

Research on History of Japan in Global Era: Trend and Challenge

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Abstract: *This paper was written as a reflection on the development and trends on research as well as study of Japanese history in several countries in the context of the development of Japanese Studies on a global level. Education and research on History of Japan was expected to always not static, obsolete and always on the development oriented to the novelty and dynamics following the state of the art. This paper was specially prepared for Curriculum workshop of the Department of History Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Indonesia. This paper was written based on review of various secondary sources of research results on Japanese History that are considered relevant in the footnotes.*

Keywords: Japanese history, state of the art, methodology, historiography, historical continuum

1. Introduction

The process of developing history education should be oriented to good scientific quality and a good history education curriculum is needed. A good history curriculum in accordance to the character of higher education, which is critical, dynamic and based on the state of the art, will undoubtedly provide a valuable benefit for the development of history education that is always dynamic and based on scientific principles¹. Therefore theoretical framework, concept, historical philosophy, methodology and other supporting sciences such as language are needed. The mastery of languages related to the search and discovery of historical sources in form of facts and written or oral data that have to be presented by lecturer or researcher of history study. In this case, a historian is required to master the supporting field of study including languages, archives and utilization of cutting-edge information technology.

2. Literature Review

I was studying in Japan (in 1980s) and preparing thesis and later dissertation under supervision of Professor Yasumaru Yoshio. He never asked "what theory and who, what method will be used in thesis or dissertation research?" The professor simply asks, "Have you understood the concepts in history?" "To what extent have your topic been examined by others?" "Is there a possibility of finding something new or important things to enrich the results of research or studies in place?" "Is there a new theory to be built as a result of research, or correcting, rejecting previous research results?" In this case, it was clear that what the Professor wanted to emphasize was the substance of a research, the "originality" and new findings in the historical research topic despite particular topic has been studied previously by past researchers. Therefore, theories and methodologies that have

¹ State of the art in this term is translated as "historical approach of scientific history" in its dimension that became a vein to connect historical sequences, because it shall never be completed, as there shall be unelaborated or undiscovered historical sources.

been produced by previous historians should have been studied by themselves. These are the steps taught by Professor Yasumaru².

3. Typology of Historiography

Based on Kojiki's writing historiography (The oldest recorded Japanese writing, written in 712) and Nihonshoki (a kind of Japanese chronicle, written in 720), as well as Kokushi (Japanese state history written in the previous century), they are theocratic and mythical³. They are not apart from religious teachings and beliefs for functional purposes that strengthen the political power of the ruler⁴. This kind of historiography is not much different from the

² In 2013 Yasumaru selected works were published. (*Yasumaru Yoshio Shū Zen-Rokkan*, consist of 6 volumes, Tokyo :Iwanami Shoten.

- *Dai-ikkan: Minshū Shisōshi no Tachiba* = 民衆思想の立場 (Volume 1: Point of View in History of Popular Thoughts), 404 pp. (ISBN 978-4-00-028581-0)
- *Dai-nikan: Minshū Undō no Shisō* = 民衆運の思想、(Volume 2: Thoughts of Popular Movement), 388 pp. (ISBN 978-4-00-028582-7)
- *Dai-sankan: Shūkyō to Kosumorogī* = 宗教とコスモロジー (Volume 3: Religion and Cosmology), 380 pp. (ISBN 978-4-00-028583-4)
- *Dai-yonkan: Kindaika-Nihon no Shinsō* = 近代化日本の心底 (Volume 4: [Mental] Structure in Japan's Modernization), 396 pp. (ISBN 978-4-00-028584-1)
- *Dai-gokan: Sengo-chi to Rekishigaku* = 戦後時と歴史学、(Volume 5: History of Intellectuals in Post-War Period), 392 pp. (ISBN 978-4-00-028585-8)
- *Dai-rokkan: Hōhōtoshiteno Shisōshi* = 方法として思想史、(Volume 6: History of Thoughts as Methodology), 426 pp. (ISBN 978-4-00-028586-5)

³ Sterling Seagrave, (2001) *The Yamato Dynasty: The Secret History of Japan's Imperial Family*, (first published 1999) Paperback, Broadway Books, 424 pages.

⁴ Liza Dalby, *The Tale of Genji Monogatari*, (first published 2000), (2001), Paperback, Anchor, 426 pages.

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"Brunian and Guicciardinian streams" that placed history as a propaganda tool for fostering a spirit of loyalty to the kingdom and the State⁵.

