Contents

1 Introduction: A New View on Changes in Japanese Families ............... 1
   1.1 Two Theoretical Frameworks for the Study of Family Issues in Japan................................................................. 1
   1.2 A Dual Structural Model of the Japanese Family: The Modified Stem Family................................................................. 2
   1.3 Regional Variations by Prefecture: Haihan Chiken (Dissolution of Domains and Establishment of Prefectures) ....... 5
   1.4 Data and Methods....................................................................................................................................................... 7
      1.4.1 Data....................................................................................................................................................................... 7
      1.4.2 Analytic Strategy ................................................................................................................................................... 8
   1.5 Family Issues to Be Discussed ................................................................................................................................ 9
   References ........................................................................................................................................................................... 9

2 Demographic Changes in Japan .............................................................. 11
   2.1 Introduction ............................................................................................................................................................... 11
   2.2 Changes in the Japanese Household Structure: The Nuclear Family............................................................................. 12
   2.3 Changes in the Three-Generation Family .................................................................................................................... 14
   2.4 Family Size: Changes and Projections for the Average Number of Persons in a Household by Prefecture............... 16
   2.5 Demographics of the Japanese Elderly.......................................................................................................................... 18
      2.5.1 The Graying of Japan: Population Aging and Fertility Decline .......................................................... 18
      2.5.2 Declining Birth Rates and Total Fertility Rates (TFR) .......... 20
      2.5.3 The Baby Boomer Generations........................................................... 23
      2.5.4 The Longevity Revolution: Rising Life Expectancy................. 24
      2.5.5 Aging of the Elderly Population ............................................. 25
      2.5.6 Marital Status of Japanese Elderly ........................................ 27
      2.5.7 Japanese Elderly and Family Relations .............................. 27
2.6 Living Arrangements of the Elderly ................................................... 28
  2.6.1 With Family ................................................................. 28
  2.6.2 Problems Associated with Coresidency Living Arrangements ....... 31
2.7 Regional Variations of the Japanese Elderly .................................... 32
References ...................................................................................... 37

3 History of Courtship and Marriage in Japan ......................................... 39
  3.1 Historical Perspective ..................................................................... 39
    3.1.1 Primitive Times of Jyomon and Yayoi: BC 12,000–AD 240 .............. 40
    3.1.2 Yamato (Tumulus) Era: From the Third to the Sixth Century ......... 42
    3.1.3 Asuka–Early Heian: 593–1000 ................................................. 42
    3.1.4 Mid-end Heian Period ......................................................... 43
    3.1.5 End Heian Period: The End of Eleventh to the End of the Twelfth Century ................................................................. 44
    3.1.6 Kamakura Shogunate and Nanboku-cho: 1192–1333–1336 .............. 45
    3.1.7 Muromachi Shogunate-Edo Shogunate .................................... 45
    3.1.8 Meiji to Taisho to Showa to Present (Heisei): Yorii-kon .............. 46
  3.2 Attitudes Toward Marriage and Mate Selection .................................. 49
    3.2.1 Miai-kekkon and Ren-ai-kekkon ........................................... 49
    3.2.2 High Ages at First Marriage and the Delayed Marriage ............... 51
    3.2.3 Lifetime Singlehood ................................................................ 52
    3.2.4 Live Births to Unmarried Mothers .......................................... 54
    3.2.5 De facto Partnerships: Cohabitation ........................................ 57
    3.2.6 Roles and Functions of the Nakoudo: The Traditional vs. the New ................................. 58
  3.3 The Current Situation ..................................................................... 58
    3.3.1 Commercial Matchmaking/Dating Agency .............................. 58
    3.3.2 Matchmaking by Local Communities and/or Municipal Offices ............................. 59
    3.3.3 Machi-Kon, the Town-Based Marriage-Meeting Event .............. 60
References ...................................................................................... 62

4 International Marriage in Japan: A Strategy to Maintain Rural Farm Households ........................................ 65
  4.1 Introduction ................................................................................. 65
    4.1.1 Two Opposing Views on International Marriage ....................... 65
    4.1.2 International Marriage as a New Way to Maintain Rural Farm Households ............ 66
  4.2 International Marriage in Japan..................................................... 66
    4.2.1 Historical Development ....................................................... 66
    4.2.2 Demographic Features of International Marriages: Foreign Brides Versus Foreign Grooms ............ 67
4.3 Regional Variations in International Marriages by Prefecture............ 70
4.3.1 International Marriages: Percentage of Total......................... 70
4.3.2 Japanese Wife/Foreign Husband: Percentage of Total............ 70
4.3.3 Japanese Husband/Foreign Wife: Percentage of Total........... 71

4.4 Yamagata Prefecture-Pioneering Prefecture
for International Marriage in Japan Today ....................................... 71
4.4.1 Foreign Residents in Yamagata Prefecture............................. 71
4.4.2 Nationalities ............................................................................ 73
4.4.3 Correlation Between Number of Foreigners
and Household Type by Municipality ..................................... 74
4.4.4 A Brief History of Foreign Brides in Yamagata Prefecture .... 77
4.4.5 Asahi-machi ............................................................................ 78
4.4.6 Tozawa-mura........................................................................... 79

