

Takie Sugiyama LEBRA and William P. LEBRA, eds. *Japanese culture and behavior: Selected readings*. Honolulu: University Press of Hawaii, 1974. Paperback. xi + 459 pp. \$5.95

How many of us read such diverse journals as *Ethnology*, *Psychologia*, the *Council on anthropology and education newsletter*, *Yonago acta medica*, or the *Folia psychiatrica et neurologica japonica*? The fact that this volume of readings brings together quality materials from these and other often inaccessible sources is already quite enough to make it commendable.

But there is even more reason to commend this book. Its twenty-three articles, approximately half written by Japanese scholars and half by American, were chosen in accordance with a definite purpose that serves at once as a principle of selection and a principle of coherence. The authors express their purpose thus: "The articles selected are intended to fit together so that Japanese culture as manifested in behavior will emerge as a system in our readers' minds" (p. vii). Recognizing the danger of falling into simplistic stereotypes, they quickly qualify their stated goal by saying, "We want to express the complexity, variety, conflict, and dynamism inherent in Japanese culture..." (p. vii).

The first three of the four parts into which the volume is divided assume, on the whole, a condition of cultural stability. Against this background we are treated to a smorgasbord of readings under the general headings of "Values and beliefs," "Patterns of interaction," and "Socialization and psycho-social development."

Part 4 takes up the question of what happens when people do not follow the socially dominant norms, or when the norms themselves are in process of change. Here we find articles on suicide, delinquency and crime, neurosis, therapy through guided introspection, *taishū dankō* (deliberately left undefined), etc.

Eminently sensible in organization and employing contributions by a stellar array of authors (Ishida, Doi, Nakane, T. S. Lebra, Pelzel, Plath, et al.), this collection of readings will prove helpful to many. It is recommended not so much for the newness of its materials (18 of the 23 articles are reprints) as for the convenience of having between two covers such a broad range of excellent studies.

David REID
International Institute for the
Study of Religions, Tokyo