

THE STUDY OF JAPAN IN RUSSIA: PAST AND PRESENT, CHARACTERISTICS AND CENTRES OF STUDIES

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The history of Japan studies in Russia is considerable and stretches back quite a long way. It started before even official relations between the two countries had been established in 1855. This history begins in the period when Tsar Peter I was in power and the first Japanese language school was opened in Russia in the year 1705. The school was attached to Petersburg Navigation Academy with Japanese natives as teachers. Teaching tools such as dictionaries, phrase-books and readers were compiled at this school to facilitate teaching. Then in 1753 the school was transferred to Irkutsk, where it continued to teach the language of Japanese.

However, systematic and thorough teaching of the Japanese language really did not begin until 1870 when the teaching of Japanese was introduced in Petersburg University. Later in 1888, the Oriental Faculty was opened there and from that time a base for developing Japanese studies in the country was established. As the reputation of the faculty grew, such students as the linguist N. A. Nevski and N. I. Conrad were attracted to the courses held by the faculty. In 1899 the Oriental

Institute of Vladivostok also began teaching the Japanese language and there such outstanding scholars as D. M. Pozdneev and E. G. Spalvin were employed to educate students on the topic of Japan. Pozdneev is known as much for his works on Japanese history and geography, as his authoring of the first Japanese-Russian *kanji* dictionary, whereas Spalvin is known for his works on Japanese history and his contribution to the teaching of the Japanese language through his many teaching aids.

For a long time, Petrograd (Petersburg) remained the main centre for Japan studies in Russia. During the 1920's to 30's, under the leadership of Conrad, the department of Japanese language and literature was established in Petrograd University and a Japanese language course was founded in the Institute of Living Languages. In 1930, the Institute of Eastern Studies of the Academy of Sciences was formed in Leningrad (Petersburg). In the Institute, the study of Japanese classical culture was to dictate the main direction of research conducted. As a result, the Asia Museum which works in close cooperation with the Institute cultivated a large collection of ancient manuscripts and books on Japan and it is this collection which was to become the principal source and base for most of the research conducted at the Institute.

In the forties, a centre for Japan studies was also formed in Moscow. In 1941 the Moscow Institute of Eastern Studies of the Academy of Sciences was established. Following this, the Institute of Eastern Languages (now called the Institute of Asia and Africa attached to Moscow University) was founded. This institute was to play the leading role among the many institutes in preparing specialists in the field of Japan studies. The Institute of Eastern Languages was also to act as the

springboard for the founding of one more institute, the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, which also eventually occupied an important place in the study of Japan in Russia.

Of course, World War II (1941-1945) was a period of subdued activity in the field of research but with the end of the war and the ensuing period during the fifties, when a sizable volume of documents concerning pre-war and wartime Japan history was released, research on historical issues on Japan began to expand as such documents became more and more accessible. Based on these documents there were several works that were subsequently published during this period concerning: Russian-Japanese relations between 1905-1945; the war between Japan in China (1937-1945); and the Pacific War of 1941-1945.

During 1945-1955, a great deal of research was conducted on issues concerning domestic issues such as the position of political power and some of the charges occurring in post-war Japan. However there was a lack of serious scientific work about the reforms of this period in Japan. Motivations behind power, the characteristics and results of these reforms were often mistakenly interpreted during this period. At present, interest in the reforms of the above period is experiencing a revival and this has spurred a number of reviews and reconsiderations of the issues involved.

From 1955 to 1965, attention in the area of Japan studies in Russia was mainly focused on the issues surrounding Japan foreign policy, especially policies concerning Japan-USA relations. The position of both the issues themselves and the research on these issues were, of course, affected by the strict military-political confrontation facing the world at that time, and this situation remained practically unchanged until

the middle eighties.