The Renaissance – began in Italy in the 14th century then extended to other European countries in the 17th century – produced humanist thought that "doubt" the teachings of Christianity, in Japan precisely the closure of the country (*sakoku*) that stop the influences outside entrance to Japan. *Sakoku* politics (closed country policy) nourished the development and establishment of military feudalism under *Bakufu* Tokugawa government. Historical writing at that time was still largely mythical oriented rather than rational, although it was pioneer of hermeneutic interpretation approach. Kojikiden's writing (Kojiki interpreted hermeneutically and annotated is one example).

The raise of enlightenment (or *aufklärung*) era in Europe in the 18th century, impacted Japan a century later, especially after the Meiji Restoration in 1868, known as the *BunmeiKaika* (civilization and enlightenment) movement that tends to westernization. Historical writing began to show the "Rankenian flow", (Leopold von Ranke) that focused on the objective of history as original sources, official, and used hermeneutic methods systematically. Fukuzawa Yukichi, a Japanese intellectual in the Meiji period, in his book *Bunmei no Gairyaku* (*General Line of Civilization*) used critical science and attracted great attention to his day. Historical writing in the Meiji period began the focus on substance and focus of individuality, equivalent to the different human and societal traits (idiosyncratic). In other words, historical research has entered a special, specific study; regardless of equation, redundancy and "simplification".

In the Meiji period (1868-1912) and the Taishō period (1912-1926), modernization and industrialization of Japan not only raise political issues, but also raise various economic, social, ideological, and other issues. It seemed that the flow of "*Annales*" pioneered by Fernand Braudel in France since 1929 was also "contagious" among Japan's academics at the time. Interdisciplinary or structural historical research began to be widely practiced. Moreover, Braudel's structural approach influenced many historical researchers in Japan. The mutual "overturn" between fields of anthropology, sociology, economic and geography that characterize the flow of "*Annales*" among non-Japanese researchers, researched Japan in history, politics, economics, society and culture.

Max Weber (1864-1920) classical methodology of social sciences, which used ideal type (abstract type), have indeed helped historians in research. However, in factual, it turned out that many ideal types have no factual basis in the context of history⁶. In the Japan's context, Weber's analogy of capitalism born to the spirit of Protestantism, followed by Robert N. Bellah in his *Tokugawa Religion*, which explained that Zen Buddhism ethics had major influence on

⁵ Eiji Yoshikawa, (2012), *Taira no Masakado*, Paperback, Kansha Books, 635 pages.

⁶ Max Weber, (1930), *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (1904-1905, in German, 1930 in English)*. In Bahasa Indonesia, (2015), PT. BukuSeru.

the development of Japanese capitalism (exemplifying thinkers such as Suzuki Shozan and Ishida Baigan)⁷. Bellah's opinion and conclusions were criticized by Maruyama Masao, on modernization concept in Bellah formula, where it was not in accordance with Japan's fact and condition. Maruyama's objections include: 'Universalism as intended by Bellah was difficult to materialize in Japan's society, because of the tendency of *particularist Japaneseism* to focus on loyalty to certain group and their leader, from the Emperor's level down to the family level'. In other word, 'a functional universal Christian ethic was inadequate for Japan's society'. The theoretical framework of modernization that Bellah used cannot be applied simply in Japan case, which could lead to rationalization and modernization. Economic development had to be related to the universal development of political democratization and ethical⁸.

Based on my observation, the apparent trend in historical studies in Indonesia, theories and methodologies developed in Higher Education are still oriented to theories and methodologies developed by Western historians, although the topic was increasingly diversified. Many novice researchers "touched" just like certain expert theories were then theories were applied in the research, although the topic or problem in the study was "far from fire". Based on this case, it was possible to "corrupt data and facts" and even distortion to historical sources in order to obtain the result of research in line or in order to answer the question of the problem of research using referred expert's theories. The biggest mistake in this way of research was that sometimes research results did not match the theories and methods used where theories and methods are described longer than the substance of the results. In this condition, I often found imitated research or just quoted texts from here and there, including theories built by other researchers. Various theories and methodologies used by historians should have been embedded in every history lecturer or historical researcher in an effort to remain at the state of the art of history study. However, it must be admitted that, ideally, every historian should be able to realize the state of the art on the field or historical topics that they research⁹.

4. Substance and Theories

In general I would say that, specific character of historians who were educated in universities in Japan were constantly searching for topics and consistently doing further research to produce in-depth, specific and "original" research. In

⁷ See: Bellah, Robert Neelly (1985), *Tokugawa Religion: the cultural roots of modern Japan*, New York: Free Press.

⁸ Surajaya, I Ketut, (1992), 'Religi Tokugawa, Akar-akar Budaya Jepang', presented in Book Discussion :Religi Tokugawa, organized by Center for Japanese Studies UNAS and Student of FISIP-POLITIKA UNAS, 3 November.

