

**JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY  
STUDIES IN HISTORICAL AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE, SERIES  
XXXVI, NO. 1. THE STANDARD OF  
LIVING IN JAPAN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9781760577131

Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science, Series XXXVI, No. 1. The standard of living in Japan by Kokichi Morimoto

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**KOKICHI MORIMOTO**

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SERIES XXXVI

NO. 1

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY STUDIES  
IN  
HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Under the Direction of the

Departments of History, Political Economy, and  
Political Science

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THE STANDARD OF LIVING IN  
JAPAN

BY

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BALTIMORE  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS PRESS

1918

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THE NEW ERA PRINTING COMPANY  
LANCASTER, PA.

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## PREFACE

The field for studies of this kind in Japan is still barren of material. With the exception of some little data, the material for this inquiry was collected by me in the years 1913 to 1915, during which period I was also engaged in teaching political economy at the Imperial University, Sapporo, Japan. A wider range of better balanced data is necessary for a thorough inquiry; however, without more extensive statistical work on a larger scale, furthered by aid from public institutions, no work of this nature could be so complete as might be desired.

I wish to express my obligation to those who have helped me. Especially am I grateful to Professor J. H. Hollander and Professor G. E. Barnett for advice and for criticism of the manuscript, and to my friend, Miss Margaret Schneder, Professor of English at Cedarville College, Cedarville, Ohio, for her kindness in reading the manuscript.

K. M.



## THE STANDARD OF LIVING IN JAPAN

## PART I

## INTRODUCTORY

## CHAPTER I

## IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

In entering upon the study of the standard of living in Japan it may be well to consider at the outset the importance of the subject. It has a twofold aspect: the theoretical, and the practical. Theoretically the study of the standard of living is of great use for the advancement of political economy as a science, since an exact knowledge of human living is fundamental in economic investigation. As Roscher has well said, "Ausgangspunkt, wie Zielpunkt unserer Wissenschaft ist der Mensch."<sup>1</sup> What is called national economy, social economy, or world economy is nothing more than collective economy with family economy as the unit. The essential problem of family economy is to find out the right ways of getting a living; in other words, it is the study of human wants and the efforts made for their satisfaction. These wants can be ascertained with a certain degree of exactness from statistics of family income and expenditure. Indeed, a knowledge of human wants is the beginning of political economy, and "the goal of all economic development is to make wealth abundant and to make man more able to use wealth correctly."<sup>2</sup> Hitherto, however, many economists have devoted their study chiefly

<sup>1</sup> W. Roscher, *Volkswirtschaftslehre*, B.I., s. 1.

<sup>2</sup> E. R. A. Seligman, *Principles of Economics*, p. 15.