In the period from 1965 to 1980, with the world-wide interest in the rapid period of economic growth that was seen in Japan, many Russian scholars in the field of Japan studies also began to turn their attention to economic and social problems emerging in Japan. At the same time, Japan's foreign relations with China also commanded the attention of researchers. Yet the important question of Soviet-Japan relations was one that was not addressed in substance and, in fact, a greater amount of research time was devoted to the study of relations between Japanese political parties than was to the study of relations between the two nations. At the time, there was also a lot of time devoted to the study of Japanese militarisation but, as many Russian scholars have noted today, the attention to this so-called militarisation was over-exaggerated.

By the eighties, the foundations for Japan studies in Russia had been laid and a network between research and educational establishments organised and supported by qualified specialists who had a strong and traditional base on which to build. Not only were fruitful results produced in the areas of history and economics, but the areas of Japanese language and literature expanded with increasing academic publications, translations of Japanese classics, new dictionaries and text-books for studying the Japanese language. (See Appendix I)

Although the eighties saw increased production in the area of Japan studies, this was also a time of general upheaval in the then Soviet Union. Needless to say, the social crisis that affected all parts of society in the Soviet Union was also reflected in the situation experienced in the

studies of Japan and science in general. Ideological limits on thoughts and research had created a monopoly on methodology, approaches to research and the views one could hold within the social sciences and, indeed, academia as a whole. The obstacles presented by this dogmatic approach to the sciences affected all manner of research but in the area of Japan studies the result was one of simplified stereotypes of the Japanese which tended to wander from reality.

It is obvious from a survey of the themes of 140 dissertations, written over a span of two decades (1970-1990), that the study of Japan was coated heavily in political ideology. (See Appendix II) Of the 140, 112 (80%) were written on history and economics of Japan: it is apparent that most of these are written within the prescribed political monopoly. The rest of the dissertations, the remaining 20%, deal with language, literature, philosophy and arts.

According to data compiled by S. D. Milibland,¹ in 1977 among 81 known specialists of Japan Studies, 49 (60%) were engaged in studying history (mainly-politics, international relations) and economics. Thus, the remaining 40% were divided among the fields of language, literature, philosophy and arts. During the long post-war period (1946-1990) there was only one doctoral dissertation written on Japan within the field of philosophy—but even this dissertation had its basis in Marxist ideology. (See Appendix III) However, this malady was not restricted to the study of Japan alone—it was typical throughout Soviet research at that time.

¹ Milibland, S. D., *Bio-bibliographic dictionary of Soviet specialists of Eastern Studies*, Moscow, 1977.

At present, the situation in academic research in Russia is improving with the process of democratisation in the country continuing and research methods being freed from restrictions in proportion to the progress of this process. Moreover, the previously closed doors of institutions that house many relevant documents to the study of Japan are now open and the atmosphere for scientific discussion is becoming freer as contacts with overseas research organisations improve. Needless to say, research activities in institutes connected with the study of Japan are now fast changing,

LEADING RESEARCH INSTITUTES IN JAPAN STUDIES

Leading roles in the study of Japan are played by several Institutes of the Russian Academy of Sciences as well as other select institutes of tertiary education in Russia. The following is a very brief description of the major institutes involved in Japan studies in Russia.

1. Institute of the Far Eastern Studies, Academy of Sciences (Moscow).

Studies, here, are mainly devoted to the research of Japanese politics, the problems of security in north-east Asia and regional economic cooperation.

2. Institute of Oriental Studies, Academy of Sciences (Moscow).

Japan studies consists of the Japanese History of Society Section and the Japanese Economics Section. The Centre concentrates more on

research in the fields of history (politics) and economics. There are some specialists of the Institute who are engaged in studying Japanese literature and language.

3. Institute of Oriental Studies, Academy of Sciences Petersburg Branch (Petersburg).

Classical history and culture of Japan form the main focus of studies but in recent years the study of Japanese religions has been incorporated and is developing.

4. Institute of World Economics and International Relations, Academy of Sciences (Moscow).

The Centre for Japan-Pacific Studies at this institute, consists of the Japan Social and Political Problems Department and the Japan Economics Department but Japanese economics command the greatest attention.

5. Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography of the Peoples of the Far East, Academy of Sciences, Far Eastern Branch (Vladivostok).

The Section for Japan Studies is engaged in researching problems of the Russian Far East which are connected with Japan, mainly in the field of history.

6. Institute of Economic Research, Academy of Sciences, Far Eastern Branch (Khabarovsk).

The Section of International Problems of the Asian-Pacific Region studies Japanese economic issues.

7. Moscow State University, Institute of the Countries of Asia and Africa (Moscow).

The main sphere of studies here is language and literature.

8. Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Moscow).

Studies are organized mainly around the fields of history and economics.

9. Petersburg State University (Petersburg).

This university is the oldest in Russia of the Japan study centres and concentrates on the study of Japanese language and literature.

10. Far Eastern State University (Vladivostok).

The Japanese Department of this University studies only language.

There are, of course, many other research institutes and organisations involved in the study of Japan and various related issues, e.g. the Institute of Scientific Information of Social Sciences, the Academy of Sciences, the Diplomatic Academy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, etc., but these are marginal compared to the institutes surveyed above.

CONCLUSION

It should be obvious from the above, despite the brevity of the article, that in Russia there has long been a strong interest in the study of

Japan—which shows no evidence of weakening at the present stage. Despite some of the restrictions research has had to face, this interest in Japan has been supported, in large part, by the interest that has been cultured through academic endeavours. Our two peoples need to know one another better and for this purpose it would be desirable for scientific contacts and information exchange to expand and increase. The ability to nurture such exchanges is improving in scientific institutes in Russia, despite the economic complications. I hope that the cooperation presently being nurtured between the Centre for Japan Studies in the Institute of Far Eastern Studies and the International Research Centre for Japanese Studies will be representative of developing relations between many more institutes in both Russia and Japan.

Appendix I

Japan Related Dictionaries

1. Japanese-Russian Character Dictionary.
D. Posdneev, 42,000 characters, 1908.
2. Short Japanese-Russian Character Dictionary.
G. Monzeler & G. Tumanov, 1944, 1946.
3. Japanese-Russian Character Dictionary (school-text).
N. Feldman-Conrad, 5,000 characters, 1956, 1977.
4. Pocket Russian-Japanese Dictionary.
S. Neverov, 7,000 words, 1959.
5. Russian-Japanese Dictionary.
S. Zarubin & A. Rodzetskin, 42,000 words, 1964.
6. Japanese-Russian Dictionary (phonetic).
L. Nemzer & N. Siromyatnikov, 34,000 words, 1965.
7. Large Japanese-Russian Dictionary (phonetic).
S. Neverov, C. Popov, N. Siromyatnikov, N. Feldman, M. Tsine &
V. Constantinov, 100,000 words, 1970.
8. Short Japanese-Russian Dictionary.
N. Feldman-Conrad, M. Dolya & G. Khita, 4,000 words, 1980.
9. Dictionary of Japanese Names and Family Names.
E. Folkman, 76,260 words, 1958.
10. Dictionary of Japanese Geographic Names.
A. Abolmasov & L. Nemzer, 60,000 words, 1959.
11. Military Japanese-Russian Dictionary.
A. Pashkovski & A. Rodzetskin, 20,000 words, 1959.
12. Russian-Japanese Economic and Overseas Commerce Dictionary.
M. Tulukov, 15,000 words, 1965.
13. Japanese-Russian Polytechnic Dictionary.
Z. Zavyalov, 35,000 words, 1976.
14. Japanese-Russian Auto-tractor Dictionary.
B. Romanov, 14,000 words, 1977.
15. Japanese-Russian and Russian-Japanese Dictionary on System-
technics and Robot-technics.
E. Ivanova, A. Filatov & I. Khailov, 13,000 words, 1979.

