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## Japan and the New Ocean Regime, R. L. Friedham, G. O. Totten, H. Fukui, et al.

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## BOOK REVIEWS

### JAPAN AND THE NEW OCEAN REGIME

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Boulder: Westview Press. 1984. Pp. 383. \$28.50, s.c.

Use of the high seas, as well as coastal and deep sea beds, is undergoing an agonizingly slow and contentious evolution in formal law, as opposed to the historically leisurely development of a largely customary law of the seas until the end of World War II. This book properly focuses on the impact of this transitioning regime of ocean law upon Japanese politics, domestic laws, and cultural attitudes. Japan's rights to use all the navigable oceans were, it will be recalled, well protected by the traditional laws of the High Seas, and that country has understandably suffered some major cultural agonies in trying to adjust to this shift in international perceptions about sovereign ownership of ocean territory and resources.

The authors briefly evaluate the trends in the political economy of the oceans and their management, and then review Japan's role in that political economy, as well as its policies relating to shipbuilding, fisheries, seabed mineral resources, offshore oil drilling, and the generation of energy by nuclear power. The authors leave no doubt as to Japan's pivotal importance in evolving international ocean management, and that much is to be learned by the advanced maritime nations from the manner in which Japan deals with the disintegrating security offered by the traditional law and public order of the High Seas.

The book properly starts with the premise that nations comprising the international community are at different levels of development in exploitative technology for the oceans. Out of ignorance and incompetence, as well as competence of many of the advanced industrialized nations, many nation-states made unilateral moves to assert their interests in exploitable ocean resources by extending their respective jurisdictions over those resources. The authors note that the United Nations Law of the Sea Treaty (1982) really embodies no more than what already was reflected in these trends of "enclosure of ocean space." The study of Japan's response to this phenomenon is a study of how a highly industrialized

and politically sophisticated democracy brings all of its societal elements together to establish a protective oceans policy, and how that policy fits into the demands of a numerically dominant voting block of developing nations scrambling to assert control over ocean resources before those resources are depleted by the developed nations with the necessary technology. The military implications of Japan's rights and duties as a "naval nation" are carefully and realistically woven into the evaluation of Japan's civilian policy-making efforts, and the results are a truly impressive grasp and recounting of the myriad complexities of governmental, social, and cultural principles that constitute this seemingly westernized enigma of the East.

There is more in this book than just observations of Japan in the making of its ocean policy. It is a well-integrated history of modern Japan covering a broad spectrum of considerations that go into the evolution of that policy. The concepts and perceptions are erudite and the scholarly opinions restrained and sensitive, for the most part. The authors have no fear of tackling how the seemingly disparate interests in Japanese society cope with the unique domestic problems of Japan's ocean policy, i.e., how individual ship-building companies cope, the role of the yen and its upsurge, reaction of organized labor, and the application of the cybernetic theory of decision by the government in both serving all of these disparate interests, and yet bringing them together in a compromising set of circumstances so that the nation's most important collective interests are best served.

*Japan and the New Ocean Regime* is, in many ways, a courageous undertaking given the breadth of the inquiry. It is highly articulate and readable, filled with fascinating data, charts, graphs, and reference material. Perhaps almost as important as the subject, itself, is that the book sets forth a history of evolving values and international political trends that will be significantly helpful in understanding not only the new principles of socio-economic order for ocean space, but for near and deep space . . . outer space . . . exploration and exploitation, as well.

Japan is a growing power in space activities with a governmental and cultural penchant for "doing it on its own." This book is truly *must* reading for political scientists, lawyers, economists, and businessmen who are trying to establish some principles of social and commercial order in outer space, as well as for those involved in, or simply following, the radically changing perceptions of ocean space amidst the North-South, and occasionally East-West, political confrontations.

The book is invaluable in that it recounts not only "what" exists in terms of current international and domestic management of the oceans,

but “why” it is that way. It is another excellent and very *useable* scholarly publication by Westview Press.

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