Japan. In this book, the author pointed out that a series of social changes in Edo Period such as the establishment of the national market, the development of cities, the impoverishment of the samurai caste, and the improvement of businessmen's social status had directly led to Meiji Reformation in 1868 and the rising of new Japan, and in this sense, Edo Period could be regarded as the origin of modern Japanese civilization. *Japanese Sense of Dwindling* translated by Zhang Naili is a writing of Li Yuning, a South Korean scholar. By observing from a unique perspective and analyzing in a special way, the writer saw through many social phenomena in Japan and reached the conclusion that the Japanese are good at dwindling and can prevail through their smallness. Australian scholar Ross More's *Understanding the Japanese* and Sugimoto Yoshio's *The Formula of the Theory of the Japanese* are also parts of Collection of Translated Works on Japanese Culture and were published by East China Normal University Press in 2007.

### **Concluding remarks**

To sum up, Chinese scholars have been advancing step by step in their exploration of Japanese culture and accomplished remarkable achievements which deserved our credit. However, there are aspects we fall short of. Given the adjacent geographical location and similar cultural background of China and Japan, people in China are getting more concerned about the Japanese culture and society, which was fueled by the alternation of the historical roles of the teacher and the student and the bitter experience of Japanese invasion in China, particularly a string of frictions in Sino-Japanese relationship in recent years. Along with ordinary Chinese people being more informed and the booming of IT, their desire to learn about Japanese culture and society is strengthened as well, an issue that can be fully supported by the following fact. According to incomplete statistics, Nitobe inazo's *Bushido* has been reprinted for 9 times up to 2006 since it was first translated by Zhang Junyan and published by the Commercial Press in 1993. Moreover, there have been at least 5 different editions since 2003. Benedict' *Chrysanthemum and the Sword* was first translated by Lv Wanhe and others and was published by the Commercial Press in 1990; it has been reprinted for 16 times with 6 new editions till December 2007. The happening of such a phenomenon reveals the need of the public on one hand, and the absence of "classics" with so strong authority and influence on the other hand. From now on, it is

essential for us to combine each and every researcher's wisdom and ability and promote cooperation among colleges and institutes with careful and overall planning so as to further improve our research on the culture and society of Japan.

(Translated by Duan Yu)

## **Studies of Japanese Literature in China (1997-2007)**

Wang Xiaoping

Among all the researches on Japan, the study of Japanese culture and literature has yielded substantial results in China. At the early stage of reform and opening up, Chinese researchers creatively translated and introduced a great number of Japanese arts, including movies. All these actually became the first light that Chinese saw when they opened the window of the world and promoted ideological liberation movement in China. Along with the deepening of reform and opening up, Japan gradually topped the wish lists of many Chinese students studying abroad. A large number of scholars, who learned Japanese language, literature and arts, personally witnessed the complete picture of Japan and contacted with Japanese culture. Then, a true Japan is communicated to Chinese people by them. In another word, it is through the study of literature and arts that a bridge of mutual understanding between Chinese and Japanese is erected to withstand wind and waves.

Study of Japanese literature in China has scored vigorous development since the reform and opening up. Many masterpieces of modern literature and classical literature were translated and published, among which many fine works made great and widespread impact on readers. Meanwhile, Chinese scholars' study has gained considerable progress since they gradually shifted from pure appreciation, criticism or translation of Japanese works to having their own set of research methods and theories. By means of open-minded learning, understanding and imitation of Japanese literature, then the integration with the Chinese academic tradition, Chinese scholars established close contact with Japanese academic circle. They found an appropriate way of expression suitable to today's cultural environment, which expanded the influence of Japanese literature on a big country with 1300 million. At the same time, the outstanding elements in Japanese literature were absorbed to help create modern culture in China.

After nearly 20 years' sediments and accumulation, study of Japanese literature in China continued to develop in 1997-2007. Professors in

universities and colleges and scholars from various research institutes launched a great number of research achievements, which far exceeded that of any decade in history in both quantity and quality.

Compared with the research on other foreign literature in China, the characteristics of Japanese literature study are increasingly prominent. Thanks to adjacent location and close cultural origin, the translation circle in China can respond rapidly to Japanese literature. Based on both sides' strong willingness to exchange and diverse channels of communication, the Japanese literature researchers in China have more opportunities to communicate immediately with Japanese culture. According to incomplete statistics, in the past 20 years there have been over 60 Chinese researchers in International Research Center for Japanese Studies, among which culture and literature researchers occupied a large proportion, especially in the early stage. In addition, due to various reasons such as historically cultural ties, increasingly close economic links, related political issues and tourism hot in recent years, Chinese readers show increasing interest in Japanese issues and culture. Though literature of Europe and America still holds the first place in Chinese readers' appreciation of foreign literature, Japanese literature has gradually taken the fancy of public. As more and more Japanese works were translated and introduced to China, studies of Japanese literature began to possess a solid foundation among the masses.

On the basis of brief analysis on the main research results of Japanese literature in 1997-2007, the author will put forward some points of view on how to promote the research to a more profound and broad level.

#### 1. The milestone of "made in China" emerged in the research of Japanese literature history

History of Japanese literature has always been the key to the study of Chinese researchers. In recent years, thanks to frequent international communication, Chinese researchers got access to more original works and in-depth exchange with foreign researchers. The 1997-2007 decade witnessed the publication of general history of Japanese literature, dynastic history and some main research achievements on the development of major literary form, among which the research of Ye Wei-qu and Tang Yu-mei from Institute of Japanese Studies



CASS is the most fruitful. *History of Japanese Literature Thoughts* written by Ye Weiqu, *History of Japanese Literature, A Brief History of Japanese Literature* and *20th Century History of Japanese Literature* by Ye Weiqu and Tang Yuemei were all published in this period.