16. Japanese-Russian Dictionary on Radio-electronics.
E. Azerbaev & M. Izutskiver, 35,000 words, 1981.
17. Japanese-English-Russian Physical Dictionary.
Cim Mine, 24,000 words, 1982.
18. Japanese-Russian Science-technology Dictionary.
B. Zlomanov, 5,000 words, 1983.
19. Japanese-Russian Chemical-technology Dictionary.
A. Khachoyan, 32,000 words, 1986.
20. Japanese-Russian and Russian-Japanese Aviation-cosmic Dictionary.
V. Tenenbaum & L. Nossoshev, 60,000 words, 1989.
21. Japanese-Russian and Russian-Japanese on Fishery.
L. Lisovenko, 29,000 words, 1990.

Appendix II

Dissertations on Japan (1970-1990)

Economics

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| Avanesov A. N. | "The Problems of Fuel and Raw Materials in Japan", 1981. |
| Azarov V. S. | "Inter-imperialistic Contradictions in the Fight for Sources of Minerals at the Contemporary Stage of General Crisis of Capitalism (Japan as an Example)", 1979. |
| Anikina T. S. | "Economic Problems and Social Roles of the Recreation Sector in the Economics of Japan", 1985. |
| Arskaja L. P. | "Open Economics and its Influence on the Conditions of the Working Class of Japan", 1970. |
| Baskakova M. V. | "State-Monopoly Interference in the Process of Accumulation of Capital in Post-War Japan", 1974. |

- Blokin G. P. "Specifics of Economics and Prospects in the Development of the Automobile Industry in Japan", 1974.
- Bogaturov A. D. "International Policy of Japan Concerning the Problems of the Supply of Energy and Raw Materials in the 1970's-80's", 1982.
- Braginski S. V. "Credit-monetary Policy as a Means of State-Monopoly Regulations in Japanese Economics", 1986.
- Caminski V. D. "The Main Trends in the Development of the Ship-building Industry in Post-War Japan", 1979.
- Carpova N. S. "The Mechanism of Foreign Trade Expansion of Japanese Monopolies", 1985.
- Carjagina T. V. "The Problems of Employment and Unemployment in Japan Today, after the Crisis of 1974-1975", 1983.
- Chegodar Y. P. "Japan and the International Transfer of Capital", 1986.
- Chuico A. V. "Trade Relation Problems between Japan and Australia", 1984.
- Cliaman P. I. "Japan-China Economic Relations (1949-1976)", 1977.
- Covrigin E. B. "New Appearances in the Export of Capital from Japan: Mid 1960's to the Early 1970's", 1974.
- Collontay A. V. "Specifics in the Process of Trans-nationalisation of Japanese Monopolies", 1984.
- Condрахin V. A. "Japan-USA Competition in Automobile Markets (1960-1975)", 1977.
- Corchagina O. S. "Inside and Outside Economic Factors in the Dynamics of Prices in Japan", 1990.
- Cravtsevich A. I. "Technology and Economic Cooperation of Japan with Underdeveloped Countries", 1977.
- Cutsobina N. C. "Economic and Social Problems of Fishing in Japan (1945-1970)", 1975.
- Danyeljan C. E. "Japanese Neo-colonialism in ASEAN Countries: Economic Aspects", 1988.

- Danilov A. Y. "Characteristics of Budget Policy in Japan in the 1980's", 1989.
- Dermanov V. C. "Price-making in Capital Markets and Concurrentability of Commodities: The Cases of Japan and USA", 1979.
- Duikov S. A. "Trade-Economic Relations of the USSR and Japan: Main Trends and Issues", 1979.
- Gindiev A. M. "Comparison and Analysis of Labour Productivity in the Manufacturing Industry of USA and Japan", 1978.
- Gorbunova E. V. "Aggravation of Imperialistic Contradictions between USA and Japan Today: Trade-Economic Aspects", 1986.
- Ivanov B. V. "Japan and the World Capitalistic Market of Timber Industry Goods: Some Economic Problems, Trends and Prospects", 1977.
- Ivanov O. G. "Organization and Methods of Nature Protection in Japan", 1979.
- Jarova T. E. "Economics of the Rubber Industry in Japan", 1973.
- Kistanov V. O. "Economic Penetration of Japan into Latin America", 1977.
- Khrenov A. I. "Characteristics of the Development of Ferrous Metallurgy in Japan in the Post-War period (1950-1970)", 1972.
- Lavrinovich L. L. "Economic Problems of Development in the Electric Goods Industry in Japan", 1976.
- Lokhmachov V. F. "Export of Capital and Imperialistic 'Assistance' as the Instrument of Neo-colonialism and Aggression: Japan as an Example", 1970.
- Maksimova N. N. "Japanese Sea-transport and International Navigation", 1983.
- Maslennikov O. I. "Foreign-trade Activities of Chemical Monopolies of Japan", 1990.
- Maslov N. V. "The Capacity of Funds in Japanese Economics: Trends and Factors", 1986.

