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the job market, and to scholarly writing on women's language, which authorized the idea that the practice itself was dying out (p. 163).

The third part of the book, on "late modern Japan," consists of two chapters describing the very opposite speaking strategies that female employees may pursue in contemporary Japan. One chapter shows a female manager who adopts a consistently neutral language with no variation, regardless of whether she is addressing superiors or subordinates, men or women, as a way to ease potential friction in her problematic role of managing employees in a corporate environment where almost all the managers are older men. She consciously and gradually adopts a middle-of-the road speaking pattern as she is promoted through the ranks and finds that most people are at ease with her new speaking style (pp. 229–51). Another chapter explores the case of a secretary who employs what her colleagues refer to as beautiful and perfect feminine speech. At first glance, the linguistic differences between the female manager and the secretary may be explained by their relative social status in a hierarchical organization. After all, younger men are also expected to address their superiors in deferential terms. What comes as a surprise is the life experience of the female secretary, who perceives her own conscious acquisition of female speech as a sign of upward cultural and regional mobility. Born in a small Tohoku town where women refer to themselves as *ore* or *ora*, she taught herself standard Japanese in order to excel at school and become a high school teacher in cosmopolitan Tokyo before entering the corporate world. Correct urbane feminine speech to her epitomizes elegance and refinement, in contrast to the rough language and rustic backwardness of the place of her childhood (pp. 266–73).

The book's topic has a broad appeal, the analysis is sophisticated, and the arguments are original. Language and culture specialists will probably enjoy the introduction and the first two parts, which are written in rather abstract academic language, whereas general readers and students of Japanese studies may prefer reading the anthropological stories on how contemporary Japanese women speak in their own individual languages depending on their circumstances and choices.

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Building a Modern Japan: Science, Technology, and Medicine in the Meiji Era and Beyond. Edited by MORRIS LOW. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005. xiv, 242 pp. \$75.00 (cloth).

doi: 10.1017/S0021911808000995

As editor Morris Low deftly outlines in his introduction, the collected essays in this volume challenge the tidy picture of smooth, government-directed modernization leading to industrialization, nationhood, and empire by the end of the Meiji period in Japan. Building on the influential work of Carol Gluck, James Bartholomew, and Tessa Morris-Suzuki, the authors of the assembled chapters

develop the common theme that modernization was often haphazard, irrational, poorly planned, and fraught with social biases regarding gender and race.

The first part of the book includes essays that investigate the role played by science and medicine in the national discourse on modernization. Christian Oberländer's essay examines Meiji efforts to determine the cause of beriberi. The government made improved medicine a priority because it viewed disease in general, and beriberi in particular, as a threat to the development of the modern military and industrial sectors. However, the process of developing scientific medicine was messy and initially tempered by a mixture of Chinese and Japanese medical theories and practices.

Oberländer's discussion of health as a national concern is amplified in Sabine Frühstück's essay on neurasthenia, a psychological disorder characterized by fatigue that was believed to afflict men with "unhealthy" sexual practices. Sexual behaviors such as masturbation and homosexuality were believed to lead to "nervous exhaustion" and depravity. Noting that neurasthenia was on the rise, many writers, doctors, and government officials regarded it as an epidemic that threatened to weaken the nation physically and psychologically and believed that it especially endangered the military. These concerns, expressed in Japanese popular magazines and books, reflected anxieties about manhood common to industrial societies in the age of high imperialism.

Chapters by Sumiko Otsubo and Yuki Terazawa address issues of scientific medicine in relation to women and race. Otsubo investigates the rising interest in eugenics. While concerns over beriberi and neurasthenia led authorities to view male bodies as objects to be controlled, eugenics focused attention on female bodies. Eugenicists used their authority to advocate social policies to improve the Japanese "race" and emphasized the importance of the female body in selective breeding. Terazawa looks at how political, social, and cultural forces produced science tainted with racism. Believing in Japan's genetic superiority and that their work would bolster national development, scientists researched women's menstrual patterns, hoping to uncover differences that would indicate the superiority of the Japanese over other Asian "races." Robert John Perrins shows that racism also played a role in Japan's colonial health programs. Rather than being truly concerned with the well-being of the native inhabitants, the colonial authorities designed medical facilities intended to present a favorable image of Japanese modernity to the world, and their medical policies were often drawn up with economic interests in mind.

The second part of the book addresses the importation and adaptation of Western technology and the rise of industry, paying particular attention to the relationship between business and the state. David Wittner's chapter on textile manufacturing sets forth a common theme for the last four chapters: the ad hoc program of industrialization followed by the government. Wittner argues that the government based many industrial decisions on ideology, politics, and whim rather than on technological and economic rationales, and it frequently ignored the advice of foreign experts. Economically unsuccessful government projects might be kept running because their "modern" (foreign) equipment and technology symbolized the central government's political dominance. Innovation often came from private initiatives.

Like Wittner's chapter, Martha Chaiklin's study of Japan's efforts to develop sheet glass manufacturing shows that the importation of Western tools of manufacturing technology was not always economically or technically rational. The demands of the new Western-style architecture made sheet glass manufacturing an urgent priority, but establishing a viable industry was far from easy, as entrepreneurs struggled to move from workshop to factory production and to incorporate local materials into the manufacturing process. Chaiklin's chapter fits nicely with Gregory Clancey's essay on the transformation of carpenters (*daiku*). While carpenters were essential to building the new Japan, the government and Western-educated architects regarded both their building methods and apprentice system as symbols of tradition; they devalued the profession that they viewed as an impediment to modernization.

The final chapter, by W. Miles Fletcher III, addresses the Japan Spinners Association's response to the Great Depression. Although its focus on the Showa period makes it a temporal outlier, like the other chapters of part II, it calls into question previous assumptions about the relationship between the state and industry. Fletcher argues against the perception that the Great Depression led to state control over the economy. Rather than seeking governmental aid, the cotton-spinning industry relied on self-governance in responding to dramatic changes in the international economy.

Without exception, these fascinating essays are well researched and vigorously argued. As a whole, the book provides a nuanced picture of Japan's modern transformation. Each essay enhances the whole in addressing the themes of gender, race, and ad hoc industrialization, thereby unifying the chapters. The greatest lacuna in this collection is an examination of how the transformation was experienced by commoners, as most chapters focus on officials, businessmen, and scientists. However, *Building a Modern Japan* adds much to our understanding of Meiji social history, and it will be useful to both specialists and undergraduates who are trying to make sense of the dynamic modernization process of this period. It is hoped that the publisher will make it available in an affordable paperback edition.

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Lever of Empire: The International Gold Standard and the Crisis of Liberalism in Prewar Japan. By MARK METZLER. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2005. xxiv, 370 pp. \$49.95 (cloth).
doi: 10.1017/S0021911808001009

This book, worth the attention of anyone studying modern Japan, makes wonderfully clear how serious and far-reaching were the international and domestic consequences of early twentieth-century monetary policy. No matter what one thinks caused the Great Depression, it is not easy to see Japan's 1930