

Simonis, Udo E.

Book Review — Digitized Version

[Rezension] Hans-Bernd Giesler (Hrsg.): Die Wirtschaft Japans. Düsseldorf [u.a.]: Econ Verlag, 1971

Internationales Asienforum

Provided in Cooperation with:

WZB Berlin Social Science Center

Suggested Citation: Simonis, Udo E. (1974) : [Rezension] Hans-Bernd Giesler (Hrsg.): Die Wirtschaft Japans. Düsseldorf [u.a.]: Econ Verlag, 1971, Internationales Asienforum, ISSN 0020-9449, ABI, Arnold Bergstraesser Institut, Freiburg, Vol. 5, Iss. 3, pp. 447-

This Version is available at:

<https://hdl.handle.net/10419/112375>

Standard-Nutzungsbedingungen:

Die Dokumente auf EconStor dürfen zu eigenen wissenschaftlichen Zwecken und zum Privatgebrauch gespeichert und kopiert werden.

Sie dürfen die Dokumente nicht für öffentliche oder kommerzielle Zwecke vervielfältigen, öffentlich ausstellen, öffentlich zugänglich machen, vertreiben oder anderweitig nutzen.

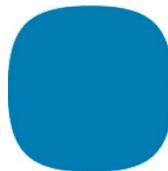
Sofern die Verfasser die Dokumente unter Open-Content-Lizenzen (insbesondere CC-Lizenzen) zur Verfügung gestellt haben sollten, gelten abweichend von diesen Nutzungsbedingungen die in der dort genannten Lizenz gewährten Nutzungsrechte.

Terms of use:

Documents in EconStor may be saved and copied for your personal and scholarly purposes.

You are not to copy documents for public or commercial purposes, to exhibit the documents publicly, to make them publicly available on the internet, or to distribute or otherwise use the documents in public.

If the documents have been made available under an Open Content Licence (especially Creative Commons Licences), you may exercise further usage rights as specified in the indicated licence.



WZB-Open Access Digitalisate

WZB-Open Access digital copies

Das nachfolgende Dokument wurde zum Zweck der kostenfreien Onlinebereitstellung digitalisiert am Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung gGmbH (WZB).

Das WZB verfügt über die entsprechenden Nutzungsrechte. Sollten Sie sich durch die Onlineveröffentlichung des Dokuments wider Erwarten dennoch in Ihren Rechten verletzt sehen, kontaktieren Sie bitte das WZB postalisch oder per E-Mail:

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung gGmbH

Bibliothek und wissenschaftliche Information

Reichpietschufer 50

D-10785 Berlin

E-Mail: bibliothek@wzb.eu

The following document was digitized at the Berlin Social Science Center (WZB) in order to make it publicly available online.

The WZB has the corresponding rights of use. If, against all possibility, you consider your rights to be violated by the online publication of this document, please contact the WZB by sending a letter or an e-mail to:

Berlin Social Science Center (WZB)

Library and Scientific Information

Reichpietschufer 50

D-10785 Berlin

e-mail: bibliothek@wzb.eu

Digitalisierung und Bereitstellung dieser Publikation erfolgten im Rahmen des Retrodigitalisierungsprojektes **OA 1000+**. Weitere Informationen zum Projekt und eine Liste der ca. 1 500 digitalisierten Texte sind unter <http://www.wzb.eu/de/bibliothek/serviceangebote/open-access/oa-1000> verfügbar.

This text was digitizing and published online as part of the digitizing-project **OA 1000+**.

More about the project as well as a list of all the digitized documents (ca. 1 500) can be found at <http://www.wzb.eu/en/library/services/open-access/oa-1000>.

Reviews

The reviews in Internationales Asienforum try to give a brief evaluation
of recent German publications

Hans-Bernd Giesler (Ed.), *Die Wirtschaft Japans*. Düsseldorf, Wien: Econ Verlag, 1971. 258 pages, DM 38,—.

Books on the Japanese economy may be roughly separated into two groups: those emphasizing economic growth and admiring its direct productive results, and those challenging traditional values by pointing to the limits to growth, the social costs of private enterprise, especially the deteriorating environmental conditions. Since 1972 may be recorded as the year in which the environmental movement developed from a mainly middle-class concern into a more general issue with increasing relevance to society and the world as a whole, one will readily concede that a book published in 1971 should belong to the first group. This is all the more to be expected as (the theme of the book is the) "Japanese Challenge", i.e. the superiority of an industrious and dynamic system compared to those of the old Western nations e.g. Germany.

In the meantime we have had the Club of Rome's "Limits to Growth", the "Oil Crisis" along with other crises, so that today our attitude towards such things as long-term prognoses is different. No one could as easily agree to the suggestion that the 21st century could be the "Japanese century" (Herman Kahn). It is fascinating to read a book on Japan viewed from the present state of discussion: what are the historical invariables of a particular growth process, the "historische Konstanten" as Arnold Bergstraesser called it?

The point of departure for the 13 contributions to this book was the question of the relation between the Japanese and their economy, the "Japanese mentality" and the way it differs from Western economic mentality. Though many intelligent clues are given, the answers show some points of divergence, but still to a large extent Japanese industriousness and economic motivation (Tüchtigkeit, Fleiß, Leistungsmotivation) are thought to be superior, especially in industry, foreign trade, planning and research. Other contributions, however, dealing more with the social conditions and consequences of growth, come to a more balanced view.

Yet while most of the authors are still followers of the theory of unilinear economic growth which prevailed until recently, some are already more in favour of a social and environment-oriented development. If that "dual approach" is kept in mind, the book may well be suggested for all practitioners and those interested in Japanese development.

Udo Ernst Simonis