*History of Japanese Literature* by Ye Weiqu and Tang Yuemei, with 2.1 million words in four volumes, is another great achievement in the study of Japanese literature history in China since Xie Liuyi wrote *History of Japanese Literature* in the 30s of last century. The new version of *History of Japanese Literature*, which is regarded as “the new milestone in the study of Japanese literature history” (Lin Lin) by the academic circle, represents “the great accomplishment and summary of the general history writing of Japanese literature”. It “not only sets a landmark for the general history writing of Japanese literature, but also provides a solid foundation for the future researchers” (Wang Zhongchen). “Three-dimensional and intersected research system” (multi-directional and multi-level research mechanism) is adopted to illustrate overall and systematically the whole historical course of Japanese literature. Macroscopically speaking, authors grasp the relationship between Japanese literature and philosophical aesthetics and explore the formation of Japan’s Aesthetic System. Microscopically speaking, they analyze the literary creation and theoretical construction of those representative writers and literary theorists. Meanwhile, the book discusses in detail the communication between Japanese and foreign literature (Chinese literature included), then puts forward the development model of the Japanese literature, which is “conflict, coexistence, integration”. *History of Japanese Literature Thoughts* is another achievement of “three-dimensional and intersected research system”. In this book, Japanese literature is put in the social and cultural development process of the whole society. Writers, works, theories and criticism are collected to be systematically analyzed and compared with each other. By means of a large number of empirical studies, the author shows the collision, convergence, and integration process in which Japanese native literature thoughts communicate with foreign ones. With the distinctive research perspective of thoughts, which is quite different from usual formation mode of literary history, the book is regarded as an innovation in the study of Japanese literature.

*Chinese Subjects in the History of Japanese Literature* written by Wang Xiangyuan is the first Japanese general history with Chinese theme at home and abroad. The vertical historical evolution and horizontal comments on the writers and their works are combined in the book to explore systematically the Japanese literary works with Chinese people as heroes. It reflects the evolution and change of Japanese people's views on China. Meanwhile, through analysis of the status of Chinese subjects in Japanese literature, the book reveals the huge and continuing impact of Chinese culture on Japanese literature. Its main content is also included in the author's another work, named *Source of the Flowing Water-Japan's Contemporary Historical Novel and China's Historical Culture*.

Guided by historical materialism, Luo Xingdian wrote *History of Japanese Poetry* to illustrate the development process of Japanese new poetry (modern free verse) which appeared after Meiji Reformation. It is regarded as not only a pocket-sized encyclopedia on Japanese new poetry but also one reflection of the history of thought in Japanese culture. Luo xingdian's *Japanese Poetry and Arts of Translation*, published in 2003, is divided into three chapters, including "Japanese Poetry", "Arts of Translation" and "Extra Topics". The first two chapters illustrate systematically Japanese poetry and arts of translation, while the last chapter collects the author's own poems and essays. Big progress has also been made in the study of Japanese poetry by Zheng minqin, who narrates the development process of Japanese national poetry in his works *History of Japanese National Poetry*, most of whose space is given to the evolution of ballad and haiku from early modern times to modern times. *History of Japanese Haiku* is focused on each historical period of haiku development: the origin, the cradle of period, the golden age, palmy days and the revolution of haiku in Showa Japan, as well as the relationship between haiku and China.

In addition, *History of Japanese Classical Literature* by Gao wenhan, *History of Modern Japanese Literature* by Tan jinghua and *History of Japanese Post-war Literature* by Cao zhiming are all the outstanding achievements in the period.

## 2. Many ice-breaking works on modern and contemporary literature were published

For a long time, most research on Japanese literature has been focused on the early modern times, especially those several writers in the period, so that some scholars even expressed their doubts over the limited research subjects. The phenomenon is

attributed to many factors, such as political environment, one-sided literary concept as well as researchers' limited scope of knowledge. However, a series of new works published in the decade of 1997-2007 announced the preliminary results of all-around exploration achieved by the Chinese scholars.

The decade of 1997-2007 being at the turn of the century, schools of foreign literature and Japanese major writers in the twentieth century become understandably the preferred research topics.

As a great master of modern Japanese literature, Natsume Soseki is the focus of various Japanese history of literature, and most of his works have already been translated into Chinese. However, the monographs specialized in him and his works were rare until the publication of *Japanese Great Modern Writer Soseki* written by He Shaoxian in 1998. Abandoning the general way of writing geography, the author doesn't emphasize on Soseki's novels but makes an intensive study of his literary theory and literary ideas from the perspective of a critic. The research method is rare even in the research circle of Japan. In 2007, *On Natsume Soseki's Novels* by Li Guangzhen starts with the formation of Soseki's realism literature outlooks to analyze the novels' ideological intention, characters, narrative features and so on. *Interpretation on "I Am A Cat"* written by Che Li gives a detailed account of Soseki's life experience and his the writing technique and unique artistry expressed in *I Am A Cat*. Achievements have been made in some aspects, such as the analysis of works, ethical aspect of "Sokutenkixyosi", the relationship with Chinese literature and comparison with Lu Xun, which are the focus of most papers. As a whole, the papers on the study on Natsume Soseki are of small number and the topics are quite repetitive, which is not commensurate with his status in the literary history.

Both Yasunari Kawabata and Kenzaburo Oe being Nobel Prize winners in literature, the research on them continues to heat up. As the Japanese writer who has been most frequently introduced and commented in the past twenty years. Yasunari Kawabata remained a hot topic of Japanese literature research during 1997-2007. Every year for the decade, one or more works about Yasunari Kawabata or his literature were published. 1999 saw the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Yasunari Kawabata's birth and then The Fifth Seminar on Yasunari Kawabata and Commemoration Meeting for 100th Anniversary of Yasunari Kawabata's Birth was held in Changchun of Jilin province. In the same year, *The Eternal Beauty: Research on Yasunari Kawabata* compiled by scholars from China, Japan and America was published, in which 33 papers of recent

years were included to give a systematic and detailed account of Yasunari Kawabata's life experience and works. In addition, Beijing Normal University Publishing House published *Sense Oriental Beauty: On Yasunari Kawabata's "Snow Country"* in 2007. The past decade also witnessed many essays on Yasunari Kawabata in all kinds of journals. The focus of discussion is mainly his aesthetic sense, the idea of nihilism, death awareness and feminist idea of sexualism, as well as his attitude toward war, tradition and modernity.

