

## Abstracts

### Presidential Address: Japan and America—The Dynamics of Partnership

JAMES W. MORLEY      Pages 11–20

The Japanese-American partnership, so long taken for granted, is today threatened by a deep division of American opinion between the “Japanophiles” and the Japan critics. The extremism of each group stems from a sentimental attitude which grew up in the early postwar period, that Japan and America have a “special” relationship outside the normal dynamics of the international system. Reviewing the history of this relationship since the end of the Occupation, the author finds it rather to have been characterized by a bargaining process common between any two allies, in which the outcomes have been heavily influenced by the changing degree of their interdependence. This interpretation supports the forecast of a continuation of the alliance, which the author believes is vital to both countries, but only if romantic notions are given up and replaced by a more realistic appreciation of the dynamics that govern the relationship.

### Vernacular and Classical Rituals in Taoism

KRISTOFER SCHIPPER      Pages 21–57

Rituals that accompany community celebrations in China come in two kinds: vernacular and classical. The reason why these two forms exist is not easily explained. To the two forms of liturgy correspond two kinds of specialists: the *tao-shi* (Taoist dignitary) and the *fa-shih* (Master of rites). Both are commonly called “master,” and their practices are often confused by laymen. In fact, the two traditions are opposite and rivaling, but they are also largely complementary. This article, which is mainly based on fieldwork in southern Taiwan during the 1960s, explores both traditions, but emphasizes the lesser known vernacular one. An attempt is made to assess how widespread this situation was in China, and how far back in history it can be traced. The story of Hsü Chia, Lao-tzu’s illiterate servant, which is considered the origin of the vernacular tradition, is studied in detail.

### Peasants versus Capitalists in the Indian Sugar Industry: The Impact of the Irrigation Frontier

DONALD W. ATTWOOD      Pages 59–80

Has the organization of commercial agriculture in the Third World been shaped primarily by external forces from the world economy? This study of sugar production

in northern and western India shows that industrialists were generally unable to impose a plantation system on the local peasantry, despite the great technical and economic advantages of doing so. Control of the land, in most cases, did not pass into the hands of industrialists. The organization of crop production remained almost unchanged in the north, while in the west, despite initial progress toward a plantation system, the local cultivators responded by taking control of the industry into their own hands. Thus, contrary to experience in much of the New World, Indian villagers did not become passive victims of the sugar industry; those in the west went even further, in taking over the industry themselves. The contrast between these regions can be explained in part by the temporary existence of an "irrigation frontier" in the west.

### The Spiral of Suicide and Social Change in Sri Lanka

ROBERT N. KEARNEY AND BARBARA D. MILLER

Pages 81–101

The suicide rate in Sri Lanka tripled between 1955 and 1974, soaring from 6.9 to 22.1 per 100,000 population. Sharp increases were recorded for both sexes, most age groups, and all of the nation's twenty-two districts. The incidence of suicide was greatest in the age range of 15 to 29 years. High rates consistently appeared in the districts of the northeast that either contained local majorities of the Sri Lanka Tamil ethnic minority or experienced rapid population growth due to heavy in-migration. The rising suicide rate may be related to the growing competition for education and careers, high unemployment, internal migration, and the increasing age at marriage, all of which contribute to the fundamental dislocation of a once more stable and predictable society.