

Preface

The National Committee of Japanese Historians has the pleasure of presenting to the 17th International Congress of Historical Sciences in Madrid (1990) this collection of historiographical essays on writings published by Japanese scholars during the years 1983–87. Some references are also made to works by foreign scholars published in Japanese or in Japanese translation.

Since the first national report was published for the 11th Congress in Stockholm (1960), we have brought out six reports, and this volume is the seventh in the series. The first three reports were composed of historiographical review and bibliographical sections. In preparing the fourth report for the 14th Congress in San Francisco (1975), it proved impossible for financial reasons to translate the historiographical reviews. The complete version was therefore available only in Japanese, while the international edition consisted of the bibliography only. The international editions of the fifth and sixth reports were published in the same format.

This situation has not been the most satisfactory, however, since a bibliography is not enough to clearly convey the vigorous activities of the Japanese historical community. We have, accordingly, changed our editorial policy totally this time. We have chosen a limited number of topics, deemed among the more important, and this has enabled us to publish an international edition identical in content to the Japanese version. The drawback of this approach, of course, is that this seventh report does not cover all the fields in which Japanese historians are engaged in research. It is hoped that other topics can be dealt with in subsequent reports.

As in the case of previous reports, Japanese names are given in the original Japanese order, family name first. Romanization follows the Hepburn system with some minor exceptions. In the bibliographical notes the place of publisher is Tokyo unless otherwise indicated. Although the National Committee chose the contributors in each area of specialization, it disclaims responsibility for each author's selection and evaluation of works mentioned here.

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The National Committee of
Japanese Historians