Welcome !

Inside/Outside & Up/Down

Contemporary Japan and Its Edo Roots
IDS 360/460

- Honne - personal
  - Genuine feelings
  - Individually held opinions

- Tatemae - public
  - Socially controlled behavior
  - Motives or intentions that are shaped, encouraged or suppressed by social norms

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- Personal vs. Private
  - Also functions in many other cultures
  - But Japanese use it extensively
- In the interests of group harmony - *wa* - individuals should not express their personal views in Japan.
- However, in the West, many see that as hypocrisy, being "two-faced."

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Public Persona

Japanese Salaryman, 2007, H. Rindsberg
Hard-charging businessman, always too busy.

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Personal Feelings

Keiichi, Piching and Nanami
Takiyanagi, Nengajo 2008
Avid hikers and campers

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Public Persona

*Ichikawa Danjuro VIII as Gongoro (*on left*) in Shibaraku*
(his father, Ichikawa Danjuro VII is the villain on right)
By Utagawa Kunisada, 1836, Fitzwilliam Museum
Arragato "rough" acting is a very popular Kabuki technique

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Personal Feelings

Calligraphy Party, Kunisada, 1827
Kabuki actors often led poetry clubs for friends and fellow actors.
Danjuro VII is on the right at a poetry party for the artist's son.

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Sempai-kohai

- Hierarchies
  - Vertical: boss/employee
  - Horizontal: siblings, colleagues, and friends
- In Japan, vertical hierarchies dominate, status and seniority
  - Sempai - senior member, older
  - Kohai - junior member, younger
- In Japanese companies, there is more emphasis on age than ability (though this is changing)

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Sempai-Kohai

- Foundation of vertical hierarchies
  - Confucianism
  - Traditional Japanese family structure
  - Former civil law

- Hierarchies reflected in Japanese language
  - Keigo - honorific language, spoken to superiors
  - Kenjogo - humble language, lowers the status of the speaker

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Hierarchy: Sempai-kohai

Masako, on the left in white, was the sempai for Kanako, on the
right in black. Their formal, business relationship has evolved into a
close friendship. Kanako is our Tajimi Boss.

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Hierarchy: Sempai-kohai

Masako and Kanako now travel together. They personally delivered
our tea bowls in 2008 and then we vacationed together in Cincinnati,
Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina.

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Uchi to Soto

- Uchi
  - Inside
  - My house and home
  - The group that we belong to
  - My wife or husband

- Soto
  - The outside
  - Outdoors
  - Other groups
  - Outside the home

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Uchi to Soto

- Problems in Japan
  - Discrimination against minority groups illegal but common
  - Koreans, burakumin and Ainu have problems getting jobs and marrying

- Problems in International Relations
  - Regard people from other countries as "soto"
  - Many Japanese uncomfortable around foreigners and tend to avoid them
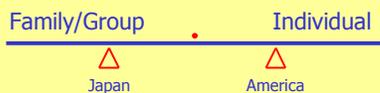
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Uchi to Soto

- Uchi to Soto - origins in the Japanese family system
  - Father is head of household, had absolute authority over other family members
  - In charge of family business and income distribution
  - Loyalty to the household; considered more important than the individual members

- Japanese make a strong distinction between inside and outside in order to feel a sense of security within their groups.

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The Family/Group vs. The Individual

Family/Group · **Individual**

△ △
Japan America

The Relative Balance Between the Emphasis on the Family/Group or the Individual

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Why The Balance?

Geography and natural resources mold the individual and the culture or group:

- Americans
  - Vast frontier
  - Immigrants
  - Rural
  - Rugged individual
- Japanese
  - Scarce Usable Land
  - Settled in ancient past
  - Urban
  - Water cooperation

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Loyalty: Samurai Heroes

The Forty-seven Ronin: Night Attack, 1843, By Ando Hiroshige

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Group Dynamics

- The Japanese value harmony in a group. They reach consensus after consultation and committee work.

- Because of consensus decision-making, they avoid wasteful friction produced by litigation - fewer lawyers!

- Use of go-betweens helps avoid confrontations and maintains group solidarity.

- Rely on non-verbal skills - these are easier to develop in an homogenous society (than USA with great cultural diversity).

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Group Dynamics

A typical office in Japan. Workers are often organized in sections - groups of eight with a section head. The emphasis is on cooperation and easy communication. (From Google search)

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Important Groups Outside the Family

- Work groups, socialize outside of the office
- High school and college friends
- Hobby groups - traditional skills to gospel singing
- PTA, especially in rural areas
- Women's associations

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Group: Travel Today

At Hamamatsu Rest Stop on the Tomei Expressway, the tour buses dominate the back of the parking lot. Two-day group trips are very popular.

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Group: Travel Tokugawa Era

Yoshiwara, Station # 14, Tokaido, 1834, Ando Hiroshige
This shows a popular form of group travel, known in folk songs as "three on a horse." Pilgrimages were the main reason for travel at this time.

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Groups: Sunday in Yoyogi Park

Clockwise from top: *Christina and Little Maids, Punk Band Fans, Elvis Groupies,* 2008, Helen Rindsberg

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Groups: Kabuki Fan Clubs

Kabuki Theater Interior, Woodblock Print, Edo Period
Fan clubs cheered their favorite actor, commissioned artworks of dramatic scenes and bought the products endorsed by their hero.

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Groups: Neighborhood Associations

Sanja Festival Tokyo 2007, Helen
Rindsberg

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Group: Edo Period Neighborhood Association

Miya Atsuta Shrine Festival, 1832,
Ando Hiroshige *(53 Stations of the Tokaido)*

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Just For Fun

Our "grandson" Kanato, performing taiko at school sports day, part of a national 12 year curriculum of character education. This was in 2008 when he was six years old.

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The Individual

- "The nail that sticks up is hammered down." This is a very common Japanese saying.

- Tokugawa Period - poetry, tea ceremony, flower arranging and visual arts were outlets for self-expression.

- But many of their heroes are bold individuals.

- Tokugawa Period - Kabuki heroes were "street knights" who defended the poor against the samurai

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The Individual

- Modern Period - "I" novel, search for self-identify within a stiflingly compact society

- Modern Period - continue pursuit of flower-arranging, martial arts, tea ceremony - tradition of cultivation of individual skills and establishment of their identity.

- Newspaper poetry contests often receive tens of thousands of entries.

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Individual: National Living Treasure

Hamada Shoji At Work,
Photograph by Harri Peccinotti
Scan: The Living Treasures of Japan

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Individual: Tea Master

Mrs. Shibata, Tea Master
With Tea Bowl of Taku Kato, a
National Living Treasure,
2007, Helen Rindsberg

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Individual: Taiko Master

Sanja Festival Tokyo 2007, Helen Rindsberg
The master is nationally recognized and taught this youth group.

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Individual: Artist

Ikuhiko Shibata At His Wood-fired Kiln, 2007, Helen Rindsberg
The 7th generation of his family runs a ceramics business, but he runs
his own pottery studio and has shown his work in the US and China.

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Individual: Rebel

Still from Anime: Akira, 1988
Director: Katsuhiro Otomo, born 1954
Captured from DVD

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Individual: Rebel

Death Note, Volume 1
Story by Tsugumi Ohba
Art by Takeshi Obata

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