⁹ Some examples on historical topics that considered as *state of the art* in certain timeline are as follow: Yasumaru Yoshio, in history of social thoughts an peasant movements in Japan (since 1970s), Maruyama Masao, in history of political thoughts in Japan (1960s – now), Robert Bellah, in history of feudalism in Japan (1980s – now).

other words, they seek for more substance as major concern to Japanese historians, rather than developing new theories or methodologies to found new discoveries and new theories. In theoretical books and historical methodology of the work of the History of Japan, which grew up in the writing *trilations* of History at Japanese universities, discussions about Leopold von Ranke, Broudel, Luis Gottschalk, Anthony Giddens and Christopher Lloyd's "structurism" and "agency" theory often used as reference in Education and Historical research in the academic circles of History of Indonesia. This condition was not so prominent in historical research institution in Japan. They focus more on historical research on undiscovered, specific and deep topics.

Topic search means revealing certain topics from different perspective and scope, and it may build new theories and methodologies as a result of the research. In other words, they research first and then build the theory. The built theory is sometimes analogous to existing theories and there are also differences and even anomaly. In the social history perspective, the analogy of theory is possible because of social structures which are analogously synchronized analogically.

5. Historical Matrix and Continuum

Great historical topics researched such as those by Kenneth G. Henshall¹⁰ in field of civilization, culture, politic, economic, social, ideology, thought, literature¹¹, language, etc. are continuously narrowed and deepened in later stages of study and research into smaller sub-topics. For example, the history of monarchy in Japan is researched further in sub-history of *Shoen*¹² history, the history of noble families, the system of land rent, the social class system¹³, feudal transaction system; in various scopes and periods, both national and regional, such as feudal provinces (*Han*), within the district (*Ken*), to the village (*Mura*). Of course, in the source of the research, they also used imperial archives, government reports (*bakufu*), city archives, village records related to population, taxes, production, figures including journal of certain figures and so on for other fields and topics. This kind of historical details can be the basis of research methodology oriented to "historiomatrix" in field of history, "politicomatrix" in field of politic, "economatrix" in field of economy and "sociomatrix" in field of social and so on. This terminology I used in the context of systematic patterns, events, timeline, historical actors, structure and specific values in certain historical phenomenon.

¹⁰ Kenneth G. Henshall, (2004), *A History of Japan: From Stones Age to Superpower Second edition*, [SEP:SEP] New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

¹¹ In Literary, see: Donald Keene, (1993), *Seeds in the Heart: Japanese Literature from Earliest Times to the Late Sixteen Century*, New York: Henry Holt & Co.

¹² *Shoen* was farmland developed in Nara era by group of noble people under order of the Emperor, cultivated by peasants and a supervision office was built in every *Shoen*

¹³ The birth of samurai class (*bushi*) in Japan, see: William Wayne Farris, (1996), *Heavenly Warriors: The Evolution of Japa's Military, 500-1300*, Harvard University Press: Harvard University Asia Center.

Historiomatrix research focused on the workings of grouping figures, events, time periods, dominant or minor factors, structures, then connecting vertically, horizontally, randomly, linearly; and a more rigid and structured matrix can be made. A matrix based on this topic is used as basis for analysis to answer the question of "why something happened" and who did, the relationship of perpetrators, time duration, how many, why and so on, are made in various matrixes.

The historical continuum of these narrow subtopics has been constructed in Japanese history, which is common in Japanese history books, dictionary of great Japanese history, Encyclopedia¹⁴, Japan History books are generally composed chronologically and thematically¹⁵. These sources are commonly used as main guidance in development of related branches or subtopics¹⁶. The correlation in Japanese history, however, must have been studied first before take steps into smaller sub-topics¹⁷.

In an attempt to understand the historical continuum, the learners of Japan's History must understand Japanese history in general from prehistoric to contemporary times from various dimensions of topics including current changes in Japanese society in politic, economic, culture, social, ideology, thinking, art, technology, industry, union and so on. Based on the common reference of History, so far no new discovery found except for changes in technology, politic, social culture, which are dynamic, faster, complex and have multi dimensional perspectives. Even so, the great correlation between Japanese history and other terms of Introduction to Japanese History have not changed much despite discoveries of micro-diachronic¹⁸ historical sources and the expansion of certain topics. This was due to the macro diachronic, the great subject of Japan's history, focusing on major events, major figures and periods in macro context (Reversal or period of conventional Japanese history, or in the form of historical Thesaurus).

6. Trend of Study and Research

An increasing wave of powerful globalization in 1980s has significant impact in field of trends and orientation of new fields of study characterized by "soft" (flexible in a

¹⁴ Japanese American National Museum and Brian Niiya, (2001), New York: Facts on File.