In his *Yasunari Kawabata and Oriental Classics*, Zhang Shi strives to achieve the unity of hermeneutics and demonstrations in the research method, while as for the content and expression he tries to meet the reading habits of Chinese readers. Dr. Zhou Yue has always concerned the research on Yasunari Kawabata and in succession published two books of *A Critical Biography of Yasunari Kawabata: How Does He Write* and *Union of Man and Nature - Snow Country* and several papers. On the basis of previous accumulation, he continued to publish *A Cultural Study of Yasunari Kawabata's Literature: Center on Oriental Culture*. From the perspective of intensive reading of Yasunari Kawabata's works, Dr. Zhou Yue pays special attention to the philosophy consciousness and mental sentiment expressed in Yasunari Kawabata's life experience and works, as well as the various levels of "cultural dialogue" centered on "artistic beauty". In the end, the author reveals all aspects of Chinese culture which have been internalized into Yasunari Kawabata's creative consciousness. The book is truly one of the basic works which reorganize the modern Japanese literary studies, comparative literary studies and the Sino-Japanese cultural relations in modern times.

Kenzaburo Oe won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1994. In the following year, 13 papers specializing in him were published in China. In 2001, Hebei Education Publishing House published *Optional Collection of Kenzaburo Oe* with a total of four books in three volumes. Four years later, Nanhai Publishing Company published *Kenzaburo Oe's Essays. Voice from the Fringe: Mo Yan's and Kenzaburo Oe's Literature* written by Zhang wenyong focuses on the comparison of the two famous writers, both of whom devote themselves into fringe literature in spite of different nationalities and eras. Through the careful analysis and exploration of main fringe images, the author tries to decode the writers' literature. With a quite sharp and innovative perspective, the book enjoys high academic value. Other books include *Kenzaburo Oe's Literary World* by Wang Xinxin and *On Imagination: Method of Kenzaburo Oe's Novels* by Wang Zhuo. In addition, the published papers explored

mostly tradition and modernity, impact of western literature, Chinese elements, consciousness of salvation, politics and sex and deconstruction.

Haruki Murakami, known as “the 80’s Natsume”, is one of the most popular pure literature writers in Japan. In the point of view of Lin Shaohua, who translated Haruki Murakami’s works into Chinese, his works “merge successfully western rational analysis and absurd dream consciousness into the essence of the Japanese traditional literature, and depict vividly the awkward position of small potatoes in big cities and the weightless spiritual world of young intellectuals”. Most researchers devote themselves to the translation of Haruki Murakami’s works. The research works include *Haruki Murakami and His Works* by Lin Shaohua and *Entering Norwegian Forest: Haruki Murakami’s World* by Lei Shiwen and other papers. In spite of few papers with profound theoretical analysis, the following three have their original perspectives: *Well, Water and Taoism: On Taoist Philosophy of Haruki Murakami’s Literature* (*Japan Studies*, 2001 No. 4) by Sun Shulin, *Reality Is Passable, Not Absolute: On the Unrealistic Factors and Realistic Topic in Haruki Murakami’s Fictions* (*Foreign Literature Studies*, 2002 No. 1) by Zhao Renwei and *Heterogeneous Features in Haruki Murakami’s Fiction: Interpreting Kafka on the Shore* (*Foreign Literature Review*, 2005 No. 3) by Wei Dahai.

Tang Yuemei put forward that academic research should not be subject to political influence and Yukio Mishima deserved objective reviews, and then she published *Yukio Mishima* in 2003. As far as the papers are concerned, most of them focused on his understanding of death and beauty. In addition, Fu Bo’s *Greek Classical aesthetics in Yukio Mishima’s Fictions* (*Journal of Jilin TV & Radio University*, 2007 No. 4) probes into Yukio Mishima’s aesthetic consciousness. *Beauty vs. Vice in Yukio Mishima’s the Temple of the Golden Pavilion* (*Foreign Literature Review*, 2007 No.2) by Guo Yong gives an analysis of Yukio Mishima’s extreme nationalism. *On the Inner Direction of Yukio Mishima’s Creation* (*Japan Studies*, 2004 No. 1) by Zhang Tao tries to grasp his overall history of creation.

In addition, Akutagawa, Shirakaba Literature, Aesthetic Literature, War Literature including Anti-war and Aggression literature are also the concentration of research topics. In his “*Pen Troop*” and *the War of Aggression against China: A Study and Criticism of Japanese Literature during the Aggression against China*, Wang Xiangyuan combined theory with history to give an incisive criticism to the “pen

troop”, who concocted Japanese literature during the aggression to preach the war and became the main force of Japanese cultural aggression and infiltration. In his opinion, “If we don’t study the Japanese Literature during the Aggression, we cannot recognize the forming and expanding of Japanese militarism; we cannot explore the profound social root of Japanese aggression from the perspective of Japanese consciousness; we cannot have a thorough understanding of the history of Japanese invasion. Therefore, the research’s value and significance is far beyond the scope of pure literature”. His other works such as *A Contrastive Study of Sino-Japan Modern Literature* and *A Translation History of Japanese Literature into Chinese* also show his keen awareness and remarkable ability of unifying complex materials.

During this period, a large number of Japan's modern literary works were translated into Chinese and published. Gathering the well-known translators in China, *Akutagawa Ryunosuke* (five volumes) edited by Gao Huiqin and Wei Dahai is an excellent translation.

