

**BULLETIN OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF  
IOWA, NEW SERIES NO. 62, APRIL, 1903.  
STUDIES IN  
SOCIOLOGY ECONOMICS, POLITICS  
AND HISTORY, VOL. II, NO. 2. THE  
POLITICAL IDEAS OF MODERN JAPAN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649135615

Bulletin of the state university of Iowa, new series No. 62, April, 1903. Studies in sociology economics, politics and history, Vol. II, No. 2. The political ideas of modern Japan by Karl Kiyoshi Kawakami

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**KARL KIYOSHI KAWAKAMI**

**BULLETIN OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF  
IOWA, NEW SERIES NO. 62, APRIL, 1903.  
STUDIES IN  
SOCIOLOGY ECONOMICS, POLITICS  
AND HISTORY, VOL. II, NO. 2. THE  
POLITICAL IDEAS OF MODERN JAPAN**



---

---

STUDIES IN SOCIOLOGY ECONOMICS  
POLITICS AND HISTORY

Vol. II No. 2

THE POLITICAL IDEAS  
OF  
MODERN JAPAN

By

KARL KIYOSHI KAWAKAMI, A. M.



1903

THE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
IOWA CITY, IOWA

THE POLITICAL IDEAS  
OF  
MODERN JAPAN  
AN INTERPRETATION

## PREFACE

It is my first duty, as well as my greatest pleasure, to explain that this monograph was prepared in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts at the State University of Iowa. My major work in this University was in Political Science under the direction of Professor Benjamin F. Shambaugh. I was at the same time studying Sociology and Political Economy under Professor Isaac A. Loos.

The preparation of this monograph was first of all suggested by the absence in foreign libraries of a literature dealing with the Politics—especially the political ideas—of modern Japan. The economic phenomena of modern Japan have been much written about in foreign languages,<sup>1</sup> but the domain of political thought has been left singularly untouched. Dr. Iyenaga's *Constitutional Development of Japan*, and Mr. H. Furuya's *System Représentatif au Japon* (Bruxelles, 1899) are, so far as I am aware, the only works of the kind published in English and French respectively. Admirable as are these works, these authors do not discuss the development of political ideas which wrought out marvelous changes in modern Japan. That such an important and interesting subject as the political ideas of a nation, which is now steadily coming to the front in the arena of the international rivalry, has been ignored, is a matter of profound regret. The modest ambition of the author of this monograph is to break the ground with the hope of directing attention to a hitherto uncultivated field.

---

<sup>1</sup> Of the many works presenting the economic phases of Japan the following are worthy of special reference: T. Fukuda, *Die Gesellschaftliche und Wirtschaftliche Entwicklung in Japan*; Y. Ono, *Industrial Transition of Japan*, in the Publication of the American Economic Association, Vol. V; J. Soyeda, *A History of Banking in Japan*, in *A History of Banking in all the Leading Nations*; S. Tanaka, *Geschichtliche Betrachtungen über den Geistigen Verkehr Japans mit dem Auslande*; Y. Kinoshita, *The Past and Present of Japanese Commerce*.

The present treatise is not primarily descriptive. It is argumentative and critical. Neither has it been attempted herein to realize that finality and exhaustiveness which is the product of the detailed knowledge of the expert. The virtue expected from such an essay as the one here presented will be rather freshness of conviction than ripeness of thought.

My political convictions which are presented in this monograph may not please all classes. Nevertheless, I shall never cease to claim to be an ardent lover of my country from which I will never divorce myself.

It has been complained by some who have read my manuscript that this essay has too many excursions into the domain of Rousseauism and modern European political theory generally. Yet I have held to its original plan because its principal purpose is to show in what manner western political ideas have developed in Japan, what ideas have been accepted, modified, discarded, or misunderstood, and whether these ideas have had a wholesome or unwholesome growth. To comply with this object I have felt it necessary to enter into a somewhat detailed discussion of the political principles of the modern thinkers of the West whose ideas inspired the pioneers of freedom in Japan. I have not dealt in detail with the political ideas and institutions of old Japan, inasmuch as the subject requires an exhaustive consideration if one wishes to be intelligible.

Many references in Japanese and Chinese which have been consulted have not been mentioned either in the bibliography or in the footnotes, since such references would not be understood by many American readers. *The Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan* came to my notice after the earlier chapters of this volume had gone to press. Had I seen these valuable publications earlier, I should have referred to them in some of the earlier chapters as I have done in later ones. Mr. J. Milne's *Notes on the Koro-pok-guru or Pit-Dwellers of Yezo and Kurile Islands* (Transactions of the Asiatic Society, Vol. XX), for instance, should have been referred to in my discussion on the Pigmies.



I wish to express my special indebtedness to Professor Benjamin F. Shambaugh, who has, in the midst of his arduous duties read the whole of my manuscript, giving many valuable criticisms and suggestions. Acknowledgments are likewise due to Professor Isaac A. Loos. I have also to acknowledge my particular obligation to Dr. W. E. Griffis, of Ithaca, New York, for candid criticisms; to Mr. I. Yamagata, English editor of the *Ban-Cho*, a Tokyo daily, for furnishing me with materials which could have been secured only in my native country; and to Dr. Paul Carus, editor of *The Open Court*, for valuable information concerning Buddhism. Acknowledgment is also due to my friend Mr. L. H. Mitchell who assisted me in correcting clerical mistakes, and to *The International Socialist Review* for permission to reproduce from the said magazine a considerable portion of my article entitled *Socialism in Japan*. I am also indebted to Dr. T. Iyenaga for many valuable suggestions. While acknowledging all these auxiliaries with deepest gratitude, I am the only sponsor for deficiencies and defects of some of which I am quite conscious.

Trusting that an indulgent public will pardon those shortcomings which are inevitable for one who writes in a borrowed language, I submit this volume which contains, perhaps, some bold hypotheses and arguments, with the hope that what I have done so imperfectly will at least have the effect of inducing others to make a further study of what has been of great interest to me.

KARL KIYOSHI KAWAKAMI

*The State University of Iowa*  
*Iowa City, 1902*



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
<p>CHAPTER I.—<i>The Origin of the Japanese Nation,</i></p> <p>The origin of a nation, an essential consideration in the study of its political ideas.—Difficulty of tracing the origin of the Japanese nation.—Primitive races of Japan.—Professor Koganei on the first inhabitants of Japan.—The pigmies, de Quatrefages on.—Their disappearance from Japan.—The Ainus, the second inhabitants.—The Mongolians and the Aryans, the third comers.—Aryan immigration to Japan discussed.—Mixture of various bloods.</p>	1-11
<p>CHAPTER II.—<i>Characteristics of the Japanese Nation,</i></p> <p>Respective characteristics of component races considered separately.—The pigmies.—The Ainus.—The Mongolians.—The Aryans.—A few phases of characteristics of the Japanese nation.—Chivalry, not the production of Europe only.—Admixture of races, a condition of progress.—Spencer and Giddings on the mixture of races.</p>	12-22
<p>CHAPTER III.—<i>External Environment: Its Effect Upon the Character of the Japanese Nation,</i></p> <p>Thomas Buckle.—The adjustment of human body and mind to external environment, the most important consideration in the history of civilization.—Climate, Mr. Spencer, and Professors Patten and Giddings on.—Flora.—Fauna. Professor Patten on.—Topographical features.—Bluntschli.—Isolated situation of Japan.—Maritime position.—Earthquakes, Buckle and Giddings on.—Rapid torrents.—Effects of these environments.—Better and worse phases of the effects.—Impulsive quality, a great impediment to wholesome growth of democracy in Japan.</p>	23-33