

CALL FOR PAPERS

Japan and Finland in Transition, 1945–1990

Multidisciplinary conference, August 27–28, 2009
Faculty of Humanities, University of Oulu

The aim of the conference is to address Japan and Finland from the point of view of similarities and dissimilarities in their development after World War II. We invite scholars to discuss about their research on Finland and/or Japan and to discover the potential for comparing the two states and societies.

Japan and Finland were defeated by the Allied in World War II and subjected to foreign control, in Japan's case actual occupation, in 1945–1952. During these years reconstruction was the dominating phenomenon in both countries. In the following decades they experienced huge economic development that evolved hand in hand with rapid urbanization. Industrialization, democratization and expansion of the education system, student radicalism, changes in gender system, stability in domestic politics from 1950s to 1980s, and finally, the foreign politics – the role of Japan as an economic giant and former military power in Asia and Finland as a state that sought balance between the Soviet Union and western Europe – characterize some of the aspects that call to compare the development in these two countries during the post-war decades.

However, it seems that the consequences of the outwardly similar development in Finland and Japan differ greatly. In Finland, the state failed to prepare the society for the population growth and rapid modernization which led to the immigration of hundreds of thousands of Finns to Sweden. In Japan people were expected to devote their energies to the rebuilding of the nation. Therefore, we need to study closer these outcomes by taking into consideration, for example, the individual, communal and state levels. We welcome papers from scholars in different disciplines that analyze the development of Japan and/or Finland from theoretical or empirical point of views.

Deadline for paper abstracts is May 15th, 2009. The abstracts of the proposed papers should be in English, not exceeding 250 words. The abstract should include the title of the paper, your name, affiliation, and e-mail address. Please, send the abstract to seija.jalagin@oulu.fi

The accepted papers are announced on April 30, 2009.

Conference languages: English and Finnish

The papers will be published as an edited volume during 2010.

Conference is free of charge (no conference fee). However, participants are responsible for their own travel costs and accommodation.

For updated information of the conference, visit the website:
<http://www.oulu.fi/hutk/historia/en/research/events.html>

The conference is organized by the Department of History and Japanese Studies.

Best regards,

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