### 3. The study of Japanese classical literature became mature.

Research of Japanese classical literature demands not only understanding of modern Japanese culture but also a solid grounding in the ancient languages and Sino-Japan classical culture, which means it will take longer time for a researcher to be mature. In a financial-interest-focused era, only those who are not tempted by fame or fortune but happy for the loneliness and profound accumulation are expected to make achievements in this field. Fortunately, some progress has been made in the cultivation of doctors of classical literature in Peking University and Tianjin Normal University. In addition, some masters of arts majoring in Japanese also show their interest in the study of classical literature.

In the 1980s, People's Literature Publishing House published a series of Japanese classical masterpieces, such as *The Tale of Genji* translated by Feng Zikai, *Makuranososhi and Tsurezuregusa* translated by Zhou Zuoren and Wang Yizhu and *Heike Monogatari* and *Election of Japanese Ballad and Kyogen* translated by Shen Fei and so on. Fudan University Press published *Collection of Ancient and Modern Poems* and *Manyoshu*, both of which have been reprinted several times. Some new translations appeared in recent years. In 1998, *Election of Manyoshu* translated by Li Mang was published by People's Literature Publishing House. In 2002, the full translation of *Manyoshu* by Zhao Lesheng was published by Yilin Press. The

translation of *Tsurezuregusa* (including *Hojoki* and *Tsurezuregusa*) by Li Junyang, *Tale of Genji* and *A Haiku Journey* by Zheng Minqin and *Tale of Genji* by Yao Jizhong reflect the new achievements in translation theory and practice gained by a number of new stars.

The translators of Japanese ancient poetry such as Zheng Minqin and Liu Derun constantly offered new works. Yunnan People's Publishing House published *Series of Japanese Tales*, in which the new translations of *Taketori Monogatari*, *The Tale of Genji* and *Heike Monogatari* were included. As for *Konjakumonogatari* translated by the former Beijing Compilation and Translation Press, there are two versions: the one revised by Zhou Zuoren was published by New Star Publishers in 2006; the other one revised and made notions by Zhang Longmei was published by People's Literature Publishing House in 2008. Zhou Zuoren's translation of Japanese classical literature has caused many readers' concern and his translations including *Kojiki* and *Makuranososhi* were collected in *Translations Done at the Studio of Uninterrupted Rain* edited by Zhi'an. *Manyoshu* and *Konjakumonogatari*, translated by Jin Wei and Wu Yan, were published respectively by People's Literature Publishing House and Volumes Publishing House. *A Survey of Japanese Women Poets*, edited by Chen Yan and Liu Ligu, gave a comprehensive translation and introduction to the poets in different periods and their different styles and schools.

In 1991, the publication of Yomihon *The Legends of Eight Knights in Nansousatomi* translated by Li Shuguo is a great achievement on Japanese literature studies and translation. In 2005, Li Shuguo edited *Election of Japanese Yomihon: Ethic Customs in Edo period*, in which seven masterpieces were included such as *Kokon Kidan Hanabusa Zoushi*, *Kokon Kidan Shigeshige ya wa*, *Kokon Kaidan Ugetsu Monogatari*, *Honchou Suikoden*, *Sakurahime Zenden Akebono (No) Zoushi* and *Sansei Zenden Nanka No Yume*. It provides important data for the research on civic novels in Edo period. His works *Japanese Yomihon and Fiction of Ming and Qing Dynasty: Perspective of Sino-Japanese Culture Communication* in 1998 is the comparative study of the traditional novels in China and Japan. Through absorbing and summarizing the research findings of Japanese scholars, he summed up the relationship between yomihon and Chinese literature into three books: *Jiandeng New-story Anthology*, *Three Collections of Short Stories* and *Water Margin*. In his opinion, *Jiandeng New-story Anthology* enabled the reedited novels to emerge in Japan and provided a distinctive approach to the creation of yomihon; the yomihons

in early days were created through the re-edition of *Three Collections of Short Stories*; and the yomihons in later period were created through the re-edition of *Water Margin*. In a word, centered on the above three novels in China, Li Shuguo explored impact of Chinese fictions on Japanese yomihons in his book, with part of translation of main yomihons after each chapter, which enhances its value as literary document.

*The Tale of Genji*, the Japanese classic of ancient literature, is widely recognized as the first saga novel in the world. Besides the research from the perspective of the comparative literature, aesthetics, psychology and folklore, most of Chinese researchers focused on the relationship between *The Tale of Genji* and Chinese culture. International Conference on *The Tale of Genji* was held in 2001 and the theses were collected in *The Tale of Genji on the Background of Global Culture* edited by Zhang Longmei, who is the one of the experts in the study of *The Tale of Genji*. Many of her theses were published in the academic journals and research collections in China and Japan, such as *Political Nature in The Tale of Genji (Kaishaku to kyozaï no kenkyu, 2001 No. 12)*, *The Tale of Genji and Collected Works of Bai Juyi (The Collected Works of Sino-Japanese Cultural Communication, Shanghai Lexicographical Publishing House, 2005)* and *The Relationship between Fascicle Kiritsubo of The Tale of Genji and Song of Eternal Sorrow(Nihougo no Gakushu to Kenkyu, 2007 No. 8)* and so on. *The Tale of Genji and Chinese Traditional Culture* by Yao Jizhong, specialized in philology, explored the relationship between *The Tale of Genji* and Chinese traditional culture. The comparative study of *The Tale of Genji* and *Dream of Red Mansions* is also the hot topic and many related theses have been published.

