

Standard of living  
in Japan

Kokichi Morimoto

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THE STANDARD OF LIVING IN  
JAPAN

BY

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Associate Professor of Economics in Tohoku Imperial University

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## PREFACE

The field for studies of this kind in Japan is still barren of material. With the exception of some little data, the material for this inquiry was collected by me in the years 1913 to 1915, during which period I was also engaged in teaching political economy at the Imperial University, Sapporo, Japan. A wider range of better balanced data is necessary for a thorough inquiry; however, without more extensive statistical work on a larger scale, furthered by aid from public institutions, no work of this nature could be so complete as might be desired.

I wish to express my obligation to those who have helped me. Especially am I grateful to Professor J. H. Hollander and Professor G. E. Barnett for advice and for criticism of the manuscript, and to my friend, Miss Margaret Schneder, Professor of English at Cedarville College, Cedarville, Ohio, for her kindness in reading the manuscript.

K. M.

## GLOSSARY

- Ame—Honey-like jelly made of wheat.  
Awase—Medium weight garment, lined.  
Bancha—Inferior kind of green tea.  
Daikon—Kind of garden radish.  
Futakoori—Kind of silk fabric woven with threads of two strands.  
Futoori—Kind of thick coarse fabric.  
Go—0.1 *sho*, 0.04765 United States standard gallon, or 1.2705 gill (United Kingdom). (1 pint = 3.14 *go*.)  
Goishicha—Kind of compressed tea.  
Gomanoyu—Vegetable oil made of *Sesamium Orientalis*.  
Gyokuro—Superior kind of green tea.  
Habutaye—Kind of glossy silk fabric.  
Hakama—Kind of skirt.  
Hakamaji—Skirt cloth.  
Hakimono—Clogs and sandals.  
Hakucha—Kind of compressed tea.  
Haori—Kind of coat to wear over the main garment (*wataire*, *awase*, or *hitoye*).  
Hitoye—Light garment, not lined.  
Itoori—Kind of silk fabric with fine twisted threads.  
Jyuban—Kind of underwear, combination suit.  
Kabe—Mud wall.  
Kaiki—Kind of glossy silk fabric.  
Kasaji—Umbrella cloth.  
Kasuri—Cloth with minute marks of various forms.  
Katsubushi—Dried flesh of bonito, a kind of condiment.  
Kimono—Clothing, garments.  
Kin—160 *momme*, 1.323 pounds.  
Kobaikaiki—Kind of silk fabric.  
Koku—100 *sho*, 4.96 bushels.  
Konnyaku—Kind of edible root, something like taro.

- Koshihimo**—Smaller sash tied round hip, keeping dress in place.
- Miso**—The most widely used food preparation, made of wheat, beans, and salt. It forms a substance something like soft cheese.
- Myoga**—Edible plant (Gingiber Mioga).
- Nanako**—Kind of silk fabric woven with threads of three strands.
- Negi**—Onion, something like spring onion.
- Obi**—Sash.
- Obiage**—Smaller sash tied around hip, keeping in place the larger sash.
- Obiji**—Sash cloth.
- Obitome**—Smaller sash used to fasten and support the larger sash; generally a fancy buckle is attached.
- Oshiire**—Kind of closet.
- Rekicha**—Kind of compressed tea.
- Ro**—Kind of gauze.
- Saké**—National strong liquor brewed from rice; it contains about 15 per cent of alcohol.
- Sen**—0.01 yen, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent.
- Sencha**—Ordinary green tea.
- Sho**—10 *go*, 0.4765 United States standard gallon, 0.39703 gallons (United Kingdom), 1.8 litre.
- Shoyu**—Kind of sauce made of beans and barley with plenty of salt.
- Sukiya**—Thin silk fabric for making summer garments.
- Sun**— $1/10$  *shaku*, 1.49 inches.
- Tabi**—Kind of sock, close-fitting covering for the feet, made by sewing together pieces of cloth.
- Takuwan-zuke**—Kind of pickle, *tsukemono*, which was first prepared by a priest named Takuwan.
- Tan** (square measure)—0.245 acre, 300 *tsubo*.
- Tan** (linear measure)—280 *sun*, 11.6 yards.
- Tōfu**—Preparation made of bean curd hardened by mixing with a small quantity of the brine left after the deliquescence of salt (bean jelly).
- Tokonoma**—Alcove in the parlor; regarded as the seat of honor.

- Tsukemono—Vegetables, generally radish and turnip, pickled in a mixture of salt and rice bran.
- Tsumugi—Kind of pongee.
- Umé—Variety of plum (*prunus mume*).
- Umeboshi—Plums (*ume*) pickled in salt.
- Uba—Skin of bean curd.
- Wataire—Padded garment.
- Woroncha—Kind of black tea.
- Yakifu—Preparation made of wheat ground whole, something like a cracker.
- Yen—100 *sen*, about 50 cents (7.5 dg. fine gold.)

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