

## Recent Books on Japan – November 2012

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### **Economics/Development Studies**

Management of Service Businesses in Japan / Yasuhiro Monden, Noriyuki Imai ... [et al]  
Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd., 2013  
xix. 185p. ; 24cm.  
ISBN-13: 978981374668  
Japanese Management and International Studies Vol. 9  
\$ 110.00 / HB  
516 gm.

Japan faces significant challenges in both traditional and non-traditional areas of national security policy as the economic resurgence of China and the loss of US hegemonic clout significantly transform the strategic landscape of the Asia-Pacific region. How is Japan coping with this new global and regional politico-security environment? What strategic moves has it taken to best position itself for the future to maximize its global and regional influence? More importantly, how is Japan perceived within the region by traditionally close regional partners such as the US and Australia, by supporters in Southeast Asia, and by new competitors — most prominently China and India? What international role do these nations wish Japan to play? In this comprehensive volume, these crucial questions are explored in-depth by a group of scholars both distinguished and diverse.

With the service industry taking up the largest portion of its GDP, Japan has much to share in the area of managing service industry. This book explores and elucidates the unique management styles in non-manufacturing industries or service industries in contemporary Japan, both practically and theoretically through case studies. These specially selected cases are the management of the world No.1 convenience store chain of Seven-Eleven, the sales finance business and auto sales business of Toyota, application of TPS (Toyota Production System) to life insurance company, performance evaluation of local government, BSC (balance scorecard) in local government hospitals, cost and pricing policy of telecommunication company, Japanese-style “hospitality” in the retail industry, service level agreement (SLA) in IT and shared service companies, and ICT (Information & Communication Technology) applied to BPN (Business Process Network) of service industry.

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Engaging East Asian Integration : States, Markets and the Movement of People / Takashi Shiraishi & Jiro Okamoto (Editors)

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing, 2012

xiv. 223p. ; 24cm.

ISBN-13: 9789814380287

1. East Asia – Economic integration – Congresses
2. East Asia – Foreign economic relations – Japan – Congresses
3. Japan – Foreign economic relations – Australia – Congresses
4. East Asia – Foreign economic relations – Australia – Congresses
5. Australia – Foreign economic relations – East Asia – Congresses
6. Human capital – East Asia – Congresses

\$ 54.00 / HB

432 gm.

Both international trade and investment by East Asian countries have become significantly regionalized. To support this development further, efforts for regional integration have flourished in the forms of bilateral and regional free trade agreements and the ASEAN+3 and East Asia Summit processes, among many others. This book is a compilation of papers and discussions originally presented at the international symposium held during the recent global financial crisis. The symposium aimed to shed light not only on the usual economic aspect but also on other aspects of the multidimensional phenomenon called "regional integration". Thus, in this volume the authors explore the relationship between the U.S. influence and East Asian regionalism, the characteristics of East Asian integration, and the politics of inclusion/exclusion in the integration process. In addition, they point out some "missing links" in integration efforts such as cooperation in the areas of logistics, finance, trade in services, infrastructure and human resource movement. Since the global financial crisis did not deter integration efforts (rather, it has encouraged them), this book serves as a guide for future East Asian integration in terms of what to expect and what is to be done.

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## **Politics/International Relations**

Japan's Strategic Challenges in a Changing Regional Environment / Purnendra Jain & Lam Peng Er (Editors)

Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd., 2013

xxvii. 301p. ; 24cm.

ISBN-13: 9789814368735

\$ 130.00 / HB

608 gm.

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