More research on Japanese classical drama was done in this period. In *Comparison of Peking Opera and Japanese Kabuki* written by Zhu Xiangchai, the first half is given to introduce the similarities and differences between the stage performance of Peking Opera and Japanese Kabuki, while the second half is used to study the stage performance of New Romance of Three Kingdoms, which was the large show of contemporary Kabuki. Zhang Junzhe's *Forms of Sino-Japanese Classical Tragedies* is divided into two parts: forms of Sino-Japanese classical tragedies and comparative study of Sino-Japanese classical tragedies. In the book, the author deals with the relationship between the tragic motives in Chinese ancient dramas and Japanese No (Japanese ballad). In addition, *Japanese Ballads with China Theme* and *Introduction to Comparative Literature of East Asia* are also his achievements.

Other works also include *Japanese Kabuki* by Li Ying, *On Relationship of Drama*



*Culture in China, Japan and Korea* by Weng Minhua, *Ancient Drama and Oriental Culture* by Zheng Chuanyin and *The World Cultural Legacy: Survey of Japanese Ancient Drama “No”* by Wang Donglan.

The research on Japanese classical literature has been focused on *The Tale of Genji*, *Manyoshu*, Japanese No play *Banana*, aesthetic awareness of classical literature and Chinese literature, especially the comparative study of Sino-Japanese literature and culture, among which the research on *Manyoshu* is the most productive. The related theses include *A Comparative Study On The Example Writing Formations in Dunhuang MS And The Correspondence Formation of Manyoshu* (*Dunhuang Research*, 2004 No. 6) by Wang Xiaoping, *On Divergence of Special Quality of Chinese and Japanese Poems: An Observation of The Book of Songs and Manyoshu* (*Japanese Studies Forum*, 2006 No.1) by Hu Lingyuan and *How Baixue was Absorbed into the Japanese Waka* (*Foreign Literature Review*, 2006 No. 4) by LU Li. Ma Jun has published a series of articles on the research of *Manyoshu* in *Nihougo no Gakushu to Kenkyu* since 1999, such as *On the Origin of Waka in Manyoshu*, *On the Origin of Chinese Vocabulary in Manyoshu* and *On the Volume 16 of Manyoshu* and so on. Based on the accumulation over years, the above research focused on the interpretation of the text and inflected the high level of research on *Manyoshu*.

In 2005, The Literature Office of The Beijing Center for Japanese Studies compiled and published *Dictionary of Japanese Classical Literature*, which became a quite comprehensive reference book for the research of Japanese classical literature. Established in China's research circle and emphasized on case study, the dictionary not only illustrates the effect of Chinese literature during the analysis of works but also tries to reflect the characteristics of Sino-Japanese comparative study. *Chinese-Japanese Bilingual Chronology of History of Literature* in the appendix enables readers to form a comprehensive and intuitive understanding of Sino-Japanese classical literature.

4. The studies of Sino-Japanese literature relations and history of Sino-Japanese literature exchanges had exciting results.

Japan is definitely one of the countries which have been in close relationship with Chinese culture both in ancient and modern times. Today, as one-way flow of cultural exchange is over, the two cultures have been involved in the more frequent and profound interaction. In many fields, the two interlocked cultures seem identical but

with great differences. There are few countries which have the history of culture exchange as long and productive as China and Japan. Doing research on the cultural exchange in the past and present is one of the primary duties faced by Chinese literature researchers.

There are many historical documents related to the history of Sino-Japanese literature relationship and exchange but not systematically reorganized yet. Yan Shaodang's *The History of Sino-Japanese Ancient Literature* and Wang Xiaoping's *The History of Sino-Japanese Literature Exchange in Modern Times*, both of which were published in 1980s, were regarded as "the two outstanding works" in this field. Gao Wenhan's *Comparative Study of Sino-Japanese Ancient Literature*, which was published in 1999, involves all the periods in the history of Sino-Japanese ancient literature. Focused on the development of Chinese literature in Japan and the main writers and works, Gao Wenhan employed a combination of empirical and theoretical analysis to discuss Japan's Chinese poetry and Chinese language and their relationship with Chinese literature. Taking an example of *Taketori Monogatari* and *The Tale of Genji*, the author also explored the tale culture's absorbing and learning from Chinese literature. Therefore, the works can be regarded as an outline of Sino-Japanese ancient literature history with fairly complete theoretical system.

The discovery of Dunhuang literature in 20th century changed part of Chinese literature history and enriched the world's understanding of the relationship between Chinese and Japanese Literature. In Japanese literature, not only the effect of Dunhuang literature but also its interlinked and extended elements can be found. Wang Xiaoping's *Seeds from Tang Dynasty: Dunhuang Stories in Japan* and *Far-spread Legacy: Dunhuang Buddhist Literature in Japan*, both of which were published in 2005, emphasized Dunhuang Buddhist stories and literature spread widely in Japan. Through detailed information and rigorous analysis, the author discussed the spread of Dunhuang culture and Japan's acceptance for it, and then revealed ancient Japanese people's value orientation and the original characteristics of Japanese culture.

*Poetry of Tang Dynasty in Japan* by Song Zaixin and *Romance of Three Kingdoms in Japan* by Qiu Ling and Wu Fangling are also works in this field. Though the topics were not innovative, the writers absorbed the achievements of Japanese scholars and then put forward their new points of view on many issues. As for *The Love and Marriage World in Ukiyozoshi* by Wang Ruoqian and Qi Xiuli, though the article was

not well-knit, the writers made a useful attempt to carry out a comparative study of Ukiyozoshi and Chinese vernacular novels such as *Stories from a Ming Collection*.

