

Lecture 01

Intro: Approaches to the Modern in Japan

0. Problems & Parameters

- What in general constitutes “the modern,” “modernity,” and “modernization”?
- What do you think “the modern” in Japan would mean?

1. The Concept of “Modernization”

- a. First-comers and latecomers
- b. Preconditions?
- c. Comparative experiences between Japan and other latecomers

2. Japan’s “Success” Explained

- What was there to start with?
 - What went on?
- a. The idea of “traditional” Japan
 - b. The nature of change from without (static theory)
 - c. The nature of change from within (flux theory)

3. Course Manifesto

- a. Study of the general and the particular
- b. All countries are “unique” and no countries are “unique”
- c. “The Japanese” do not exist