

would have been strengthened perceptibly by a more explicit statement of the theory and hypotheses. But others may disagree, for in detailed description there is strength, and this book is a fount of data for all manner of social scientists, be they empirical investigators of cities around the world or social theorists. I heartily commend this work.

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SHIGETO TSURU. *Essays on Japanese Economy*. (Economic Research Series, 2. The Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University.) Pp. iv, 241. Tokyo: Kinokuniya Bookstore Company, 1958. No price.

Professor Tsuru is one of Japan's outstanding economists. For this reason as well as for his elucidation of basic problems of the Japanese economy, it is worthwhile to have assembled eight essays which he wrote for American and other journals over the past eighteen years.

The collection is divided into two sections. The first comprises six essays on economic problems of postwar Japan. Successive articles treat such matters as inflation and stability, reconstruction and development, production for the Korean incident and for peace, industrial expansion and reconcentration, employment and unemployment, and the 1956-1960 economic plan and its weaknesses. Throughout is emphasized the basic problem of the postwar Japanese economy: the need to grow rapidly enough to absorb increases in the labor force. The prerequisites for such growth are high rates of domestic savings, investments, and exports. There is some unevenness; the later essays are better, with the one on employment problems the best concise English-language presentation of the conceptual and statistical difficulties in measuring unemployment in Japan.

The second half of the book contains two articles written in 1941 on now-historical periods of the Japanese economy. One, an outgrowth of the author's Harvard doctoral dissertation, ably applies business cycle analysis to the period 1868-

1893. It would be interesting to see how Tsuru would approach this same period today in light of developments in the theory of economic growth. The final essay, by far the longest, represents an endeavor to determine the cost through reduction of living standards of the "China Incident" to Japan. While inadequate in terms of present-day theoretical tools, it nevertheless is an interesting early attempt at empirical aggregative analysis.

Seven of the eight essays address themselves to the broad economic problems of Japan at the times they were written. Such topicality means that sometimes the analysis suffers from lack of data, from weaknesses in the contemporary theoretical tools, and from certain errors in judgment. Consequently, it is probably unfair to judge these articles in light of present knowledge. As the author indicates in the Preface, the collection provides the "objective record of my progress as an economist." In these terms, Professor Tsuru well reflects not only his own progress but also that of the economic profession. However, since the essays assembled are already more or less available, it would have been of greater interest and significance to have instead translations of Tsuru's essays which have appeared only in Japanese. This would have provided us with a greater sampling of his undoubted knowledge and insight.

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CHARLES DAVID SHELDON. *The Rise of the Merchant Class in Tokugawa Japan, 1600-1868: An Introductory Survey*. (Monographs of the Association for Asian Studies: V.) Pp. x, 205. Locust Valley, N. Y.: J. J. Augustin, for the Association for Asian Studies, 1958. \$5.00.

This is a fine scholarly contribution to our growing historical literature on Japan. Teachers of Japanese history frequently refer to the "rise of the merchants" in Tokugawa Japan, but they are often not very clear on the mechanics or the limitations of that rise. Sheldon's work fills out