

the accidental office lady an american woman in corporate japan

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Explore the unique journey of an American woman as she unexpectedly becomes an 'office lady' in the intricate world of corporate Japan. This compelling story delves into the cultural nuances, professional challenges, and personal growth experienced while navigating Japanese business culture, offering an insightful look at expat life and career adaptation in a foreign land.

Every lecture note is organized for easy navigation and quick reference.

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Accidental Office Lady

A young woman with a new degree in Japanese studies and plenty of youthful idealism and can-do spirit accepts a job as the first American trainee at Honda's headquarters in Tokyo. Her image of Japanese corporate life is dramatically challenged on her first day at work when she is issued a blue polyester uniform—a uniform worn only by women! From menial beginnings serving tea to executives and cleaning the boss's desk, to a stint in public relations, to developing training classes for Japanese associates going to America, Laura Kriska recounts her struggle to adapt to—and ultimately thrive in—the culture of a traditional Japanese company. Shortly before her departure, she travels full circle by introducing a successful campaign to make women's uniforms optional. Now with a new foreword by the author, *The Accidental Office Lady* is a vivid and valuable firsthand account not only of corporate Japan and the gender inequality that persists within it, but of an outsider's successful attempt to work within cultural boundaries to affect organizational change.

The Accidental Office Lady

First Published in 1990. In this extraordinary work of research and informed observation, Jeannie Lo describes her experiences as an OL ('office lady') and working as a factory woman on a typewriter assembly line at Brother Industries in Nagoya, Japan..

Office Ladies/Factory Women:

This book reviews employment and leisure trends in Japan from the post-war era to the present. In addition, it also examines how these trends will affect tourism destinations and businesses that rely heavily on Japanese overseas tourism. Topics that are of particular interest to readers include the most current Japanese employment and leisure data and how the data compares with the earlier, postwar era that made up the boom-years of Japanese overseas travel. The latest data provides insight

into how today's working and living conditions in Japan impact overseas travel expenditures today. Readers, ranging from academics to business practitioners, will benefit from the book that provides the latest information that can be used in a practical manner to assist tourism-related businesses and organizations meet the current and future needs of the Japan overseas travel market.

Changing Trends in Japan's Employment and Leisure Activities

In large corporations in Japan, much of the clerical work is carried out by young women known as "office ladies" (OLs) or "flowers of the workplace". This study shows how OLs frustrated by demanding dead-end jobs thwart their managers and subvert the power structure to their advantage.

Office Ladies and Salaried Men

Japanese Business Culture and Practices presents detailed insights and descriptions on the proper ways to conduct business with contemporary Japanese. It focuses on the traditional and nontraditional business-related practices, including the internal mechanisms of promotion and decision-making in Japanese corporations. From advice on how to avoid cultural misunderstandings and how to develop trust with Japanese colleagues, readers will gain insights on how to communicate, negotiate, entertain, and socialize with Japanese as well as the minutiae of correct behavior. Using linguistic examples to facilitate how Japanese themselves view their work environment, authors Isao Takei and Jon P. Alston describe the social etiquette and protocols Japanese expect all foreigners to adopt in order to successfully conduct business. With a glossary of terms and practical real-life experiences, this is an essential guide for anyone who wants to forge deeper business relationships with Japanese.

Education about Asia

Globalization demands that more employees become comfortable working outside their home country borders. *Western Women Working in Japan* is a research-based description of the work and living situations facing foreign professional women who work in Japan. The book draws upon detailed survey data and in-depth interviews, as well as the experiences of the authors, who have lived or worked in Japan during the last 20 years. It examines how foreign women can succeed in Japanese and foreign firms operating in Japan by describing what helps these Western women adjust to Japan and work with Japanese bosses, subordinates, and clients. These women face some different problems than men, yet are armed with special advantages. Drawing upon past research and exploring in new directions, the authors examine the connection between women's job success and the quality of their work relationships with the Japanese, their autonomy, Japanese linguistic ability, and age. Their working relationships are also compared to male expatriates and to the women's previous jobs. The interviews provide new insights into the sexual bias and harassment they encountered and how they dealt with these issues. The book includes valuable recommendations in the areas of selection, training, support, and repatriation for both the organizations that employ foreign women in their Japanese operations and for the women themselves.

