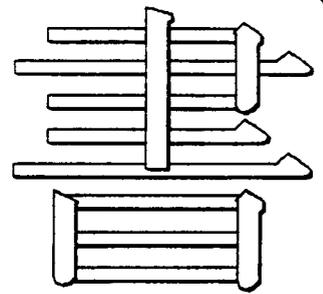


# OBOEGAKI



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## RECENT EARLY MODERN JAPANESE STUDIES IN RUSSIA

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The aim of this brief review is to outline the main trends of the Russian Early modern Japanese studies in the 1980s and the 1990s. Due to the limited space of the survey I will mention only monographs and omit most separate articles. A review of current early modern Japanese studies must begin with the paradoxical statement that Russian Japonology does not recognize "early modern Japan." The periodization of Japanese history prevalent in most books on Japanese history is based on the "social-economic formation" theory and treats the historical process as a schematic succession of primitive, feudal and capitalist ways of production. The latest example is the textbook *History of Japan* (1988) prepared in the Institute of the Countries of Asia and Africa in Moscow University by Yu. D. Kuznetsov, G. B. Navlitskaya, I. M. Syritsin. The textbook divides Japanese history into ancient, feudal (7th C. to mid. 19th C), capitalist (mid. 19th C.- early 20th C.) and contemporary periods.

Alongside with this scheme, some scholars adhere to the periodization of world history and use the term "modern" history. Such approach was chosen in the *Outlines of Modern History of Japan (1640 - 1917)* (A. L. Galperin, ed., 1958). This book deserves special attention since it remains the only comprehensive history of the period in Russian. In the introduction the authors specify the initial date of the Japanese modern period as 1640. This date was chosen to emphasize parallels between Eastern and Western historical development. The central event of modern history of Japan was its incomplete bourgeois revolution. This had as its prerequisite the genesis of the capitalist relations (late 1500s - early 1600s), which was linked with the process of unification of the country. The end of the unification process was marked by the imposition of the policy of seclusion in 1639. Fixing 1640 as the starting point of the modern history was thus explained by "the desire to emphasize" the typological similarity of the Eastern and Western ways of historical development. It seems reasonable to argue that the flaws in this argument were evident even to the authors: the study begins

with an introductory chapter covering the period 1560-1630.

Most monographs on early modern Japanese history were issued in the 1960s. G. I. Podpalova *Peasant's Petitionary Movement in Japan: late 1600s to early 1700s* (1960) supplied numerous translations of different *bakufu* documents, peasant petitions, etc. O. S. Nikolaeva presented translations of *goningumi* records in *Documents on the History of Japanese Village: late 1600s to early 1700s* (1966). A. L. Galperin's *Outlines of the Socio-political History of Japan in late Feudalism* (1963) was a serious and profound analysis of the political and economic history of the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Unfortunately, it was the first part of a posthumously published and incomplete monograph on late feudal Japan. Since then, for nearly for a decade, not a single book on the subject appeared. The pause was broken off in 1980 with the book *Pariahs in Japanese Society: Outlines of Social History, seventeenth to nineteenth centuries* by Z. Ya. Hanin (Leningrad Institute of Oriental studies), dedicated to the problem of *burakumin*. *Toyotomi Hideyoshi* (1984) by A. A. Iskenderov (Moscow Institute of the World History) presented the political biography of an great ruler in the form of captivating historical fiction. The Formation of the Japanese nation from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries was studied in *The Formation of Japanese national culture* (1986) by L. D. Grishelyova (Moscow Institute of Oriental studies). *Samurai: Warrior Class of Japan* (1981) by A. B. Spevakovsky (Leningrad Institute of Ethnography) focused on concrete data concerning the martial arts and the training of warriors. Recently articles include a study of Tokugawa law (*Tokugawa seiken hyakka-jō* 徳川政権百科条 and *Osadamegaki hyakka-jō* 御定書百科条) by the young

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