Big progress has also been made in the research of Sino-Japanese literature relationship of modern times. Japan's modern writers Natsume Soseki and Akutagawa, Japanese left-wing literature and the contemporary writer Yasunari Kawabata and so on have a great impact on Chinese literature. Therefore, it is necessary to do careful research on Sino-Japanese literature relationship since modern times. In his works *Border-crossing and Imagination: Comparative Study of Chinese and Japanese Literature in 20th Century*, Wang Zhongchen discussed some specific topics and literary forms in 20th century Sino-Japanese literature. However, the discussion was not limited in the relationship between Chinese and Japanese literature. In some chapters, their relationship with Western literature and media was also included. As for Xiao Xia's *Romanticism: Bridge of Japan and May 4th Movement of 1919*, the author employed a combination of influence study and parallel study to explore Lu Xun and the Creation Society members' early romanticism and Japanese modern romanticism. *Choosing, Accepting and Transforming: The Change of Chinese literature and its Relationship with Japanese Literature from Late Qing Dynasty to the Early Thirties of 20th Century* by Fang Chang'an went into the effect of Japanese literature in modern times, including the literature innovation in late Qing Dynasty and Japanese enlightening literature, the transformation of late Qing literature to May Fourth literature and Japanese literature, and modern novels in 1930s and Japanese neo-sensationalism, and then reflected upon some problems. Such research works also include Hu Lingyuan's *Awakening of Man and Consciousness of Literature: Similarities and Differences between China and Japan*, Wang Xiaoping's *Red Plums and Pink Cherries: Japanese Writers and Chinese Culture*, Lin Qi's "Fenggu" and "Mononoaware": *Comparative Study of Sino-Japanese Female Narration in Twentieth Century*, Zhang Fugui and Jin Conglin's *Comparative Study of Sino-Japanese Literature Relationship in Modern History*, Dong Bingyue's *On Modern Literature Relationship between China and Japan* and Jin Mingquan's *Japan's Effect on the Development of Chinese Modern Literature*, and so on.

*Border-crossing and Misinterpretation: On the Sino-Japanese Interculture* by Gao Ning discussed the cultural variation and misinterpretation after crossing the border from the intercultural perspective, including the pros and cons. Based on facts and arguments, the works provide quite a few original ideas. It not only followed the writer's highly critical tradition but also demonstrated his resolution of challenging himself.

The cross-national, cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary research on Japanese literature and its relationship with Chinese literature and culture, from the perspective of comparative literature, is becoming gradually the breakthrough point for Chinese scholars. Throwing off restrains of purely literary studies in the past, the researchers

begin on cross-disciplinary subjects such as literature and philosophy, literature and religion and literature and culture, which broadens researchers' mind conversely. The appearance of so many achievements also indicates that Chinese researchers strive to use a unique perspective to look at Japanese literary works and analyze Japanese literary trends and schools. In addition, the achievements bring a wealth of historical materials to the study of Chinese literature especially the ancient literature, and then promote the development of Chinese literature research. The importance of international communication in the academic community becomes increasingly prominent.

##### 5. Chinese scholars took lead in the research on Japan's Chinese literature.

The mutual dependence and mutual promotion of Chinese literature and Japanese literature in Japan has constituted the unique pattern of Japanese literature since ancient times. The impact of Chinese literature on the development of Japanese literature and culture was ever significant and irreplaceable. However, in modern times, Chinese literature even runs into the danger of disappearing from the cultural memory. To give a proper evaluation of Chinese literature by doing research is the task that Japanese literature researchers should undertake. Considering Chinese literature's status in the world literature, Chinese scholars paid great attention to the study of Chinese literature in Japan and waged active academic exchange with Japanese communities.

How to evaluate the historical role of Chinese literature in Japanese social life is a problem related to the literary concept. Some scholars including Chen Fukang pointed out that Chinese literature was once part of Japan's dominant ideology and should be rediscovered.

Lu Shengjiang's research on Kukai not only remains at the forefront of Chinese researchers but also makes up for deficiencies of Japan in this regard. He went to mountains and temples during his twice visit to Japan and ran about the two sides of the Taiwan Straits to identify the existing versions. By means of checking, annotation and exploration, he filled up the omissions of the old sayings and presented his own opinions in his *A Collection of Essays on Bokyo Hihu Ron* with over 12 million words. His another works *Kukai and Bokyo Hihu Ron* is also the great achievement on the research on Kukai in recent years. Lu Shengjiang may be regarded as the greatest researcher of *Bokyo Hihu Ron* at present.

In his *A Collection of Essays on Chinese Poetry in Japan*, Cai Yi embodied his 18 essays on Chinese poetry and Chinese literature in Japan, ranging from discussing Japan's Chinese poets and their poems from Heian period until Meiji period to making comments on Chinese books' complication and circulation in Japan, even to discussing the process and significance of the translation activities between China and Japan. All his statements are solid and credible. Many essays in Jin Chengyu's *Studies of Overseas Chinese Literature Classics* are related to the research of Chinese literature in Japan. *Journal of Overseas Chinese Literature Classics* edited by Zhang Bwei is issued once a year, in which many essays on the documentary study of Japan's Chinese literature are worth reading.

In addition, *Japan's Chinese Literature in Modern Times* by Gao Wenhan and *Peak of Poetic Perfection: Japan's Chinese Poems Related to Four Seasons* by Yan Ming also have a breakthrough in their own subjects.

#### 6. China Studies in Japan became gradually the hot topic.

Throughout history, there have been a large number of scholars and works on China in Japanese academic circle. In thousands of years, Japanese studied and learned from China's advanced culture. However, as Japan made tremendous development in the economy after Meiji Reformation and had increasingly close academic exchanges with the Western countries, its purpose, methods and attitudes of research on China have undergone a fundamental change.

Compared with China's research results, Japanese scholars sometimes have totally different values for the same issue. The reason is that the research is subordinate to the Japanese cultural system after it is rooted in the soil of Japan. Then it reflects and affects a variety of social thoughts in Japan, including the nationalist ideology. The purpose of Japan's research is to develop Japanese culture.

The study of China was not called "China Studies" until the end of the World War Two. Today, different cultures in the world strengthen exchanges and cooperation to promote mutual development. Chinese national culture and China Studies abroad, which belong to different cultural systems, constitute together the world's views on China. Sometimes, they are mixed together, while they play respectively a leading role in their own cultures. As far as the long history and the breadth and depth of communication are concerned, Japan's China Studies occupies a peculiar position in the world.

