



# Japan: Why It Works, Why It Doesn't

## *Economics in Everyday Life*

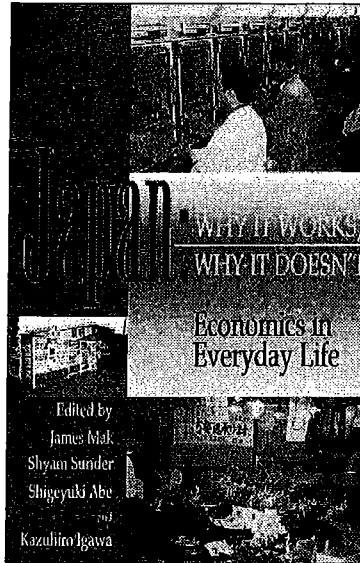
Edited by James Mak, Shyam Sunder, Shigeyuki Abe, and Kazuhiro Igawa

"Every visitor to Japan notices many living and working arrangements that seem unusual—and often are. The authors have made a remarkable effort to explain these anomalies as rational responses to Japanese rules and regulations. Every curious visitor will benefit from, and enjoy, their lively effort." —Allan H. Meltzer, Carnegie Mellon University

"*Japan: Why It Works, Why It Doesn't* is highly important because there is no other book exactly like it. There is no other book that explains so much about Japan's economy by focusing upon everyday life." —Lucien Ellington, editor, *Education about Asia*

Japan's rise as a world economic power has produced a myriad of stereotypes in the West regarding Japanese business attitudes and practices. Although political analysts and management gurus have advocated the adoption and use of Japanese organizational strategies in the West, these have not always met with success. *Japan: Why It Works, Why It Doesn't* attempts to debunk economic (and cultural) stereotypes and replace them with a solid understanding of how Japan truly works.

This collection of twenty-six essays furnishes concise explanations of everyday Japanese life in simplified economic terms. They begin with such questions as, Do Japanese live better than Americans? Why don't Japanese workers claim all their overtime? Why don't Japanese use per-



sonal checking accounts? Why do Japanese give and receive so many gifts? The essays are written in non-technical, accessible language intended for the undergraduate or advanced placement high school student taking an economics course or studying Japan in a social science course. The general reader will find the book a fascinating compendium of facts on Japanese culture and everyday life.

*Japan: Why It Works, Why It Doesn't* is a must for those who have acquired more than a casual interest in Japan and for visitors heading to or returning from Japan. The perspectives offered in this book will help readers organize their observations and acquired knowledge into an economic framework, thus giving them a fuller, deeper understanding of Japan.

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