¹⁵ W.G. Beasley, (2000) *The Japanese Experience: A Short History of Japan*, California: University of California Press, 299 pages

¹⁶ Conrad Schirokauer and Miranda Brown, (2013), *History of Japan's culture and civilization* [was in the scope of interlink with China's history and culture]. Australia: Wadsworth.

¹⁷ Related to general topic of modern Japan's history, See: Garry D. Allinso, (1999), *The Columbia Guide to Modern Japanese History*, Columbia University Press.

¹⁸ One of comprehensive textbook of Introduction to History of Japan was made by Kenneth G. Henshall, (1999), *A History of Japan: From Stones Age to Superpower*, New York: St. Martin's Press

multidisciplinary approach), especially in field of social sciences, culture, literature, others¹⁹. Historical science cannot be separated from this condition. The condition of "diehard" (persistent with conventional theories and approaches)²⁰, is enriched, sharpened by more current scientific methods²¹, as well as current "pragmatic", "soft" and more open conditions to new theories and approaches which is synchronic, multi-disciplinary, as has been done by the sociologist of Japanese historian Chie Nakane as an example²².

There are various topics of Japanese history that are "imitated" into topics and titles of comic (*manga*) and animation (*anime*)²³ stories. Packed in such a way that it seemed as if it was an authentic historical event, but it was not the real substance of history, and accentuated the historical zeitgeist. On the other hand, there are also substantive historical events, told comically, in form of historical comic books such as the story of Karl Marx and Lenin which have been translated into Japanese²⁴. There are many comic or literary stories that told history of famous figures in Japanese history with historical background, but in general only the zeitgeist was depicted, but the character of the perpetrator was partly authentic where the events, data and many facts were imitative, imaginative, or fictitious. For beginner of the Japanese history study, these kinds of works make it difficult to find authentic history although the subject would be easily understood. Therefore, an understanding of Japanese history in general as fundamental of subsequent studies is absolutely necessary.

¹⁹ JiMeng and Atsuko Ukai, ed. (2013), *Translation, History and Arts: New Horizons in Asian Interdisciplinary Humanities Research*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

²⁰ Tscydidides-Lucianus-IbnKhaldun-Bodin-Mably-Voltaire-Ranke; They are frontier researchers in historical writings with conventional historical method; they had few similarity in term of: data collecting, data analysis, separation of real and mythical data, including to rediscover stories so it could be close to reality

²¹ Ernest Bernheim-Langlois, Signobos (Prancis), Johnson, Nevins (AS), Bloch, Renovin; they are researchers with expertise in modern (scientific) historical research. They have similarities in term of: (a) selection of subject of research, (b) collecting necessary information, (c) testing sources to define truth/not, (d) "quoting" sources

²² Chie Nakane, (1972), *Japanese Society*, UC Berkeley. Center for Japanese Studies.

²³ Susan J. Navier, (2001), *Anime: from Akira to Princess Mononoke, Experiencing Contemporary Japanese Animation*, New York: Palgrave.

²⁴ Richard Appignanesi, (1981), *For Beginners Marukusu (Marx) For Beginners Reenin (Lenin)*, Tokyo: Gendai Shoukan. One example of good historical comics. It describes the struggle of Karl Marx and Lenin, published theories in their works. Certainly, dialogue in the comic is short and supported by limited argumentation and review. This is still good comic for beginners who wanted to understand Karl Marx, Frederick Engels and Lenin, the comic book is good as the illustration is proportional based on historical pictures. The comic has been translated into Japanese.

7. Trending topics

There are several methods to find out the trends in Japan's historical research on various level and dimension, including checking through the internet, attending various seminar or conferences, reading books or historical writing in various journals, observing the rank of best selling Japan's history books, which are generally promoted on the Internet. Another good way is to become members of Association of Japanese History or Association of Japanese Studies in national and international level and intensively follow the activities of the associations²⁵. Topics that remain a trend in historical research can be categorized into more general mainstream topics such as George Samson's work²⁶ and more specific non-mainstream topics such as the history of language as studied by Bjarke Frellesvig²⁷.

Carl G. Gustavson in "A Preface of History" identified six mainstream histories. G. Gustavson, has indeed developed in the study and research of Japan's history since 1960s. Topics of economic history as mainstream: among other real multidisciplinary topics such as silk road history, Japanese migration to America that gave birth to generations of *issei*, *nisei*, *sansei*, (first generation, second and third generation) of the Chinese-Japan (in its economic interests), various labor strikes in regions, and so on are still interesting topics for Japan's historical researchers²⁸.

