



高島屋マリオット 中華料理 梨杏にて

NY Times Editorial

THE NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIALS/LETTERS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2001

Time for a Japanese Empress

The women's rights movement has not devoted much time to the issue of whether little girls should have the chance to grow up to be emperor. But the question came up this week in Japan, when Emperor Akihito's eldest son and daughter-in-law gave birth to their first child, a girl. Current law bars her from rising to the Chrysanthemum Throne. Although her situation is, to say the least, unique, changing the law would send a positive message to all Japanese women. The rest of the world would welcome it as well.

Legend has it that the emperor of Japan is descended from the Sun Goddess, Amaterasu. There have also been eight empresses in Japanese history, most recently in the 18th century. The male-only line of emperors was created in 1946, an obsolete relic of the era when their country was occupied by the United States.

Few features of modern Japan are more mysterious to outsiders than the emperor. By European standards, the imperial family is extraordinarily remote. It is not even the subject of much gossip. After World War II, the Americans occupying Japan stripped Emperor Hirohito of his official status as a figure of worship and government authority. Emperor Akihito is officially described as a mere symbol of the state with no governing powers.

Yet the imperial family has refashioned itself for the times and, in its modesty, won the respect of most Japanese. The nation was pleased by the news

of an imperial birth after a long period when Naruhito, the crown prince and his wife, Masako, a Harvard-educated former diplomat, were trying without success to produce an heir to the throne. The law now would inflexibly hold that they have failed. If the prince and princess do not produce a male heir the imperial household will be thrown into a quandary, since Naruhito's younger brother, Akihiro, is the father of two daughters.

Nevertheless, it may not be easy to change the rules. Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and other leading politicians have declared a female emperor to be acceptable. But three influential factions might object. The formerly noble families that lost their titles after the war are a hidebound group with considerable sway over the affairs of the emperor. The right wing might also protest. And although the emperor is not supposed to be worshipped, he is considered by the Shinto hierarchy as chief priest, performing sacraments during the year. It is an open question whether the priesthood would accept a female.

While the Japanese line of succession is in the end Japanese business, Americans have a rooting interest too, since the current rules were enacted during our occupying administration after World War II. This might be a good time to admit that Gen. Douglas MacArthur was way off base when it came to a woman's place.

Women, Monarchs And the Japanese

To the Editor:
"Time for a Japanese Empress" (editorial, Dec. 4) says "Gen. Douglas MacArthur was way off base when it came to a woman's place."

General MacArthur approved of articles in Japan's 1947 Constitution stating that "laws shall be enacted from the standpoint of individual dignity and the essential equality of the sexes" and that there would be "no discrimination in political, economic or social relations because of race, creed, sex, social status or family origin." These provisions have radically improved the position of women in Japan in the last half century.

The 1889 Meiji Constitution ignored tradition and limited the throne to "male descendants." The Imperial House Law, which after World War II restricted the throne to "male offspring," was passed by the Japanese Parliament, and was not General MacArthur's doing. The law is widely considered unconstitutional. The newborn princess has a right to the throne.

BEATE SIROTA GORDON
LAWRENCE W. BEEB
New York, Dec. 4, 2001

The writers are, respectively, a former civilian aide to Gen. Douglas MacArthur who helped draft Japan's Constitution, and professor emeritus at Lafayette College specializing in Japanese constitutional law.

My reply

THE NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIALS/LETTERS MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2001

Rocky Mountain News, Denver, Colorado

16A Rocky Mountain News
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2003

Japan's women could be model in postwar Iraq

By Benny Morson
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

BOULDER — Japanese women who lived through the reconstruction of their country after World War II could help the United States rebuild Iraq and Afghanistan, says the woman who helped Gen. Douglas MacArthur write the Japanese Constitution.

Beate Sirota Gordon, 79, said Japanese women could point to the way their lives have improved under the 1946 constitution.

"I am thinking of the great achievements Japanese women have made that they can show," Gordon said. "They can say, 'Before our new constitution, we had no rights, we were not active in government.'"

"Fifty-five years have passed, and now one woman is head of the biggest publishing company in Tokyo. We've had a woman speaker of the House; we have had a woman in the supreme court."

