

## **SUMMARY**

List of Maps and Figures

Preface and Acknowledgments

Note on Numerical Conversions

1. Japan at the Crossroads: Grappling with Changes

2. Environmental Challenges and Constraints

The Physical Setting of Japan

Geologic Structure

Landforms

Rivers and Lakes: Drainage Patterns

Climates and Seasons

Vegetation Cover

Natural Resources

Natural Hazards

Alteration of Landforms by Human Activities

3. The Cultural Heritage

The Pottery People

Yayoi Culture

The Evolution of the Yamato Cultural Core

The Nara and Heian Periods

The Shogun, Daimyō, and Samurai Cultures, 1185-1868

Japan's Emergence as a Great Power, 1868-1914

The Triumph of Fascism and World War II

Postwar Reform, Reconstruction, and Emergence as an Economic Superpower

Cultural Heritage in the Twenty-First Century

Religion

4. Japanese Landscapes

## 5. Regional Reality

East and West, Center and Periphery, Omote-Nihon and Ura-Nihon

Hokkaidō

Tōhoku

Kantō

Chūbu

Kinki

Chūgoku

Shikoku

Kyūshū

Okinawa and the Nansei (Ryukyu) Islands

## 6. Demographic and Social Challenges

Falling Birthrates

Aging Society

Care of the Elderly

Population Distribution and Migration Patterns

Literacy, Education, and Civility

Minority Groups in Japan

Overseas Migration of Japanese

Foreign Workers in Japan

The Status of Women

Social Welfare and the Homeless

The Gap between Rich and Poor

## 7. Rural Landscape, Settlements, and Agriculture

The Rural Landscape

Rural Settlements

Land Use and Recent Changes in Agriculture

## Declining Rice Farming and Increasing Diversity of the Rural Economy

Subsidies and the Future of Japanese Agriculture

Urban Agriculture in Japan

Land Reclamation for Agriculture

Maintaining the Vitality of Rural Communities

## 8. Urban Settlements

Early Historic Cities: Nara, Heian-kyō (Kyoto), and Kamakura

Origins and Development of Cities in Feudal Japan

City Growth in the Modern Period (1868-2000)

The Japanese Megalopolis

Urban Development and Historical Preservation in the Megalopolis

The Structure of the Tokyo Metropolitan Region

The Urban Development Challenge

Moving Japan's Capital

## 9. The Political Challenge

The Political Culture

The Current Political System

Political Changes in 1993: Causes and Consequences

The National Flag and the Anthem: Symbols to Unite That Divide

Japan's Defense Policy

Territorial Disputes with Russia, China, and Korea

Japan, Asia, and the United States: Geopolitical Aspects

American Military Bases in Japan

Japan and Russia

Japan and Latin America

## 10. The Economic Challenge

## Japan's Foreign Direct Investment

Japan's Economy, 1990–2004

Accounting Practices and Economic Woes: Japan's Bank Crisis

Essentials for Future Economic Performance

The Challenge of Structural Reform

## 11. Development and Restructuring of Industry

From Zaibatsu to Keiretsu

Japanese Manufacturing Strategy

Industrial Regions

Industrial Restructuring in Japan

## 12. Postindustrial Japan

The Development of Technology in Japan

The Growth of the Semiconductor Industry

The Location of High-Technology Industries

Biotechnology Industries

The Information Technology (IT) Industry

The Internet Economy

Science Cities and the Technopolis

Future Prospects

## 13. The Challenge of Environmental Preservation

Toxic Wastes

Grassroots Environmental Movements in Japan

## 14. Facing the Challenges

Three Major Transitions

Social Reforms for Sustainable Development

The Aging Society and the Falling Birthrate

The Future of the Countryside

The High-Technology Road

The Changing Lifestyles of the Young

Further Readings

Index