### Course No. 3507/3508

### Contemporary Japanese Culture and Society

### Lecture No. 12



### A highly literate society with a massive publishing industry

In 2011, Japanese people bought an average of 48.3 million newspapers a day. ー日分の新聞売り上げ部数 は4千8百万部

That is counting a "set" newspaper (a newspaper with a morning and evening edition) as 1.

If you count the two editions separately, the figure is 61.6 million copies.

Considering the growth of electronic media, that is an amazing figure.

http://www.pressnet.or.jp/english/data/circulation/circulation01.php

## Newspapers per 1000 population (2011)

China	100.8	Canada	200.0
Hong Kong	614.8	USA	201.5
India	143.1	Australia	162.3
Israel	211.1	France	193.5
Japan	459.1	Germany	278.7
North Korea	252.1	Italy	171.8
South Korea	397.1	Norway	538.3
		Russia	9.8

JK

332.4

That year they also bought 700 million books, 1.3 billion weekly magazines and 2 **billion** monthly magazines... roughly. ・年間で買った本は<mark>7億冊、</mark>週刊誌 13億冊、月刊誌20億冊(ぐらい)

### **History of mass-reproduction**

18th and 19th century Japan was rich in popular graphic art and literature, including kibyôshi, gesaku, and ukiyoe. These precocious forms of mass-culture gave early indications of the growing potential for a modern mass-media.



黄表紙 Kibyoshi lit. 'Yellow covered papers'... Edo era illustrated story books **Forerunners** of both newspapers and comics 新聞・漫画の 先祖 (From the Tenri **University collection**)



### (also called 'gesaku' 戯作 "zany works")



### In the Meiji era, newspapers and satirical magazines blossomed under foreign influence

### 明治時代に入ると外国人の 影響で新聞や風刺の雑誌 が盛んになった。

### Cartoon from Tobae, 1887



### Started by Georges Ferdinand Bigot (1860-1927)



The Japan Punch... more foreign influence (Punch is a famous **British** satirical magazine)



### Japan's Top 6 Newspapers (2011~2 data) in millions

RANK	TITLE	Morning	Evening
1.	Yomiuri	9.9	3.4
2.	Asahi	7.7	2.9
3.	Mainichi	3.5	1.1
4.	Nihon Keizai	3.0	1.6
5.	Chunichi	2.7	0.5
6.	Sankei	1.6	0.5

(The Chunichi Shinbun is based in Nagoya and considered a regional newspaper for the central Japan region between Tokyo and Osaka. It has a sister paper, the Tokyo Shinbun, with another 0.5 + 02 million circulation.)

1	Yomiuri Shimbun	Japan	
2	Asahi Shimbun	Japan	
3	Mainichi Shimbun	Japan	
4	Nihon Keizai	Japan	
5	Chunichi Shimbun	Japan	
6	Bild	Germany	
7	Sankei Shimbun	Japan	
8	Canako Xiaoxi	China	Global
9	People's Daily	China	
10	Tokyo Sports	Japan	top 10

### The Yomiuri Shinbun









# At first glance they all look pretty similar ...

# But similar styles mask political differences

Left				Right	
Asahi	Chunichi / Tokyo	Mainichi	Nihon Keizai	Yomiuri	Sankei

### Far-rightists (右翼) have attacked the Asahi Shinbun HQ on several occasions over the years. They never attack the Yomiuri or Sankei offices.

### Yet a myth of objectivity prevails

At election time, no Japanese newspaper will declare support for one particular party, unlike in the US or UK, where declaring the newspaper's position is traditional. 英米と違って、選挙の時「この新聞はX 政党を応援する」という社説はなし。

# So again, political differences are veiled (slightly).

Two exceptions: Akahata 赤旗 (Red Flag) will always support the Japan Communist Party (JCP; 日本共産党). And the Seikyo Shinbun 聖教新聞 belongs to Soka Gakkai and will always support Komeito (cf **Relgion #2 lecture).** 

### Anonymity 匿名性

- Traditionally, most articles in Japanese newspapers carry no "by-line." The message: This is not the news according to one journalist, it is the authoritative Voice of the Asahi (or Yomiuri etc.)
- In recent years, we've seen a gradual increase in signed articles (often columns or special features), but hard news is usually still kept anonymous.



Local newspapers also have a long history (The Hakodate Shinbun, launched in Hokkaido, 1878明治11年)

### Meiji Gakuin's local paper: The Kanagawa Shinbun



Another
Local paper:
The Gakunar
Asahi
(Shizuoka
pref)
地方紙:静岡
県の「岳南朝
E



### **Distinctive headline style**

Main headline: "Hope for Prompter Rescue, Etc."

2<sup>nd</sup> headline: "Launch of the Fuji River Flooding Incident Rescue Countermeasures Consultative Council"

3<sup>rd</sup> headline: (Names of the three local fire brigades that will participate in the new Council)

### A punchy lead?迫力は足りる?



### A punchy lead?

In response to the problems of the flooding of the Fuji River that occur every summer, with the aim of strengthening horizontal links between fireprevention forces, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of this month at the Fujimiya city hall...

