The aim of the book *Japonia widziana z polskiej perspektywy* is to present main aspects of the Polish-Japanese cooperation and also principles of Japanese politics, society, culture and tradition. The chapters are varied in terms of themes, therefore they allow the Reader to build a broad perception of a country and take more holistic approach to the topic. The publication introduces the Readers to country of ‘the Rising Sun’, pointing what may be interesting for the future researchers of the nation, including the famous Japanese comic books (*manga*), the idea of Japanese ritual suicide (*seppuku*), aspects of Polish-Japanese cooperation in the field of culture and economy, and finally the development of the *black tourism*, which can be described as travel to places that commemorate death.

The reviewed book includes nine chapters, in which the authors considered politics, culture and history of Japan. The opening chapter is Przemysław Sieradzan’s paper discussing the sources of Japanese Westernism and geopolitical doctrine the so-called ‘The Greater East Asia’. From the Polish perspective the following chapter by Professor Witold Wojdyło is particularly interesting, it presented Roman Dmowski’s involvement in Japanese politics. Furthermore, Marian T. Mencel discussed determinants of the cooperation between Poland and Japan in terms of politics, economy and culture. The next three chapters delivered innovative and fascinating conclusions – the article on soundtracks to video-games (which may become the Japanese export goods in
the close future), the article on a commercial potential that black tourism brings to Japanese economy and the article considering reception of Japanese military power in manga comic books. Other authors investigated the essence of Japanese seppuku in the context of Emile Durkheim’s theories (Maria Depta), the activity of the Japanese Red Cross in the struggle with the consequences of the Fukushima disaster (Renata Gałaj-Dempniak) and involvement of motor companies in environmental protection and promotion of ecology in a comparative perspective (Agnieszka Drzymała).

The range of subjects discussed in the book is wide and the reviewed position is clearly interdisciplinary one. Joanna Marszałek-Kawa in the introduction emphasised that Japan has been an interesting topic for Poles for years and this interest has influenced research projects realised in Poland. Certainly, Japan seems to be – for the Polish perspective – an exotic place, but Japanese history and culture, and their representations in the mass-culture also fuels Polish fascination of Japan.

The reviewed position is well-structured and organised. It is very helpful that every chapter is opened by a brief abstract, presenting main theses and research approach. However, the main strength of reviewed book is the fact that chapters are authored by both young researchers, who are beginning their scientific career, and well-recognised scholars or distinguished professors, who can share their experience with the Reader. This composition of the novelty with the experience caused that the book certainly deserves the Reader’s attention.

Undoubtedly, the book is significant position for the development of Japanese studies in Poland. Considered issues may begin a further discussion or may inspire polemics or debates. Certainly, the book can be a useful reading for students and scholars interested in Japanese politics, society and culture, Polish-Japanese economic relations, cultural studies or international relations. The publication may also interest historians, experts in military studies or even tourists planning their trip to Japan. Finally, the reviewed book, Japonia widziana z polskiej perspektywy, has enriched the state-of-arts in Polish political science, presenting links between Japanese politics and culture, achievements and the life style.

References:

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