Japanese Business Culture and Practices

Numerous books have been written about the country's workaholic, corporate-minded drones, Japanese men, but few writers have grasped that it is really the women who keep Japan on top. In *A Half Step Behind*, author and journalist Jane Condon explores this often ignored other half of the Japanese success story--Japanese women.

Western Women Working in Japan

Japanese women, who comprise more than 40% of their country's workforce, are essential to the Japanese economy. Yet they are not typically thought of as managers, at home or abroad. Jean Renshaw challenges that perception in this pathbreaking book, showing readers where and how an "invisible evolution" is occurring in Japanese business. Traditional norms of lifetime employment, the seniority system, and the bureaucratic, tightly knit nature of Japanese industry all restrict women's entry into management. Despite these enormous barriers, the number of Japanese women managers has almost doubled in the last ten years. In an effort to discover the secrets of their success, Renshaw interviewed over 150 successful Japanese women managers. She explored family backgrounds, personal characteristics, socialization, professional experiences, and corporate cultures. This book presents her sometimes surprising discoveries. Renshaw completes the picture by surveying the

history of Japanese women in management and discussing the even newer phenomenon of Japanese women who own their own businesses. An eye-opening work for managers of international firms and scholars of business and women's studies, *Kimono in the Boardroom* reveals the potential of the rising female managerial class to profoundly change the male-dominated culture of modern Japan.

A Half Step Behind

A must read for women who work for, sell to, or communicate with Japanese businesses.

Kimono in the Boardroom

Discover how this leader-focused approach to understanding, managing, and maximizing organizational diversity and inclusion can increase employee retention and productivity. Workplace misunderstandings lead to lost revenue, lost time, and increased legal risk, thus your success in the marketplace will depend on our ability to collaborate across difference. Yet, inevitably, Us versus Them gaps disrupt workplace efficiency. In *The Business of WE*, cross-cultural consultant and diversity expert Laura Kriska will: Provide a practical roadmap for creating trust with others who are culturally different from yourself Help you create a WE mindset throughout your organization, bringing teams together into cohesive units. Walk you through the steps in fostering a workplace that is inclusive and respectful of all employees—one of the most critical, yet most widely mismanaged keys to success. Stakeholders are demanding real change, and nothing less than comprehensive solutions that lead to meaningful and lasting solutions will suffice. *The Business of WE* arrives just in time to help you stop Us versus Them gaps before they start and foster authentic connections across race, ethnicity, religion, age, and any other factor of identity to exponentially strengthen your entire organization.

New Books on Women and Feminism

Based, in part, on interviews conducted with women in Japan and the UK.

New Books on Women, Gender and Feminism

In this intriguing ethnography, Ellen Fuller investigates how issues of gender and identity as they relate to authority are addressed in a globalizing corporate culture. *Going Global* goes behind the office politics, turf wars and day-to-day workings of a transnational American company in Japan in the late 1990s as employees try to establish a comfortable place within the company. Fuller looks at how relationships among Asians and between Asians and Americans are tested as individuals are promoted to positions of power and authority. Is there pressure for the Japanese to be more "American" to get ahead in business? Do female employees have to subscribe to certain stereotypes to be promoted or respected? How these American and Japanese workers assess one another raises important questions about international business management and human resources.