#### ... under the joint command of the three fire-prevention headquarters of Shibakawa-cho (Fujimiya city), Fuji city, and the Okihara district (in Urahara, Fujikawa town), a new organization called the **"Fujikawa Flooding Accident Rescue Countermeasues Coordinating Council" was** launched.

### The 5W1H school of journalism

Japanese journalists are usually taught that the first paragraph of a news story should answer 5 W questions and 1 H question (who, what, where, when, why + how)... all in one long sentence. Result: very boring writing. Most

people skip the first paragraph instinctively.

#### 2 national English language papers



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Preparate real international and the second second
# THE DAILY YOMIURI

No. 19416 WHIZS # A // ZA CINE MIKAWARD O (HER) THE DAVLY YOMIURI (2004)

PRICE ¥120 (¥2,650 per calendar month)--tax included EDITION D

#### Financial concerns mar dreams of Japanese astronomer in Peru

The Yomiuri Shimbun

High in the Andes, 3,370 meters above sea level, Peru's first radio telescope will be completed next spring by a Japanese astronomer, who moved to the country 47 years ago, and his son.

But the observatory's resources are tight, and it cannot afford the  $\pm 5.5$  million to fund its first year of operations. Therefore, Jose Ishitsuka, the 44-year-old Japanese-Peruvian son of 74-year-old astronomer Mutsumi Ishitsuka, will ask for donations at a meeting of the Astronomical Society of Japan in Morioka on Tuesday, when he will unveil the plans for the telescope. Japanese researchers aware of the struggle the father and son face have offered their support.

In 1957, Mutsumi went to Peru as a Kyoto University graduate with plans to build an observatory from which he could track sunspots. With his wife, Ayako, and their newborn son, he traveled across the ed to stay in the country and began to teach astronomy as the director of the Ancon Observatory of the Geophysics Institute of Peru.

Jose Ishitsuka was born in Huancayo and is a Peruvian citizen. He came to Japan in 1995 and to research radio astronomy at the National Astronomical Observatory.

Two years ago, he discovered that the 32-meter dish in his hometown, which had been used for satellite communications, was going to be decommissioned. But he realized that if a special receiving device was attached to the dish, it could be used as a radio telescope, enabling Peru to enter the world of radio astronomy for only about ¥10 million.

Moved by the passion of the father and son, the National Astronomical Observatory and the geophysics institute agreed to the project in March. Ishitsuka expects to finish the receiver he has been building at Nobeyama Radio Observatory in Nagano Prefecture this year.



The *Japan Times* is an independent paper.

#### The *Daily Yomiuri* is run by Yomiuri Shinbun.

The Asahi IHT is a joint product of Asahi Shinbun and the International Herald Tribune.

## Midget circulations...

# Japan Times c. 70,000 Daily Yomiuri c. 40,000 **A small-town circulation** on a giant peninsula

The *Mainichi* **Daily News** Now available only on the internet... and well worth reading!



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## RIP Asahi IHT

## This joint venture by Asahi Shinbun and the International Herald Tribune closed in February 2011

#### **Two international news agencies**

 Kyodo News & Jiji Press ・共同通信と時事通信 Essential for the survival of local newspapers... which cannot afford to maintain a full network of national and international correspondents.

#### How newspapers are sold

Home	Single copy	Others
delivery		
95%	4.5%	0.5%

Japan Newspaper Publishers & Editors Association (2011 data)

#### Soap powder...

... plays an important role in selling newspapers. Most sales of the national and local dailies are by subscription. Instead of winning new readers with sensational scoops, they do it by handing out free gifts: tickets to movies or baseball games, beer coupons, but most frequently, soap powder.

# Loyalty doesn't pay

Some readers deliberately switch newspapers every year or so, to cash in on all the goodies you get when you take out a subscription. The newspaper you quit will make desperate efforts to win back your custom... very, very persistent salesmen.

客が取る新聞を変えると、捨てられた新聞の セールスマンはしぶとく客を取り戻そうとする News control 1: Press Clubs 記者クラッブによるニュース管理

Attached to every government ministry, every prefectural headquarters, every major corporation, every professional sports team.

Only members of the press club (*kisha kurabu*) are invited to press briefings, taken on the private jet when a VIP goes abroad etc... negative reporting can lead to expulsion.

