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Sommario/riassunto

In The British Courts and Extra-territoriality in Japan, 1859-1899,
Christopher Roberts reviews the Courts' day-to-day workings and
examines the nature of, and fluctuations in, their case-load. By

examining the Courts' case-load, it shows that, whilst some complaints that earlier commentators have made about the system's structure and the Consuls' lack of legal training and poor judgments may have been

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justified initially, the British authorities responded to them so that, over time, the Courts—and the practitioners within the system—came to reflect an increasing professionalism and sophistication. Using both a quantitative and a qualitative analysis of the reported cases, the author concludes that accusations of an anti-Japanese, pro-British bias on the part of the Courts are overstated.