There are a lot of manuscripts and block-printed documents, which were spread to Japan in the ancient times. These become the valuable first-hand information for Japan's China Studies. Since the Qing dynasty, many Chinese scholars have visited Japan for books, most of whom are learned masters of Chinese culture. Yan Shaodang went to and from Japan for over 30 times during 20 years and reorganized more than

10.8 thousand kinds of documents. In 2007, his *Bibliography of Rare Chinese Books in Japan* with 3.5 million words was published, preceded by *On the Circulation of Chinese Books in Japan*, *On the Rare Books of Song Dynasty in Japan* and *Record of Tracking Scarce Chinese Books in Japan: Yan Shaodang's Journal of Searching for Books*. Yan Shaodang has long been devoted himself to the pursuit, reorganization and complication of rare Chinese books at home and abroad, on the basis of which he formed a series of original insights and empirically-characterized methodology. He being a humanity scholar, all his above works has laid the foundation of his academic basis.

In Japan, the research on local ancient culture and literature cannot completely be separated from the Chinese culture. As for the method of research, Japanese scholars' study of China emphasizes on evidences and careful exploration, and then to some extent provides the Chinese scholars with reference information on the research of *Anthology of Ancient Poetry* and *Collected Works of Bai Juyi* in the fields of religious culture, Dunhuang Literature and history of Sino-foreign relationship. A series of *Choice Articles of Japan's China Studies* edited by Wang Xiaoping have been published over twenty times by Zhonghua Book Company since 2005. Characterized by "great writers and small essays", the series of books collect some masterpieces and new writers' works suitable for readers to make them understand various perspectives of Japan's China Studies and broaden their horizons. The works include: *Manyoshu and Chinese Culture* by Nakanisisusumu, who is regarded as the first person of Japan's research on *Manyoshu*, *Thingology in China* by Aoki Masaru, the famous Sinologist in modern times; *Twentieth Century and Chinese Culture* by Shūichi Katō, the famous critic; and *Collection of East Asian History* by Kuwabara Jitsuzo, one of the pathfinders of Chinese history research in modern Japan, and so on. With their special focus, the essays are not limited to one style. Some essays focus on the value of the preservation of Chinese documents, while some are supplements to China's local studies. Some pay attention to historical function of the research on Sino-Japanese relations, while some specialize in its effect in Japanese academic circle. In addition, they are both scholarly and readable. Upholding the academic standards, the series of books don't exclude diversity and individuality of the research. In response to the slogan of "Returning to the Common People", more popular works was selected as much as possible to meet the needs of readers at all levels, which infused new blood into the research on Japan's China Studies. After the publication of this series, a hot discussion was aroused in Xinhua Net and Guangming Net and a variety of newspapers and academic writings published book reviews, mainly including *China reading weekly*, *China Book Business Report*, *New Beijing Newspaper*, *Shunpin* and *Studies of Overseas Chinese Literature Classics*. Song Hong, the well-known specialist in classical literature studies, said "Once launched, the series exerted immediacy great impact. Many forefront researchers of China Studies in Japan regard it as a great honor if their works can be collected in the series."

As for the study of the researchers of China Studies in Japan, *The Study of Yoshikawa Kōjirō* by Zhang Zhejun and *The Study of Naito Konan* by Qian Wanyue are characterized by accurate and detailed materials, unique perspective and sound

arguments. In addition, *From Sinology to China Studies: Japan's Research on China in Modern Times* written by Qian Wanyue and *The Record of My Study Abroad and Japanese Scholars' Seeking for Books in China* translated by her established her status in the research on Japan's modern China Studies.

7. Large-scale series of books became the leading force to spread research achievements.

Japanese scholars have set up research teams to compile large-scale collection of academic books since modern times, which once played an important role in the promotion of academic research. Compared with the single book, the collection can gather together the influential scholars in the academic circle to launch the latest research results according to the needs of academic development. At the same time, this mode of operation is favorable to the centralized publicity so as to expand the social impact. In the recent ten years, the appearance of large-scale research on Japanese culture and literature indicated the growth of Japanese literature research group and the improvement of the overall research level. It represented the researchers' positive response to the needs of the society.

*New Studies of Humanity Japan* edited by Wang Xiaoping was published by Ningxia People's Publishing House. Written by several well-known scholars in China, the book focuses on Japanese culture and Sino-Japanese relationship and reflects the frontier of the contemporary academic research. Intensive reading of the original works and in-depth study of related issues enable the writers to explain profound theories in simple language. With sound analysis and vivid language, the book provides the readers with a platform to a comprehensive understanding of Japanese culture. The four parts in dozens of volumes are respectively named after plum, cherry, bamboo and pine, with profound meaning. The topics are fairly broad, covering Sino-Japanese cultural and literary relationship, literature, religion, customs, history and art. So far, twenty versions have been published.

Focus on humanity Japan, introduction to Japanese culture and embodiment of Sino-Japanese communication history are the characteristics of this series of books. The contents are related to poems of waka, *Manyoshu*, ballads, introduction of Kenzaburo Oe, Haruki Murakami and Banana Yoshimoto, Japan's Dunhuang documents and Tang poetry, Japan Studies, Confucianism, cartoons, sumo and Kukai and Saicho, both of whom once studied in China in Tang Dynasty, and so on. Nowadays, as two countries become increasingly closer in their economic and cultural relations, it is of far-reaching significance to broaden people's vision and promote their cross-cultural communication and mutual understanding through equality-based dialogue.