#### Reference

**Closing the Shop: Information Cartels and Japan's Mass** Media by Laurie Anne Freeman. Princeton, NJ: **Princeton University Press**, 2000

#### Yasuo Tanaka Novelist, politician

As governor of Nagano prefecture, in 2003 he asked 3 press clubs to vacate their rentfree premises at the prefectural HQ. 田中康夫長野県知事 の「脱記者クラブ宣

伝」、2003年



#### News Control 2: Media Keiretsu

#### Asahi TV (Ch 10) – Asahi Shinbun – AERA – Shukan Asahi – Asahi IHT Yomiuri TV/Nippon TV (NTV, Ch 4) – Yomiuri Shinbun – Shukan Yomiuri – Hochi Shinbun – Daily Yomiuri - Giants

#### Mainichi TV (TBS, Ch 6) – Mainichi Shinbun – Sunday Mainichi

#### Fuji TV (Ch 8) – Sankei Shinbun – Yukan Fuji – Nippon Hoso

#### **News Control 3: Self Restraint**

**The Japan Newspaper Association** (日本新聞協会) can sometimes persuade its members to lay off a story. Hence no coverage of **Burakumin problems, or Crown Prince Naruhito's courtship of** Masako Owada.

被差別部落問題や皇室の場合、マスコミ の自制がある。

# The tabloid press 大衆紙

Nikkan Gendai Yukan Fuji

日刊現代 タ刊フジ

... tend to be ignored by foreign media analysts



#### **Sports newspapers**



The Osakabased Daily always supports the magnificent Hanshin Tigers...

... except perhaps in Hiroshima, where I noticed they had the Hiroshima Carp all over the front page. Oh fickle Daily!



The Hochi Shinbun has to support the **Giants because** it belongs to Yomiuri Shinbun, which also owns the Giants...

# Sport Nippon ('Suponichi') supports whoever's winning



.. and Tokyo Sports isn't really a sports newspaper at all. More like a showbiz scandal sheet.





## Women's magazines 女性誌

The magazine market is intensely gendered (as in most countries). Tabloid + sports papers are read almost entirely by men. Some wellestablished women's magazines advise women how to live their lives (see Keiko Tanaka's paper in The Worlds of Japanese Popular Culture...)

# *Josei Jishin* (Woman Herself)



# Some respect for the imperial family...





David Beckham sometimes gets on the cover...

# Josei Seven (Women 7) The traditional rival of Josei **Jishin**





attempts to be just a little more lively.

## Case Study 1 Gender imaging in Popteen and Men's Non-No

#### Popteen と Men's Non-no で見ら れるジェンダーのイメージ



For some reason, the cover girl on **Popteen is** just about the only one in the whole magazine...

# ... who isn't smiling.



## These girls are so happy!





They're on their way... to the paradise of summer clothing!

#### Happy that they've got new Tshirts!



**They wink! They wave!** They jump in the air! **They flaunt** their stripy socks!





Happy that they're going to cook the vegetables! **Hooray!** 



## Relentless smiling






#### Wow! Hey! Yeah!



# Happiness is about to burst out of them...



#### Sometimes these girls are smiling so hard that...



#### ... it's actually quite scary.





2003 特別定価 600YEN 創刊17周年記念特大号 close up 1 窪塚洋介 close up 2 マーク・ゴンザレス box seat

JUNE

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冨永 愛 人物研究 岡本太郎

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アンダーカバイズム

合計1600名プレゼン

ヘッド・ポーター プラ

応募者全員サービス!!

最新ボトムQ&A / ヘッド・ポーター プラス バッグ全員サービ

#### **OK**, what about the guys?

Well it's different for boys... this one suffers from **'undercover T-shirt** syndrome'...



Most of the models are gaijin, and they nearly always look sullen and alienated





Oh yeah? Who the hell are you? Like... don't care anyway

## At best they look blank... they often have their hands in their pockets



## No smiling please: we are boys



# Their apathy is as relentless as the girls' cheerfulness





# They just can't be bothered.

#### Drooping heads, limp dangling arms, uncombed hair flopping over eyes... what a shower!





The drooping guy on the right went to the same international school as my son... any gaijin has a chance...

# At last... a guy who's not ashamed to grin!



# In general, though... ... girls must be happy, as happy as possible, all the time



... and boys must be miserable, as miserable as possible, all the time



#### Note also...

Nearly all the models in Popteen are Japanese, but almost every single one of them had dyed her hair... whereas more than half the models in Men's Non-No are foreigners.



Case study 2: Sapio magazine (fortnightly) -- notoriously hostile to foreigners...

#### Tokyo governor Shintaro Ishihara is worried about how to deal with illegal immigrants rioting in Shinjuku



"Simulation report: "State of Emergency" declared in Japan

Chinese are viewed with particular suspicion... "population explosion in the Chinese empire"... yellow peril?



This issue calls for SARS to be "sealed up in China."



# Nostalgic conservatism: "The fall of Japan: *How did the country come to this?*





#### Star cartoonist Yoshinori Kobayashi



A page from Kobayashi's strip, Gomanism Senden (A Declaration of Egotism)





## **One of his** books justifying Japan's activities in WW2



Note a similar tone of reactionary concern for Japan in the best-selling monthly, **Bungei Shunju** 





# ... observing a legalized street musician.