Another trending topic was religion as mainstream: Buddhist entry to Japan²⁹, spread of major religion to various countries through silk route³⁰, new religious movements in Japan, *Tenrikyo* (in the Meiji Era), *AumShinrikyo* (1980s), politic in religious context or otherwise examined among

²⁵ I am still as member of Academic Board of Association of Japanese Study in Indonesia (*Asosiasi Studi Jepang di Indonesia – ASJI*) since 1990, steering committee of JSA-ASEAN (Japanese Studies Association in ASEAN), since it was established in 2006 at National University of Singapore, as founder and with other scientists in Japanese Studies in ASEAN countries and still member of Steering Committee until now. Aside of that I am also asked as member of Board for Translation of International Research Center for Japanese Studies (*Nichibunken=Nihon Bunka Kenkyuu Centaa*), Kyoto in subject of translating Japan's documents into foreign languages including bahasa Indonesia, since 2007 until now.

²⁶ George Samson, (1958), *A History of Japan to 1334, 1615-1867*, (1961), Stanford University Press. It is an introduction book that elaborates correlation of history of Japan, still relevant for students and researcher on topic of history of Japan until now.

²⁷ Bjarke Frellesvig, (2010), *A History of Japanese Language*, New York: Cambridge University Press

²⁸ E. Patricia Tsurumi, (1990), *Factory Girls: Women in the Thread Mills of Meiji Japan*, Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press

²⁹ Yusen Kashiwaha, (1994), *Shapers of Japanese Buddhism*, Tokyo: Kosei Publishing Co.,

³⁰ Ikuo Higashibaba, *Christianity In Early Modern Japan: Kirishitan Beliefs and Practice*, 2001

others by Roy Stars³¹ are mainstream topics that remain actual³². The spirit of capitalism as part of Protestant Ethics from Weber's thesis also derived analogy to the Japan's context in Robert N. Bellah's research, as mentioned above³³.

Another topic was institution as mainstream, among others: feudal government institution of *Bakufu*³⁴, *Han*³⁵, state institutions such as parliamentary history³⁶, imperial history³⁷, educational institutions³⁸, economic such as the history of companies³⁹, topic of political party institutions such as the history of the formation of political parties in the Meiji Era, political party organization as investigated by IrokawaDaikichi⁴⁰ and in Indonesia by I KetutSurajaya as bachelor's degree thesis in 1975, where after several revision and improvement were published in 1984⁴¹. This topic was the only topic in the study of democratic movements and thinking during the Japanese transition from feudal society to modern society in early Meiji period studied and published in the Indonesian language.

Technology topic is also a mainstream where Meiji era was a time of massive industrialization and modernization, from feudal society into modern society⁴². Modernization required support of economic growth and transformation from traditional into modern society⁴³. Marius B. Jansen

elaborated the modernization of Japan comprehensively⁴⁴. The social and political turmoil during Tokugawa to Meiji transition period, as examined by Elise K. Tipton⁴⁵ and MikisoHane⁴⁶, remained an inspiration to the next modernization study.

Ideology as mainstream in history research among others was extremist movements that are ideological, including the movement of nationalism and democracy⁴⁷. I KetutSurajaya conducted a research on democratic movement during Taishō period that focused on intellectual thought of Yoshino Sakuzō⁴⁸. Militarism, radical ideology movements in Meiji-Taishō-Showa Period and others remain an attractive option among Japan's history researchers. The Japanese-Russian War (1904 – 1905) was a war that stemmed from economic, political and ideological interests that have so far attracted the attention of researchers, moreover this war left many issues between Japan and Russia even when the Pacific War was end on the Kuril and Etorofu Islands disputes located on Northern of Japan⁴⁹.

Military as mainstream topic: The raise of *samurai* class at the end of the *Heian* Age as told by Karl F. Friday⁵⁰, *Bakufu* Kamakura, *Bakufu*AzuchiMomoyama, Military Cabinet along the Taishō-Showa, military regime during the occupation as told by Iris Chang, *The Rape of Nanking*⁵¹, the presence of Japan's organization in war like student army told by Emiko Ohnuki-Tierne and also *Kamikaze Diaries*⁵². This included the history of Japan in war with other countries such as RanaMitter, *China's War* with

³¹ Roy Stars, ed.(2021),*Politics and Religion in Modern Japan; Red Sun, White Lotus*, London Macmillan: Palgrave

³² Mikael S. Adolphson, (2000)*Gates of Power: Monks, Courtiers, and Warriors in Pre-Modern Japan*. University of Hawaii Press, Paperback, 480 pages

³³ See: Robert N. Bellah, (1958), *Tokugawa Religion*, Simon & Schuster

³⁴ John Hall (ed.), (1988),*Medieval Japan: Essays in Institutional History*, Stanford University Press, Paperback: 304 pages.

