

Instead, there is a broad tendency to view Tanizaki on aesthetic grounds, valorizing him as a figure of resistance while overlooking the less savory aspects of his conservatism.

These criticisms are minor, arising mainly from a wish to see the contributors develop their ideas at greater length. Given the aims of the symposium, even the occasional lapses into uncritical appreciation are understandable, for critical distance is hard to establish with a writer like Tanizaki. As Irmela Hijiya-Kirschnereit aptly notes, “the pleasure of reading Tanizaki’s works, then, lies to a great extent in a complicity between narrator and reader, effectively established by the author’s well-honed narratorial devices” (p. 104). Thus, an act of critical imagination is needed to get beyond the allure of Tanizaki’s prose, and the volume on the whole succeeds in engaging his work on equal terms. Indeed, the book provides several models of critical appreciation, notably Howard Hibbett’s elegant essay. Hibbett historicizes Tanizaki’s oeuvre in terms of his personal life and the literary tradition he drew upon, and reveals to us the intricate and precarious equilibrium Tanizaki achieves between the control provided by his mastery of narrative and the anarchy of his comic impulses.

The volume is superbly edited and handsomely produced. The title, however, can only be read ironically for the book is more a sampler than a feast, whetting rather than sating the appetite for Tanizaki’s work. In my view this is what it should do.

DENNIS WASHBURN
Dartmouth College

Japan Today. Third edition. By ROGER BUCKLEY. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999. xiv, 218 pp. \$49.95.

All too often, a new edition of a book seems like your nerdy cousin Ralph who arrives every summer with a carload of bratty kids to “spend a few days” with your long-suffering family. Fortunately, Roger Buckley’s *Japan Today* more resembles an old college chum who shows up laden with gifts for your kids, a few old stories to reembellish, and a bottle of single malt scotch to share.

His first edition published in 1985 became something of a classic, reprinted three times. An up-dated second edition (1990) was itself somewhat shopworn and long in the tooth (reprinted six times) when he undertook to substantially revise the manuscript, resulting in this latest incarnation.

He has added some fifty pages of insightful and sometimes acerbic analysis of the last two decades of Japanese history to the perspicacious, wide-sweeping analysis of the Allied Occupation and the period up to around 1983. The result is an excellent addition to the scholarship of postwar Japan.

Not surprisingly, the emphasis of Buckley’s analysis has evolved along with Japan’s fortunes. For instance, the title of the fourth chapter has changed from the innocuous “Japan’s external relations” to “Minimalism: hesitancy abroad.” His sixth chapter, “Malaise: contemporary Japan,” leaves little doubt as to what Buckley believes to be Japan’s major challenge in the future. The second edition ended with something of a paean for Japan’s triumph over adversity in the previous four decades: “Pain and national pride have been the real spur. Contemporary Japan has won its way back and more” (second edition, p. 147). In the third edition, the coda is much more ominous: “Yet both the Japanese state and its people must avoid the great illusion of imagining that the past achievements and present benign international

realities will automatically continue uncontested into the future. Decline should not be seen as merely the fate of others. It can happen here" (p. 200).

Buckley is at his best in his analysis of economic history. His explication of Japan's trade surplus should be recommended not only to the beginning student of Japan, but also to the economic journalists who pontificate on CNN and in the *Wall Street Journal*. He shines also in his treatment of Japan's recent economic malaise, in which he takes both politicians and bankers to task for their self-interested and myopic policies.

As a long-time resident of Japan (at International Christian University in suburban Tokyo), he is a keen observer of Japan's foreign affairs as well as her domestic social history. His explication of Japan's foreign policy conundrum regarding the "Peace" Constitution of 1947 and its dreams of world involvement within the arena of the Security Council of the United Nations, is cogently and clearly written. He succinctly reminds us that "Hatred of war, often without regard to Japan's geographic or strategic position in East Asia, is a strong restraint on any Japanese governmental hopes of increasing its military spending or enlarging its off-shore defence responsibilities" (p. 96).

Indeed, Buckley has a flair for the epigrammatic turn of a phrase. For instance, in his characterization of Takeshita Noboru, whom he calls the "grey prime minister," Buckley notes that he "spoke so elliptically that even Japanese audiences required translators to explain afterwards what he had been trying and deliberately failing to say" (p. 52). He acerbically notes that "Japanese foreign policy initiatives since the war have been more noted for their absence than novelty or frequency" (p. 95). Similarly, anyone who has endured Tokyo's transportation system can appreciate Buckley's grumble: "Commuting depends equally on the efficiency of the train system and the tolerance of its passengers. The service is fast, punctual, and unpleasant" (p. 85).

I find few quibbles with this excellent revision, except that Buckley avoids Jenaga Saburo and the Textbook Controversy as well as other attempts by Japanese politicians to act as Spin Doctors for the nation's World War II atrocities. Also, his explanation of Japan's foreign policy reversal vis-à-vis Israel during the OPEC oil embargoes of the 1970s is a bit facile. But he is probably correct (if cynical) when he says, "The Japanese government's policies were probably no better or no worse than those of other industrialized nations facing the threat of energy and resource shortages" (p. 77).

Buckley has added some twenty pages of appendices to his new edition. Both security treaties (September 1951 and January 1960) are offered, as are several economic and political charts. The bibliography is rudimentary, as is the index.

At the end of the day, this is a very good social, political, and economic survey of the postwar era. It would serve any beginning student well and therefore should be added to any college or university library. I would venture to say that it should be read by every serious student of Japan simply because it is a literate and well-reasoned analysis of contemporary Japanese history.

LOUIS G. PEREZ
Illinois State University

Shadows in the Forest: Japan and the Politics of Timber in Southeast Asia. By PETER DAUVERGNE. Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press, 1997. x, 308 pp. \$22.00 (paper).