

Contents

List of Illustrations ix

Acknowledgments xi

Introduction 1

PART ONE Borders

Chapter 1 State 19

Japan Today / Frontiers and Boundaries in Theory and in World History / Ancient Japan / Medieval Japan / Early Modern Japan / Frontiers and Boundaries of Premodern Japan

Chapter 2 "Race" and Culture 52

Japan as "Nation-State" / "Race" and Biological Origins / "Culture" / Culture and the State

Chapter 3 Ethnicity 87

What Is "Ethnicity"? / Japanese Ethnicity: A Historical Overview / Ethnogenesis on the Periphery / Ethnogenesis, Ethnic Borders, and "Japan"

PART TWO Interactions

Chapter 4 Premodern Japan in World-Systems Theory 125

Japan's Borders: Barriers or Conduits? / The "Modern World-System" / The Premodern World-System(s) / A Japan-Centered "World-System"?

Chapter 5 Political and Military Interactions 143

Japan as an Autonomous "Political/Military Network"? / Factors Affecting Cross-Border Interaction / Political/Military Relations with the Continent: A Brief Survey / Patterns and Explanations / Questions of Scale / A Web of Overlapping Systems

Chapter 6 Bulk Goods 162

Japan's Bulk Goods Network / Circulation of Bulk Goods in Ancient and Medieval Times / The Early Modern Period / Bulk Goods and the State

Chapter 7 Prestige Goods 181

Japan's Prestige Goods Network / "Tribute Trade," "Maritime Regions," and "Networks" / "Public" vs. "Private" Exchange / Imports / Exports / Transshipment and Scale of Exchange

Chapter 8 Information 206

Information and Frontiers / "Formal" vs. "Informal" Channels / Inflows / Outflows / Nature and Scale of the Network

Chapter 9 Japan, East Asia, and the World 225

Japan and East Asia / Japan and the World

PART THREE Dynamics

Chapter 10 Social Power: Causes and Consequences 235

The Frontier as "Contested Ground" / Actors and Strategies / Sociopolitical Organization / Technology / Environment and Ecology / A Socioenvironmental Feedback System / The End of Geopolitics?

Notes 263

Works Cited 295

Index 327