³⁵ Stephen Turnbull, (2003), *Japanese Castles, 1540-1640*, Osprey Publishing.

³⁶ Herschel Webb, (1968). *The Japanese Imperial Institution in the Tokugawa Period*, New York: Columbia University Press.

³⁷ Leonard Mosley, (1966),*Hirohito: Emperor of Japan*, Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc.

³⁸ Ronald Dore, (1965), First publish, *Education in Tokugawa Japan*, (2011), edition, London and New York: Routledge.

³⁹ John Whitney Hall NagaharaKeiji Kozo Yamamura, (1981),*Japan Before Tokugawa: Political Consolidation and Economic Growth, 1500-1650*, Princeton University Press.

⁴⁰ IrokawaDaikichi, (1985) first published, *Political Party in Meiji Period*,(1988), paperback, 340 pages, Princeton University Press.

⁴¹ Surajaya,I Ketut,(1975), *Meiji Jidai no JiyuuMinkenUndou*, undergraduate thesis. (1984), *Sejarah PergerakanDemokrasi Jepang(History of Japan's Democracy Movement)*, Jakarta: PT. KaryaUnipress.

⁴² Toyama Shigeki, (1985), 'Independence and Modernization in the Nineteenth Century', in Nagai Michio and Miguel Urrutia, (eds.), *Meiji ishin: Restoration and Revolution*, United Nations University, pp.29-42.

⁴³ Conrad D. Totman, (1993, 1995), *Early Modern Japan*, Berkeley: University of California Press.

⁴⁴ Marius B. Jansen, (2010),*The Making of Modern Japan*, Harvard University Press.

⁴⁵ Elise K. Tipton, (2008),*Modern Japan: A Social and Political History* (Nissan Institute/Routledge Japanese Studies, 316 pages.

⁴⁶ MikisoHane, (1982), *Peasants, Rebels, and Outcastes; The Underside of Modern Japan*, Pantheon Books; First edition, 336 pages

⁴⁷ Kevin Michael Doak, (2006), *A History of Nationalism in Modern Japan: Placing the People*, Brill Academic Publishers, , 292 pages

⁴⁸ Peter Duus and Irwin Scheiner, (1998) 'Socialism, Liberalism, and Marxism, 1901-1931,' in Peter Duus, (ed.), *The Cambridge History of Japan*,(6), *The Twentieth Century*, Cambridge University Press, pp. 654-710, also in Bob Tadashi Wakabayashi, (1998), *Modern Japanese Thought Cambridge* paperback, pp. 147-206. See also, I KetutSurajaya, (1995)*Yoshino Sakuzō, PenentangGigihKomunisme, Anarkhisme, dan Militerisme Jepang*, Depok: FSUI, 1995.

⁴⁹ R. M. Connaughton, (1988, 1991), *Rising Sun and Tumbling Bear; Rusia's War with Japan*, (2003), first published, London: Cassell

⁵⁰ Karl F. Friday,(2008), *The First Samurai: The Life and Legend of the Warrior Rebel, TairaMasakado*, Hoboken, New Jersey : Willey & Son.

⁵¹ Iris Chang, (1998),*The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II*,Random House

⁵² Emiko Ohnuki-Tierne, (2007), *Kamikaze Diaries: Reflection of Japanese Student Soldiers*. Chicago:University of Chicago Press

Japan⁵³, the subject of Japan's occupation of China⁵⁴ and other Asian countries, Japan's defeat in military strategy⁵⁵ during World War II and Pacific War⁵⁶, the destruction of Hiroshima in autobiography⁵⁷, are attracted topic for researchers⁵⁸.

Individual as mainstream topic was generally related to the role of figures in history which included their thought and role in society, politic, economy, and others. In general, revealing the role of a person and those close to the person as narrated by Mark Ravina, *The Last Samurai*⁵⁹. The transition from feudal society to modern society at the beginning of Meiji was still quite interesting to be revealed with topics such as great figures researched by Fukuzawa Yukichi⁶⁰. The transition of power from Tokugawa to the Meiji Emperor is also quite interesting as told by Ryōtarō Shiba, *The Last Shogun*⁶¹.

