

**THE POLITICS OF ECONOMIC CHANGE
IN POSTWAR JAPAN AND WEST GERMANY**

The Politics of Economic Change in Postwar Japan and West Germany

Volume 1: Macroeconomic Conditions and Policy Responses

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Preface

This is the first of the two volumes of work on the political economies of postwar Japan and West Germany that was originally conceived some ten years ago at meetings of the Joint Committee on Japanese Studies of the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies. It brings together about half the revised and edited versions of the papers originally presented and discussed at conferences held at the Reisenburg, West Germany, in 1980 and in Ito, Japan, in 1982. As the unusual structure of and the large number of contributors to this and its sister volumes suggest, the plan was an ambitious one, perhaps too ambitious in retrospect.

The rule agreed on at the outset among all co-editors and contributors and rigidly adhered to subsequently, required two or, in one case, three scholars, often coming from different disciplines and different countries, to collaborate in the preparation of each paper for the above-mentioned two conferences and then revising it into a draft chapter for this or its sister volume. This procedure cost every contributor an inordinate amount of time and effort, often running into several years. It then cost the co-editors even more time and effort to edit, process, and assemble the thirty-odd chapter-length drafts into a single coherent text. The manuscript that was thus completed some four years ago was a 1200-page typescript that was, as the co-editors belatedly realized, much too large and too expensive for any publisher to agree to publish. An obvious and technically easy alternative was to cut the manuscript to half its original size by simply eliminating half the chapters. That alternative would have made it possible to get the work published at least two years sooner. It was, however, not an alternative acceptable to the co-editors who insisted on having all chapters published and who chose to divide them into two parts. This is the alternative that has ultimately proved acceptable to an ideal publisher, but at the cost of a few more years of further editorial work, including the preparation of new introductions and conclusions.

This volume is then the first half of the final result of our protracted effort, a result of which we are very proud. As the reader will realize, it is a comparative study of the political economies of Japan and West Germany in the period from the end of World War II to the early 1980s, a period in which many of the structural characteristics of their contemporary politics and economies were shaped and nurtured by sets of deliberate and specific government policies, as well as by circumstances beyond government control. This and its sister volume provide by far the most detailed and

informative analyses published so far of many of the key policies involved in the making of the two 'economic miracles' of the postwar world. The role and performance of the Japanese and German economies in the 1990s and beyond may well be vastly different from those in the 1950s and 1960s. None the less, we believe that it is not possible to understand and explain developments in the political economies of the two countries in the 1990s and beyond without understanding the developments in the early postwar period.

Our decade-long effort would have never been initiated without the intellectual, moral, and financial assistance and encouragement given by the SSRC-ACLS Joint Committee on Japanese Studies. We acknowledge our deep debt to the committee and its parent organizations, especially to Hugh Patrick who chaired and other colleagues who served as members of the committee at the time the original plan for the project was hatched in a conference room at the SSRC headquarters in New York. During the earlier phases of the project, we benefited enormously also from the assistance and advice given by a number of other colleagues, particularly Robert Gates, Ezra F. Vogel, T. J. Pempel, Peter Katzenstein, Gerard Braunthal, Gebhard Hielscher, Margarete Maria Sawada, Mikio Kato, Tatsuya Tanami, Tsutomu Kagawa, Koichi Demizu, Yuji Kurokawa, Michio Muramatsu, Yusuke Murakami, Kunihiro Jōshima, Atsushi Kusano, Mansour El-Kikhia and James Sperling.

For the bulk of the substantial amount of funds expended on the project, we have relied on the generosity of a number of funding agencies. We express our special gratitude to the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Ford Foundation, the Volkswagen Foundation, the German Marshall Fund, the Toyota Foundation, the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science, and the Pacific Basin Institute for the use of funds from a Sasakawa Peace Foundation grant. For the wonderful conference facilities made available to us at the Reizensburg and in Ito, we thank, respectively, the Volkswagen Foundation and Mobil Sekiyu Kabushiki Kaisha.

We owe very special gratitude to the contributors to this and its sister volume for their truly indispensable contributions. Not only did they undertake extremely, and often almost unreasonably, time-consuming assignments for the ambitious project but, even more amazingly, they have endured the exceptionally long wait for this day with more patience and graciousness than we co-editors had ever expected. Without this remarkable comradeship shown by each and every contributor, we would certainly have abandoned long ago what has often seemed to be an endless and hopeless enterprise. We would also like to express our great appreciation of the original decision by Mr T. M. Farmiloe and Ms Rosemary Thorp to publish this volume.

To all those mentioned above and many others who have made it

possible to have this fruit of the overly ambitious project finally published by giving us so much of their time, effort, money and much else, we dedicate this and its sister volumes.

HARUHIRO FUKUI (for the co-editors)

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