Gordon, who lives in New York, lectured this week in Boulder.

Gordon drafted the women's rights section of the Japanese Constitution.

She was only 22 years old and barely out of college at the time. But she had an indispensable skill — she was among only a handful of Caucasian Americans who were fluent in Japanese.

Gordon spent most of her youth in prewar Japan, where her parents

taught music and performed in concerts. She held a variety of posts with the U.S. government during World War II.

After the war, she worked primarily in cultural exchange programs with the Far East.

The women's rights planks proved extraordinarily important in transforming Japan from a military culture to a peaceful society — and could work the same changes in Iraq and Afghanistan, Gordon said. That's because the women used the political leverage they gained to support the anti-militarism clauses that were an important part of the new constitution.

Gordon is sure Japanese women could help bolster U.S. credibility with Iraqis and Afghans.

"They (the Japanese) are a colored people," she said. "I think when they (Iraqis) think of us, they do think of us as white and as colonizers."

The Japanese could point out that the United States did not turn their islands into a colony, Gordon says. Although the United States rents bases from Japan, civil society was restored to civilians after seven years.

The most persuasive Japanese the United States could bring to Iraq are women who succeeded in politics and business, she said.

Americans should expect resistance to attempts to reform traditionally male-dominated societies, Gordon said.

2002.10.21 アフガニスタンの女性たちに 女性の権利を!! 名鉄グランドにて









(第3種郵便物認可)



「反戦と平和維持は女性の任務」

日本国憲法草案に男女平等を盛り込むのに尽力した元連合国軍総司令部(GHQ)民政局員のベアテ・シロタ・ゴードンさんを八日、江南市草井町西の女性連絡協議会総会後の昼

「男女平等を他国の人に伝える指導者」と呼び掛けるベアテさん
※ 江南市で

日本国憲法に 男女平等 起草

ベアテさんが江南で講演会

食会に参加、あいさつの中で「反戦と平和維持は女性の任務」などと熱っぽく語った。ベアテさんは、憲法施行五十年を経た現在、日本での社会活動に女性の姿をよく見るようになったことについて「日本人は男女平等の概念をつまく使っている」と表現。

女性参政権運動に尽くした故市川房枝さん(尾西市出身、元参議院議員)が、

「一年前に「イラクの女性に参政権を教えなければ」とベアテさんに話し「心から尊敬した」という話を引き合いに出しながら「これからの日本女性は(男女平等が)うまくいっていない)他国の女性を指導する立場になってほしい」と呼び掛けた。ベアテさんは文化交流を目的に、同女性協議会の招きで毎年四月二十日から五月二十五日までの日程で愛知をはじめ長野、高知などで講演会や地元的女性団体との交流会

2003.10
中日新聞 朝刊



2003.10.26 (日) 日本国憲法と男女平等 江南短大にて講演
すいとぴあ江南にてパーティー







2003.10.31

園田高弘氏 (お父様レオシロタさんの弟子)
最後のリサイタル 東京サントリーホール

園田高弘 75歳記念
ピアノ・リサイタル

2003年10月31日(金)7時 サントリーホール
Friday, October 31, 2003 at 7p.m. Suntory Hall

Takahiro Sonoda
75th anniversary
Piano Recital

J.S. バッハ: トッカータ、アダージョとフーガ 八長調 BWV564
J.S. Bach: Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C major BWV564

ベートーヴェン: ピアノソナタ第23番 へ短調 op. 57 「熱情」
Beethoven: Piano Sonata No. 23 in F minor op. 57 "Appassionata"

ドビュッシー: 映像第1集より「水の反映」
Debussy: "Reflets dans l'eau" from Images I

武満徹: 遮られない休息
Toru Takemitsu: Uninterrupted Rest

瀬浅順二: 内触覚的宇宙
Joji Yuasa: Cosmos Haptic

プロコフィエフ: ピアノソナタ第7番 変ロ長調 op. 81 「戦争ソナタ」
Prokofiev: Piano Sonata No. 7 in B-flat major op. 83

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(2/11-5/12はクレジットカード決済のみ)

園田高弘氏75歳記念ピアノ・リサイタル



映画シロタ家の20世紀上映会 東京にて
ベアテさん・高田・赤松良子氏