Doing Business with Japanese Men

'Snapping and Wrapping' represents an original study in Japanese visual culture, pictorial communication, and photographic studies. Vernacular visual culture is highlighted, stressing ordinary people and everyday life to explore photographic expressions of Japanese family life. The theme of "how people looked" is described from two closely related perspectives: how people appeared in their own photographs, and how people looked at specific features of their own lives with analog camera technology. The book includes unexamined material based on a qualitative study involving personal fieldwork undertaken between 1993 and 2009. The metaphor of "wrapping culture" (Hendry) is suggested for ways of interpreting relationships of personal family photographs in conjunction with acknowledged cultural influences and values of Japanese culture. Across an introduction and six chapters, the book covers a series of research topics evoked by efforts to recover, repair, and return millions of photographs to survivors following the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. Memory, privacy and kinds of information control are reviewed as parts of strategies of sharing pictures, "presence" and the use of photographs for interpersonal interaction and communication. Throughout the monograph, emphasis is placed on understanding details of analog personal photography for potential comparisons to the intensely popular digitalization of photographic recordings and, in turn, facilitate making informed speculations for future photographic practice. This book will be of interest to upper-level students, graduate students and scholars in the fields of media and culture, Asian Studies (especially Japanese visual culture), as well as those working on sensitive relationships of family, memory and representation.

The Business of We

One third of the Japanese female workforce are 'office ladies' and their training takes place in the many women's junior colleges. Office ladies are low-wage, low-status secretaries who have little or no job security. Brian J. McVeigh draws on his experience as a teacher at one such institution to explore the cultural and social processes used to promote 'femininity' in Japanese women. His detailed and ethnographically-informed study considers how the students of these institutions are socialized to fit their future dual roles of employees and mothers, and illuminates the sociopolitical role that the colleges play in Japanese society as a whole.

Women in the Japanese Workplace

If you are one in the growing ranks of Americans working for or doing business with the nearly 10,000 Japanese-owned companies operating in the United States, here is frank and timely guidance. *How to Succeed in a Japanese Company* explains the nuances and intricacies of topics such as Japanese history and psychology, the protocol of gift-giving and dining, sexual discrimination in the workplace, saving face in awkward situations, avoiding dead-end jobs, climbing the corporate ladder, and much more. The author's expert advice culminates with her Seven Strategies for Success, basic rules you can follow in almost any culture-clashing business situation.

Going Global

Presenting a vivid social history of "the new woman" who emerged in Japanese culture between the world wars, *The New Japanese Woman* shows how images of modern women burst into Japanese life in the midst of the urbanization, growth of the middle class, and explosion of consumerism resulting from the postwar economic boom, particularly in the 1920s. Barbara Sato analyzes the icons that came to represent the new urban femininity—the "modern girl," the housewife, and the professional working woman. She describes how these images portrayed in the media shaped and were shaped by women's desires. Although the figures of the modern woman by no means represented all Japanese women, they did challenge the myth of a fixed definition of femininity—particularly the stereotype emphasizing gentleness and meekness—and generate a new set of possibilities for middle-class women within the context of consumer culture. *The New Japanese Woman* is rich in descriptive detail and full of fascinating vignettes from Japan's interwar media and consumer industries—department stores, film, radio, popular music and the publishing industry. Sato pays particular attention to the enormously influential role of the women's magazines, which proliferated during this period. She describes the different kinds of magazines, their stories and readerships, and the new genres that emerged at the time, including confessional pieces, articles about family and popular trends, and advice columns. Examining reactions to the images of the modern girl, the housewife, and the professional woman, Sato shows that while these were not revolutionary figures, they caused anxiety among male intellectuals, government officials, and much of the public at large, and they contributed to the significant changes in gender relations in Japan following the Second World War.

Snapping and Wrapping: Personal Photography in Japan

Examines societal, cultural, and legal issues confronting women in different regions of the world. This title teaches readers about the subjugation and prejudice women have endured, as well as their triumphs and hopes for the future.

Life in a Japanese Women's College

Sarah Coomber escapes the disappointments of her Minnesota life for a job teaching English in Japan. She finds herself the lone English speaker in an isolated rural area, where she is drawn into performing with a koto (zither) group, advocating for her female students and colleagues, and embarking on a controversial romance with a local salaryman.