Gender as mainstream topic was focused on gender issue in human life. The *Heian Murasaki Shikibu* diary of Genji Monogatari still attracted attention and even the English edition was published in 1996⁶². Sex rape by Japan's occupation armies during Pacific War known as *Jugunlanfu* was in great demand by gender activists who seek data on brutality of Japanese army against the Philippine woman as told by Maria Rosa, in *Comport Woman*⁶³. The history of Women's Magazine, Fashion Maiden, Female Novelist were highlighted in researches by

Barbara Molony and Kathleen Uno⁶⁴. Generations related to age as mainstream also remain attractive to researchers, including the history of youth pioneering (*seinen*), youth figures in Japanese literary works of Yukio Mishima was well-told by Henry Scott Stokes⁶⁵.

Social classes as mainstream was researched in the context of history of transformation and dynamic of social classes with historical approaches, such as: the history of the birth of *Shinokoshō* (group *shi* = *bushi*, samurai; *nou* = *noumin*, peasant; *kō* = *kōsakumin*, artisan and *shō* = *shōnin*, merchant), samurai class figures as told by Shōtarō Ikenami, the Story of Tokugawa Ieyasu in two volumes were quite interesting⁶⁶. Similarly, ideological movements such as Genyōsha, Kokuryukai in the Meiji period still remains attractive to political history enthusiasts⁶⁷. The peasant uprisings against the landlords in Edo's Era was observed by Stephen Vlastos in *Peasant Protest*⁶⁸, the samurai's moral teachings narrated by Thomas Louis⁶⁹, the notion of nationalism in the agricultural context was narrated by Thomas R. H. Havens⁷⁰ and many others could be trend for young researchers.

Ethnic and racial as mainstream are still interesting subject in historical research with anthropological approach. The history of Chinatown by Eric C. Han was about the history of the Chinatown city of Yokohama⁷¹. The poverty of the community by Martin Dusinger⁷², the history of the capital by Judith Clancy when Exploring Kyoto⁷³, as well as history of the Japanese village (*Nippon mura*)⁷⁴. The gray side of Japanese modernization⁷⁵ like race discrimination attracts

⁵³Rana Mitter, (2013), *China's War with Japan, 1937-1945: The Struggle for Survival*, London, Allen Lane. See also, Geoffrey Jukes, (2002), *The Russo-Japanese War 1904-1905*, Osprey Publishing.

⁵⁴Iris Chang, (1998), (1997 first published), *The Rape of Nanking*, Penguin Books.

⁵⁵James B. Wood, (2007), *Japanese Military Strategy in the Pacific War; was Defeat Inevitable*, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers

⁵⁶John Hersey, (1989), *Hiroshima, 1946*, Random House Inc

⁵⁷Keiji Nakazawa, (2010), *Hiroshima: The Autobiography of Barefoot Gen*, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Juga, Paul Ham, (2014), (2011) first published, *Hiroshima Nagasaki: The Real Story of the Atomic Bombings and Their Aftermath*, Thomas Dunne Books.

⁵⁸Ronald H. Spector, (2007), *In the Ruins of Empire: The Japanese Surrender and the Battle for Postwar Asia*, New York: Random House

⁵⁹Mark Ravina, (2003), *The Last Samurai: The Life and Battles of Saigō Takamori*, Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

⁶⁰Albert M. Craig, (1980), *Autobiography of Yukichi Fukuzawa*, Columbia University Press

⁶¹Ryōtarō Shiba (1998), *The Last Shogun: The Life of Tokugawa Yoshinobu*. Kodansha USA Inc. (2004) The Paperback edition

⁶²Murasaki Shikibu, (1966), *The Diary of Lady Murasaki*, Juga, Murasaki Shikibu, *The Tale of Genji*. Penguin Books.

⁶³Maria Rosa, (1999), *Comport Woman: A Filipina's Story of Prostitution and Slavery Under the Japanese Military*, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

⁶⁴Barbara Molony dan Kathleen Uno, (2008) *Gendering Modern Japanese History*, Harvard East Asia Monographs,

⁶⁵Henry Scott Stokes, (1974), First published, *The Life and Death of Yukio Mishima*, (2000), Paperback, Cooper Square Press.

⁶⁶Shōtarō Ikenami, (2012), *Tokugawa Ieyasu, 1.2*, Chikuma Bunko.

⁶⁷Roger F. Hakett, (1971), *Yamagata Aritomo in the Rise of Modern Japan, 1838-1922*. Harvard University Press.

⁶⁸Stephen Vlastos, (1986), *Peasant Protest and Uprising in Tokugawa Japan*, Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press

⁶⁹Thomas Louis, (2006), *Samurai: The Code of Warrior*, Fall River Press.

⁷⁰Thomas R. H. Havens, (1974), *Farm and Nation in Modern Japan: Agrarian Nationalism, 1870-1940*, Princeton University Press.