- Matrusova T. H. "Organization of Pension Securing Systems in Japan", 1980
- Melnikov A. T. "Scientific Research in Japanese Industry", 1974.
- Nesterov A. S. "The Foreign Trade Expansion of Metallurgy Monopolies of Japan", 1983.
- Novikov O. S. "The Economic Relations of Japan with Western European Countries", 1974.
- Nozdrjova R. B. "The Foreign Trade Policy in the National Programmes of Japan", 1973.
- Odintsov A. A. "Trade Monopolies of Present Japan at the Stage of State-Monopoly Capitalism", 1977.
- Orphenov A. B. "The Problem of Workers 'Participation' in Managing Factories in Developed Countries: A Social and Economic Analyses with Japan as an Example", 1982.
- Rosin V. Y. "National Wealth of Japan and Trends in the Development of Capital", 1984.
- Shevchenko N. Ju. "Japan-USA Economic Relations in the 1970's and 80's", 1984.
- Sedelnikov O. S. "Reconstruction of Japanese Economics and State Regulations: Domestic Aspects", 1988.
- Sergeev B. I. "The Market of Loan Capitals in Japan and their International Role", 1979.
- Socolov A. I. "Education as a Factor of the Economic Growth of Japan", 1975.
- Solovejov V. R. "The Main Trends in the Manufacture of New Materials and Factors of their Effective Use in U.S. and Japanese Industry", 1990.
- Spandarjan M. V. "Organization and Management of Sales in Leading Automobile Companies in Japan", 1984.
- Stankovski S. S. "The New Stage of State Regulations of Foreign Trade in Japan", 1987.
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- Sutyagina M. V. "Mitsubishi: The Monopoly", 1973.
Sukhanov V. I. "Wage Systems in Japanese Industry", 1975.
Timonina I. L. "Ecological Problems and the Economic Development of Japan", 1981.
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- Strelitsov D. V. "Nuclear Issues in the Foreign Policy of Japan (1980's)", 1990.
- Tverdokhlebov N. I. "The Issues of the World's Oceans in the Foreign Policy of Japan", 1984.
- Tolstoguzov A. A. "The History of the Working Class Movement in Hokkaido", 1980.
- Troyakova T. G. "Evaluation of USA Policy towards Japan (1945-1952)", 1978.
- Verbitski S. I. "USA-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security Guaranties (1960)", 1970.
- Volkova I. V. "Japanese Policy in Africa (1960-70's)", 1976.
- Vorontsov A. V. "The Relations Between USA-Japan-South Korea in the 1970's-80's (External Aspects)", 1985.
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- Zakharova G. F. "The Colonial Policy of Japanese Imperialism in Manchuria (1937-1945)", 1983.
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- Cabanov A. M. "Godzan Bungaku" and its Place in the History of Japanese Literature", 1983.
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- Dolin A. A. "Japanese Romanticism and the Beginning of New Poetry (1893-1903)", 1975.
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- Ermakova L. M. "Yamato Monogatari", 1974.
- Fesyuk A. G. "The Evolution of Shingon and Works by Kukoya", 1988.
- Gerasimova M. P. "Traditions and the Present: Kawabata Yasunari", 1983.
- Grigorieva G. B. "Seiji Shosetsu in the 1980's", 1990.
- Grishina V. A. "Literary-Criticism and Published Works by Tokusoku Ishikawa", 1974.
- Jukova I. V. "Works by Kinoshita Junja and Post-War Japanese Dramaturgy", 1981.
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- Lutski A. L. "Existentialism and Japanese Literature", 1987.
- Madzurik V. P. "*Nandzo* in the Literature and Folk-lore of Japan", 1984.
- Malinina E. E. "The Perception of Works by Turgenev in Japan", 1989.
- Melnikova I. V. "*Yomihon* in Japanese Literature in the 18th Century and *Nishiyama Monogatari* by Takebe Ayatari", 1983.
- Odzogin V. I. "The Mechanism of Interactions in Traditions: Aspect and Method—The Perception of Tolstoy's Works Japan", 1988.
- Rediko T. I. "The Works by Ihara Saisaku", 1978.
- Sadokova A. P. "Japanese Calendar-Ceremony Poetry", 1989.
- Sviridov G. G. "Poetry of Medieval Prose of Setsuwa", 1979.
- Semenuta E. B. "Japanese Literature in Late 19th to Early 20th Century and F. Doctoevski", 1986.
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- Simonova-Gudzenko "Japanese Myth and its Role in Japanese Ancient History", 1979.
- Smirnova N. V. "Toyama Katai and Japanese Naturalism", 1986.
- Toropigina M. V. "*Yoshitsune Monogatari* and its Role in Japanese Medieval Literature", 1989.
- Vovin A. V. "The Language of Japanese Prose in the Latter Half of the 11th Century", 1987.
- Yurkova T. A. "Shingeki and A. Chekhov", 1987.

