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Hi typers and readers,

Followups set to rec.arts.anime.misc

Well Japan is sort of opaque to Westerners but here is a book that explains a lot of things.

"Japan and the Shackles of the Past" by R.Taggart Murphy

Part One. The Forging of the Shackles

There is a short part of the book with 1. dealing with the time before the Edo period, 2. The subsequent Edo period, 3. "Restoration" (of Imperial Rule) to the Occupation, 4. the(economic) Miracle, 5. the Institutions of High Speed Growth, and 6. the Consequences

Part Two. The Shackles Trap Today's Japan

Another 5 separate chapters explaining the problems caused by the Shackles in various areas of economics and politics with various appendices,

The Shackles start with the ancient Imperial bureaucracy amplified by the Shogunates and the Tokugawa Shogunate. the new bureaucracy under the Meji oligarchs, which carried forward to be used by the Occupation. Then we have the measures taken to help economic growth and how they helped but also how they are not adaptable to modern conditions.

How the elite political families manage to stay in power from generation to generation.

A lot of the book seems like lists of politicians who ran Japan at various times and how they fail to understand modern democracy and are principally concerned with attaining power and wealth.

The author believes that Japan may need a new constitution and it needs to be independent of the USA which treats Japan as a vassal state.

Hope some of you find this an interesting read
I got my copy at the SFPL-Main but it is from Oxford
University Press at \$29.95

bliss