⁷¹Eric C. Han, (2014), *Rise of a Japanese China Town: Yokohama, 1894-1972*, Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press.

⁷²Martin Dusinger, (2012), *Hard Times in the Hometown: A History of Community Survival in Modern Japan*, University of Hawai'i Press.

⁷³See: Judith Clancy, (1997), *Exploring Kyoto: On Foot In The Ancient Capital*, Weatherhill.

⁷⁴Lon Kurashige, (2002), *Japanese American Celebration and Conflict: A History of Ethnic Identity and Festival, 1934-1990*, University of California Press.

⁷⁵Brett L. Walker, (2006), *The Conquest of Ainu Lands: Ecology and Culture in Japanese Expansion, 1590-1800*, University of California Press.

social historians who use anthropology and/or sociology in their approaches⁷⁶.

Myths as mainstream: Between myth and ideology is quite interesting in an effort to understand the spirit of the Japanese who glorify the Emperor based on these myths and dimensionless modern ideology that developed Japan into a modern, militarized and fascist state. Traditional myths or thinking are even attached to various Japanese modernization figures, though they are fighting for the thinking and even the ideology of Western democracy, such as Yoshino Sakuzō who lead the research in the Taishō Period⁷⁷.

Culture as mainstream: In general it can be said that the study and research of Japanese cultures were quite widespread in various countries. From the diachronic side, synchronous Japanese studies and cultural studies, especially cultural history have begun from prehistoric, ancient, medieval, modern and contemporary cultures. Of course the massive cultural transformation known as the *bunmeikaika* in the Meiji Era has attracted attention of historians especially since 1960s. *Hōkeshakai* (the feudal society) the influence of external culture or inter-culture⁷⁸, popular culture⁷⁹ including fashion history⁸⁰, culinary and others in the historical context are increasingly in demand by young researchers.

In addition to above mentioned mainstream, there are other mainstreams such as relation between countries: diplomacy⁸¹, conflict⁸², World War I, World War II, Pacific War⁸³, Cold War⁸⁴ and others⁸⁵. The mainstream approach can be in the interdisciplinary and/or multidisciplinary approach.

⁷⁶Mikiso Hane, (1982,) *Peasant, Rebels, and Outcasts: The Underside of Modern Japan*, Pantheon Books; First edition.

⁷⁷ Surajaya, I Ketut. (1982) doctor dissertation, *Taishou Demokurashii to Yoshino Sakuzō*, (1995), published entitle; *Yoshino Sakuzō, Penentang Gigih Anarkisme, Komunisme, dan Militerisme Jepang*, Fakultas Sastra UI.

⁷⁸ Samuel Perry, (2014), *Recasting Red Culture in Proletarian Japan*, Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press,.

⁷⁹ Amino Yoshihiko, Alan S. Christy, (2012), *Rethinking Japanese History* (Michigan Monograph Series in Japanese Studies (74),

⁸⁰ Ming Ju Sun, (1999), *Japanese Fashions*, Mineola, NY, Dover Publication, Inc.

⁸¹ See: Kazuo Kawai, (1960), *Japan's American Interlude*, Chicago: University Press of Chicago.

⁸² Prasenjit Duara, (2004), *Sovereignty and Authenticity: Manchukuo and the East Asian Modern*, Rowman & Littlefield, 306 pages

⁸³ Saburo Ienaga, (1968), *The Pacific War, 1931-1945: A Critical Perspective on Japan's Role in World War II*, The Pantheon Asia Library.

⁸⁴ Ann Sherif, (2008), *Japan's Cold War: Media, Literature, and the Law*, Columbia University Press

⁸⁵ See: Franziska Seraphim, (2008), *War Memory and Social Politics in Japan, 1945-2005* Harvard University Press (first published 2006) 409 pages

8. Conclusion

Trends in studies and research of Japan's history in a global context can be summarized as follows: the development of Japan's historiography is broadly analogous to the historiography development in Europe and America. History studies for beginner focused more on mastering concepts in their various dimensions, studying the chronological thematic threads (historical introduction). Historians with the tradition of historical education in higher education in Japan focus more on in-depth research and specific topic so that there are dynamic and interpretation of the historical sources that enrich historical truth. As the Japanese study progressed in various countries, research topics are increasingly focused on specific areas, especially popular culture.

9. Future Scope and Challenges

Generalization and analogy of a general theory are not suitably applied to the condition and history of Japan. Japan's specific historical topic, remain attractive to foreign researchers, in context of Japanese studies. The challenge of the Japanese historical activists in the future was to solve or create methodologies for the development of historical sources, facts and data gathered in big data on the Internet. The challenge to seek more data for student and researcher are to be able to use IT and verify source of history in big data.

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