4.5 Three Reports on Research into Family Relations
in Yamagata Prefecture ..................................................................... 80
4.5.1 “Survey Report on the Attitudes Toward Families
in Yamagata Prefecture” (Association for International
Relations in Yamagata: AIRY 2006) .............................................. 81
4.5.2 “Report on the Questionnaire Survey Research
on Foreigners Residing in Yamagata Prefecture”
(Association for International Relations
in Yamagata: AIRY 2011) ............................................................... 81
4.5.3 Yamagata Prefecture Bureau of International
Economic Exchange (2014)............................................................. 83

References ................................................................................................. 86

5 Changing Divorce in Japan: With Special Attention
to Regional Variations ............................................................................... 89
5.1 Introduction .................................................................................... 89
5.2 A Brief History of Divorce in Japan................................................. 90
5.2.1 The First Period: 1883–1897 .................................................. 91
5.2.2 The Second Period: 1898–1899 .............................................. 92
5.2.3 An Overview of Japanese Divorce: 1960–2013 ...................... 93
5.3 Three Conspicuous Characteristics of Divorce in Japan ................. 94
5.3.1 Duration of Marriage Before Divorce..................................... 94
5.3.2 Child Custody in Divorce ....................................................... 95
5.3.3 Divorce by Mutual Agreement ................................................ 96
5.4 Regional Variations in Divorce ...................................................... 97
5.5 Some Cultural Explanation of Divorce in Japan ......................... 100
5.5.1 Prefectures with Low Divorce Rates Today:
Niigata and Shimane ........................................................................ 102
5.5.2 Prefectures with High Divorce Rates Today:
Hokkaido, Okinawa, Osaka, Fukuoka,
Miyazaki, and Kochi ...................................................................... 104

References ................................................................................................. 114
## 6 Late-Life Divorce in Japan Revisited: Effects of the Old-Age Pension Division Scheme

6.1 Introduction ........................................................................................ 119
6.2 Recent Changes in Divorce in Japan .................................................. 121
6.3 Duration of Marriage Prior to Divorce ............................................... 122
6.4 Late-Life Divorce and the Year 2007 Issue ........................................ 124
6.5 Baby Boomers and the Duration of Marriage at the Time of Divorce .................................................................................. 125
6.6 Higher Divorce Rate Among Younger Couples Over Veteran Couples .................................................................................... 126
6.7 Reasons for Late-Life Divorce ........................................................... 129
   6.7.1 Divorce by Mutual Agreement or by Judicial Procedure........ 130
   6.7.2 Reasons for Divorce ................................................................. 132
   6.7.3 Motives for Late-Life Divorce ................................................ 132
References ................................................................................................... 136

## 7 Japanese Elders Living Apart: Policy Suggestions

7.1 Introduction ........................................................................................ 139
7.2 Living Arrangements of the Elderly: Living-Alone Households ..... 140
   7.2.1 Family Size ............................................................................... 140
   7.2.2 Living-Alone Households by Sex and by Age Group ............. 140
   7.2.3 Proportions of the Household Type in Which the Elderly Sixty-Five and Over Reside by Prefecture ....... 140
   7.2.4 Elderly-Headed Households ................................................... 143
   7.2.5 Living-Alone Households of Japanese Elderly by Sex............ 146
   7.2.6 Elderly Living-Alone Households of the Total Elderly-Headed Households ......................................................... 146
   7.2.7 Elderly 75 and Over Headed Households ............................. 147
7.3 Yamagata and Kagoshima Prefectures ............................................... 153
   7.3.1 Yamagata Prefecture ............................................................... 153
   7.3.2 Kagoshima Prefecture ............................................................. 153
   7.3.3 Yamagata: High Rate of Coresidency and Low Rates of Elderly One- and Two-Person Households ......................................................... 155
   7.3.4 Kagoshima: High Rate of Elderly Living-Alone Households .................................................................................. 157
7.4 Successful Aging of Japanese Elders Living Alone ........................... 158
   7.4.1 Measurements of Successful Aging ........................................ 158
   7.4.2 Five Major Factors ................................................................. 159
   7.4.3 Elders Living Alone: Yamagata Prefecture ......................... 159
   7.4.4 Elders Living Alone: Kagoshima Prefecture ....................... 160
   7.4.5 Elders Living Alone: Tokyo Metropolitan Area (Minato-ward) ......................................................... 161
7.5 Policy Recommendations for the Elderly Living Alone ..................... 164
References ................................................................................................... 166
8 Conclusion: Toward Globalization of Japanese Families ...................... 169
  8.1 Toward Globalization Through the Field of Family Sociology ....... 169
  8.2 Summary of Major Findings, Implications, and Limitations of the Book ................................................................. 170
  8.3 Relating the Dual Structural Model to the Family Issues Discussed .................................................................................. 172
  8.4 The Future of Japanese Families .............................................. 175
    8.4.1 Japanese Families in the Era of Population Decline .......... 175
    8.4.2 Japanese Families with Working Mothers ....................... 175
    8.4.3 Japanese Families and Global Cooperation ...................... 176
  8.5 Japan as a Global Partner .................................................... 176
References ........................................................................................................ 177

Index .................................................................................................. 179
Family Issues on Marriage, Divorce, and Older Adults in Japan
With Special Attention to Regional Variations
Kumagai, F.
2015, XIX, 184 p. 54 illus., 32 illus. in color., Hardcover