*A Collection of Japanese Classical Novels with Illustrations*, published by SDX Joint Publishing Company, provides readers with a cultural feast in the form of

“Monogatari Emaki”. Born before the 11<sup>th</sup> century, “Monogatari Emaki” consists of “pictures” and “writings”. Japan's “Emaki” is an interesting art of painting, with emphasis on both pictures and writings. Deriving from the localization of “Tang Paintings” of China, “Emaki” gradually became the main component of “Yamato-e”. Colorful paintings could deepen the cultural deposits in the stories and reproduce vividly the aesthetic elements that the writers try to present through the stories. The series of books employed magnificent paintings to illustrate the beauty of Japan and aesthetic characteristics of Japanese literature contained in the five classics of *Makuranososhi*, *The Tale of Genji*, *Taketori Monogatari*, *Ise Monogatari* and *Heike Monogatari*. Reading the series may arouse readers’ enthusiasm and prospect of Japanese classics, because the series showed truly the world of Japanese classical beauty, the feeling world of the ancient Japanese and the world of Japanese ancient paintings through the above representative classics. Like a colorful art gallery, the series of books enabled the readers to feel the enjoyment and a quiver of emotion from the Japanese classical literature. The publication of the series reflects the inspiration of discovery that Japanese literature researchers in China possess to transform the latest research results into popular culture.

In the middle and late of last nineties, Zhejiang People’s Publishing House of China and Taishukan Publishing Co., Ltd of Japan cooperated to publish *History of Sino-Japanese Cultural Communication*, with both Chinese version and Japanese version. The series of books cover a wide range of contents in ten volumes. What makes it distinctive is that each of volume is written together by Chinese and Japanese scholars, who interpret the theme of each volume from different perspectives. Issues raised by the various authors are independent or linked to each other and a hundred schools of thought contend in the series of books. The series of books aims to illustrate that cultural exchanges are bilateral and interacted with each other. This mode of complication just reflects clearly the mutual benefits through bilateral communication and cooperation and highlights the purpose of the book. The writers include both senior experts and scholars and promising young people in the academic circle, which is designed to express profound knowledge in simple language and make the articles academic and readable.

Wang Yong, the editor of *Japanese Culture Forum*, holds that the characteristics of Japanese culture don't lie in imitation and originality, but rather in the choice and assembly. It is not quite accurate if someone says that Japan is good at imitating but bad at creating. Japanese Confucianism is not just the duplicate of Chinese Confucianism. Japan's modernization is also not as the same as that of the West. Meiji system is formed by adopting as many useful lessons from as many western countries as possible.

As for the studies of Japanese culture, China and the western countries have their own preference. China pays more attention to the imitation and preservation of Chinese culture in Japan, so similarities between the two cultures are their focus. On the other hand, the western countries tend to believe that Japanese culture is alien and mysterious, so the differences are what they are most interested in. As a matter of fact, Japan has already had its own national identities and unique sense of aesthetics in the



long process of development. Accordingly, their culture must have been banded with it.

The series of *Japanese Culture Forum* is divided into four volumes, including Martial Arts, Music, Chess Ceremony and Ikebana. With the systematic introduction of Japanese representative culture, it will give inspiration to both the experts and the new learners. The special topic in each volume seems to lead the readers into each classroom of Japanese culture to listen to the experts face to face. In addition, with simple language accompanied by illustrations, the series of books are quite easy to understand.

8. Large space of development is left for the studies of Japanese literature in China.

Although many Japanese scholars are enthusiastic in Sino-Japanese literary communication, in general, Japan's academic circle is rather estranged from China's research and thinks poorly of Chinese scholars' achievements. More efforts should be made to strengthen personnel exchange and achievement communication between the two countries. For example, the introduction and publication of essays on Japanese literature written in Chinese, complication of bilingual research journals and timely provision of hot topics and information of the research in Japan and so on are all attemptable. After all, literary exchange is a win-win cause, which cannot achieve even greater success without joint efforts and continuous coordination.

Compared with Chinese literature in Japan, Japanese literature in China is still quite young and has a long way to go. By means of the rich cultural resources, the unique academic tradition and a large team of researchers, China's research is supposed to inject new vitality to the study of Japan. It has larger space of development than that of any other countries and areas.

First of all, there are not any large-scale series of books to systematically introduce Japanese literature like *The Series of Japan Classical Literature* and *The Series of Japan Modern Literature* in China. The research focuses mostly on some particular writers and works. Due to the comparatively narrow scope and concentrated topics, the research can hardly give an overview of Japanese literature.

Secondly, as far as the research methods are concerned, the imitation of Japan-styled textual study and mechanical application of Western theories coexist and sometimes low-level redundant researches occur from time to time. Many researches still remain the duplication or copy of Japan's achievements in 1980s, which is incompatible to the rapid development of Chinese academic research. In particular, the lack of translation studies will affect the all-around improvement of translation level.

Thirdly, some people accept the education of Japanese culture in China, while some return to China after studying in Japan. However, they are faced with a common problem, which is how to integrate what they have learnt into local culture. To make their voice heard, Chinese scholars need not only to make more efforts to learn Japanese language and culture but also to further study Chinese culture (including traditional and modern culture) and its theories. How to make the research results more easily be accepted by academic circle and readers is among the topics, which

will be conducive to the deepening of research once they are discussed in the research community.

In order to discover and develop new forces in Japanese literature research, it is necessary to strengthen the education of culture and literature for Masters and Doctors. At the undergraduate stage, the education focuses on language learning, so that students cannot accept systematical education on literature. That will directly affect the quality of education at the graduate stage, and then have a negative impact on the future research team. As the research conditions in universities and colleges have improved, these problems are likely to be solved well.

On the one hand, the violation of academic standards should be corrected and overcome. On the other hand, the researchers should be encouraged to further expand their research spectrum. Faced with the largest reserve readership in the world, China's study of Japanese literature has broad prospects. Accordingly, China's translation of Japanese literature still has countless work to be done well.

(Translated by Zhang Xiaojuan)