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Investor-Manager -- Discussion Point 2: How Did Japan's Economy Manage to Take Off So Early? Conditions that Enabled the First Successful Industrialization Case among Late Developers -- Overview 3: World War I to the 1980s -- Case 8: Ichizo Kobayashi: A Leader in Urbanization Creates a New Industry -- Case 9: Yasuzaemon Matsunaga: Electrification Leader Establishes Private Sector-Led Public Utility Operations -- Case 10: Saburosuke Suzuki II : Commercialization of Exceptional Breakthrough Innovation -- Case 11: Kiichiro Toyoda: From Breakthrough to Incremental Innovations -- Case 12: Shitagau Noguchi and Yoshisuke Aikawa: Emergence of New Konzerns and Foray into the Continent -- Case 13: Sazo Idemitsu: From "Oil Merchant of the Continent" to "Hero of Native Oil Companies" -- Case 14: Yataro Nishiyama: Leader of Capital Investment Drives High Economic Growth -- Case 15: Konosuke Matsushita: Initiator of "Consumer Revolution" Drives High Economic Growth -- Case 16: Masaru Ibuka, Akio Morita, Soichiro Honda, and Takeo Fujisawa: The Groundbreaking Nature of Sony and Honda Becoming Global Companies -- Case 17: Toshio Doko: The Sense of Crisis Harbored by the "Fine Physician of the Business World" and "Mr. Administrative Reform" -- Discussion Point 3: How did Japan's Economy Grow Continuously Over a Long Period of Time? Catch-Up and Domestic Demand -- Overview 4: Japan since the 1990s -- Case 18: Kazuo Inamori: Managerial Renewal by a Venture Manager -- Case 19: Toshifumi Suzuki: Convenience Store Innovations Originating in Japan Spread to the World -- Case 20: Tadashi Yanai and Masayoshi Son: Exceptional Challenges Undertaken by the Two Risk Takers -- Discussion Point 4: Why did Japan's Economy Slow Down? ICT Revolution and "Disruptive Innovation".

Sommario/riassunto

This is the first Open Access book introducing more than 20 of Japan's leading innovative entrepreneurs from the 17th century to the present. The author outlines the innovative business models created by entrepreneurs including SoftBank's Masayoshi Son, Fast Retailing (Uniqlo)'s Yanai Tadashi, Honda's Soichiro Honda, Sony's Akio Morita, Panasonic's Konosuke Matsushita, and Toyota's Kiichiro Toyoda, as well as their predecessors including Takatoshi Mitsui of Mitsui Zaibatsu, Shibusawa Eiichi of Daiichi Bank. While introducing the innovators, the author also raises three broader questions: 1. Why did Japan industrialize earlier than any other country outside Europe and the United States? 2. Why was Japan able to realize unsurpassed economic growth between the 1910s and the 1980s? 3. Why has Japan's economy stagnated for more than 30 years since the 1990s? Drawing upon analytical concepts including Schumpeter's breakthrough innovation, Kirzner's incremental innovation, and Christensen's disruptive innovation, the author contends that Japan's successes were based on unique and systematic breakthrough innovation and an accumulation of incremental innovation, while it later fell victim to a combination of breakthrough innovation from advanced countries and disruptive innovation by developing nations. Takeo Kikkawa is Professor at Japan's International University and Professor Emeritus at the University of Tokyo and Hitotsubashi University.