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- Dibovski A. S. "Interactions in Present-day Japanese Language", 1981.
- Ribin V. V. "The Syllable in Japanese Language", 1986.

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- Cudzel Y. L. "The Worldview of Monzaemon Tiramatsu in his Works", 1975.
- Gaidar V. M. "The Role of Mori Koichii in the Development of Marxist Philosophy Thought in Japan", 1976.
- Mikhalev A. A. "The Philosophic Views of Miki Kiyoshi", 1987.
- Panteleev S. V. "Ideological Development of the Japanese Working Class under the Conditions of State-Monopoly Capitalism", 1988.
- Soloviev N. P. "Marxist Philosophic Thought in Japan and Criticism of Miki Kiyoshi's Views", 1972.

Appendix III

Dates and Fields of Doctoral Dissertations in the Post-War Period

YEAR	ECONOMICS	HISTORY	LITERATURE	LANGUAGE	PHILOSOPHY
1946	Popov Kh. M. Vaintswaig N. K. Boldirev C. I.				
1948		Fainberg A. Y.			
1952	Lukjanova M. I.				
1955		Goldberg D. I.			
1960		Constantinov V. M.			
1961	Pevzner Ya. Kh.				
1964		Petrov D. V.			
1965	Dikevich A. I.				
1966	Pigulevskaja E. A.				
1967		Latishev I. A.			
1970	Sharkov A. M.	Arutjunov S. A.	Gluskina A. E. Popov Kh A. Pinus E. M.	Feldman-Conrad N. I.	
1972		Topekha P. P.			
1973					
1974			Goregljad V N. Ryokho C. Grivnin V. S. Ermakova L. M.	Golovnin I. V.	

YEAR	ECONOMICS	HISTORY	LITERATURE	LANGUAGE	PHILOSOPHY
1975	Ramzes V. B.			Neverov S. V.	
1976	Dobrovinski B. N.				
1979	Khlinov V. N.	Markov A. P. Savin A. S.	Grigorjeva T. P.	Boronina T. A.	Pospelov B. V.
1983				Alpatov B. M.	
1984		Podpalova G. I.			
1985	Curitsin A. N.				
1986		Khanin Z. Ya.			
1987			Bugaeva D. P.		
1989	Markarjants S. B.		Popov V. A.		
1990			Veresovskaja E. V.		