How to Succeed in a Japanese Company

Diploma Thesis from the year 2008 in the subject Business economics - Business Management, Corporate Governance, grade: 1,0, TU Bergakademie Freiberg (Chair of Business English, Business Communication and Intercultural Communication), language: English, abstract: The representation of women in management is a globally and frequently discussed phenomenon. Albeit the worldwide number of female managers is continuously increasing, progress is still slow and full of barriers (ILO, 2004). These obstacles are described as an invisible glass ceiling: Negative attitudes and prejudices

within organizations prevent women from climbing the career ladder (Wirth, 2001). However, culture seems to be an important factor of influence for female management opportunities. For example, female managers tend to be generally less accepted in Asia than in America or Eastern Europe (ILO, 2004). Among Asian countries, Japan is very special: Although the country is one of the most developed and richest economies in the world, gender equality is extremely low there (UNDP, 2007; Fackler, 2007). Women are often hired for administrative tasks only and not allowed to pursue own careers. Despite growing attempts to strengthen gender equality, Japanese females are still discriminated against and expected to stick to their traditional duties as mothers, wives, and "office flowers" (Faiola, 2007; Ogasawara, 1998). Female under-representation is notably high for management positions and seems to increase with the level of seniority (Wirth, 2001). Consequently, the Japanese glass ceiling is also known as "concrete ceiling" reflecting the enormous level of gender discrimination (Wahlin, 2007; Penketh, 2008). Japan's rigid and outstanding gender inequality is strongly influenced by the national culture and its major impact on the societal role of women. On the one hand, the Japanese are known for their ability to change but on the other hand, they always try to maintain their special Japanese identity within every aspect of life. Thus, fixed gender roles of men as breadwinners and women as housewives persist even in spite of growing internationalization (Haak & Haak, 2006). Nevertheless, environmental changes like an aging and decreasing population force Japanese companies to accept females as part of the talent pool (Fackler, 2007; Otake, 2008). According to these facts, female managers in Japan turn out to be an exciting field of research: They are needed but also discriminated against at the same time. The objective of this diploma thesis is to examine current trends and to analyze challenges as well as existing opportunities to improve their situation.

The New Japanese Woman

Interviews with women in cross-cultural marriages, offering a unique insight into Japanese life.

The Writers Directory

This book provides an overview of the Japanese sex industry in the years of Japan's postwar economic boom. It argues that the origins of gender inequality in contemporary Japan resulted from the policies put in place during this period, when there was instituted a "sexual contract" which provided male salarymen whose work was arduous, underpaid and subject to military-like organisation with easy access to women's bodies, through workplace getaway trips to hot springs resorts, hostess bars, and prostitution tourism to South Korea, as sexual inducement to acquiesce to their own exploitation. Japan's economic growth, the book thereby contends, came at the price not just of environmental and labour degradation, but also gender inequality.

Book Review Digest

The Tokyo region of Japan is, in terms of population, the largest urban area on earth. Its centre comprises the 23 wards of Tokyo itself but the urban sprawl has long since extended to include the other major cities of Kawasaki and Yokohama. From the early 16th century, when the Tokugawa rulers of Japan established their administrative headquarters there, Edo, as it was known, developed quickly into one of the largest cities in the world. It was renamed Tokyo, or 'Eastern Capital', when the Emperor moved there in 1868. In the 20th century most of Tokyo was destroyed first by the Kanto earthquake of 1923 and then by the American bombing of 1945. Nonetheless, it was rapidly rebuilt, and is now, along with London and New York, one of the major control centres of the global economy. Yet behind the ultramodern facade of the main commercial areas, Tokyo remains largely a city of narrow streets and small, intimate neighbourhoods. However, the threat of serious earthquakes remains and the relocation of the capital is being increasingly discussed. This is the first annotated, critical survey of the English-language literature on Tokyo and its region.

Women in the Japanese World

Antiques dealer Rei Shimura has managed to snag one of the most lucrative and prestigious jobs of her career: a renowned museum in Washington, D.C., has invited her to exhibit her kimonos and give a lecture on them. Accompanied by a gaggle of Japanese office ladies bent on a week of shopping, Rei lands in the capital. But her big break could ultimately break her. Within hours one of the kimonos is stolen, and then Rei's passport is discovered in a shopping mall dumpster—on the dead body of one of the Japanese tourists. Trouble is only beginning, though, for now Rei's parents have arrived and

so has her ex-boyfriend. To track down the kimono and unmask a killer, Rei's got to do some clever juggling, fast talking, and quick sleuthing, or this trip home could be her last.

Sociology

DIVExplores issues of gender, race and national identity in Japan, by taking up for critical analysis an emergent national trend, in which some urban Japanese women turn to the West--through study abroad, work abroad, and romance with Westerners-- in order/div

The Journal of American-East Asian Relations

This is a story of a woman who is bilingual and bicultural. After college she literally bulldozed her way to higher rungs on the corporate hierarchy in a male dominated business environment of advertising in Japan. She has her stories of how she got there, giving tips on how women trying to rise higher on the corporate ladder where not just "glass" ceilings exist, but "concrete" ceilings. She also describes her observations on the cultural, political and economic differences and upheavals of the recent times as well as developments between the US and Japan, and her observations of other countries in Europe, South America, Australia, New Zealand and the Asian countries as far as India, countries where she traveled on business and her vacations with her husband. And how she is today, when she decided to become a writer after she turned sixty-five. She has shown that there is life after retirement, that there are other ways to pursue development of a "second" career. Though pessimistic at times, she always relied on her optimism to achieve fulfillment. The book is full of hope, both yet unachieved and those achieved.

The Same Moon

Every day, 700,000 Americans working in Japanese companies confront the "rice-paper ceiling." International business consultant Rochelle Kopp exposes this invisible obstacle to advancement at Japanese corporations, how it operates, and what you can do to "break through" it to improve your workplace relationships and career prospects. Along the way she details case studies that reveal the profound differences between Japanese and American work styles and cultures. If you work for a Japanese company, or plan to, you need this book. "A revealing, readable account of American-Japanese interactions in the workplace."-Rosabeth Moss Kanter, Harvard Business School Rochelle Kopp is a Yale graduate with an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago. She is Managing Principal of Japan Intercultural Consulting in Chicago.

Women in Management Positions in Japan. Trends, Challenges and Opportunities

In the Japanese constitution there are two paragraphs dealing specifically with the rights of women, paragraphs that were researched and written and passionately defended by a very young American woman who has now become something of a heroine in Japan. Her name is Beate Sirota Gordon. Born in Vienna, Gordon was raised in Tokyo, and was in the US at college when the war began. She returned to her family in Japan in 1945 and as a Caucasian who spoke Japanese she quickly landed a job on General MacArthur's staff, to help research and write the new post-war constitution for Japan. As the only woman among the 25 drafters, she was determined to make sure that Japanese women were treated fairly by the new government. Returning to the US in 1947, Gordon went into the field of cultural exchange -- first with Japan, later with all of Asia, encouraging bi-directional cultural exchange

American Book Publishing Record

Excerpt from Japanese Girls and Women It seems necessary for a new author to give some excuse for her boldness in offering to the public another volume upon a subject already so well written up as Japan. In a field occupied by Griffis, Morse, Greey, Lowell, and Rein, what unexplored corner can a woman hope to enter? This is the question that will be asked, and that accordingly the author must answer. While Japan as a whole has been closely studied, and while much and varied information has been gathered about the country and its people, one half of the population has been left entirely unnoticed, passed over with brief mention, or altogether misunderstood. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may

be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

Letters from Sachiko

Looking Beyond the Mask