

## はしがき

本書 *Realise Japan* (『イギリス人特派員が見た日本』) は、2014年に金星堂から出版された *Realise Britain* (『イギリスふしぎ再発見』) の続編にあたるテキストである。

まず、これら2冊のテキストの筆者であるコリン・ジョイス氏の経歴について触れておこう。ジョイス氏は、1970年にロンドン東部のロムフォードで生まれた。イギリスの名門オックスフォード大学卒業後、1992年に来日し、神戸で日本語を学んだ。その後埼玉県で公立高校の英語の教師、さらには『ニューズウィーク日本版』記者を経て、2000年から7年間イギリスの高級紙『デイリー・テレグラフ』東京特派員を務めた。現在は母国でフリーの記者として活躍し、日本にもたびたび戻ってきている。本書の邦題に「イギリス人特派員」という言葉が入れられたのも、ジョイス氏が『デイリー・テレグラフ』の特派員として活躍した経歴を考慮してのことである。

ジョイス氏は、特派員時代の2006年に、それまでの14年にわたる日本滞在の経験と、特派員としての経験をまとめ、NHK出版から『「ニッポン社会」入門—英国人記者の抱腹レポート』を出版した。彼の新鮮な日本観あるいは日本人観は評判を呼び、『「ニッポン社会」入門』はロングセラーとなって、10年後の現在もなお読み続けられている。本テキストの内容の理解を深めるためにも、ぜひとも目を通していただきたい書物である。

ジョイス氏は『「ニッポン社会」入門』の出版後、『「アメリカ社会」入門』、『「イギリス社会」入門』、『驚きの英国史』など、主にアメリカとイギリスに関する書物を出版し、今では有名なライターあるいはジャーナリストの一人となっている。しかしジョイス氏のライターあるいはジャーナリストとしての原点は、やはり日本で15年間暮らした経験、特派員として記事を書いた経験である。ジョイス氏は、2016年の初めに三賢社から『新「ニッ

ボン社会」入門—英国人、日本で再び発見する』を出版し、再び日本に目を向けることになった。この10年の間に、日本には変化した部分と変化していない部分があり、ジョイス氏はそれを確かめようとしたのだろう。このような状況の下で書かれた本テキストは、『「ニッポン社会」入門』と『新「ニッポン社会」入門』の両方の性格を備え、1992年の初来日以来24年に渡るジョイス氏の日本経験をまとめたものだと言えるだろう。

さて、本テキストの内容に少し目を向けてみよう。堅く言えば、このテキストの内容は日英文化比較論である。しかしこのテキストには学術的な堅苦しさはなく、“expats”（「国外居住者」、Unit 15参照のこと）として15年間を日本で過ごしたジョイス氏の日本社会への戸惑い、感動、いらだち、称賛で満ちている。たとえばUnit 8で、ジョイス氏は「おニュー」という言葉がおもしろくて大笑いしている。普通の日本人にとっては、「おニュー」という表現はおもしろくもないものだが、ジョイス氏の大笑いは、ジョイス氏の内部で自国（イギリス）の文化と他国（日本）の文化が結びつき、他国の文化を経験し受け入れる際の緊張が一気に解けた開放感を表現しているように感じる。一方で、日本の長時間労働と受験のシステム、さらに日本人のカラオケ好きには、はっきりとした嫌悪感を示している。普段私たちが当たり前と思っていることに、ジョイス氏によって改めて光があてられ、私たちは異化されたような新鮮さを感じるが、それが本テキストの魅力だろう。

本テキストの作成に当たっては、ジョイス氏に敬意を払い、イギリス英語には丁寧に注を付けさせていただいた。また学習者と授業担当者の妨げにならないように、注の量を限らせていただいた。最後に本テキストの出版にあたり、多大なご尽力をいただいた金星堂の福岡正人氏と西田碧氏に感謝の意を表したい。

平成29年1月 編注者

## Preface

“Japan is an island nation in east Asia.” I remember reading those words in a geography book as a schoolboy. The reason I remember it so many years later is that I was curious about Japan and I was dreadfully disappointed with the dry tone in which that book continued to explain Japan. I knew Japan was a fascinating society and I wanted to read something that reflected that.

Moreover, I couldn’t find out much from other sources. Local libraries didn’t have many books on Japan. I did find a gripping book about the samurai but I knew that didn’t tell me much about modern Japan.

Fortunately, many years later, I had the wonderful experience not just of visiting Japan but of studying, working and living there. Some of the time it was difficult for me because I experienced culture shock but most of the time it was surprising and intriguing. Indeed, the stranger things seemed the stronger the impression it made on me.

Even more fortunately, I have had the chance as a reporter and writer to try to convey what I experienced of Japan to other people. My aim was not to provide the most comprehensive or the most intellectual analysis of Japan and its society. If you follow, I set out not to explain that Japan is an island nation with a population of 127 million, whose capital is Tokyo and whose national language is Japanese etc.

Rather, I wanted to give a sense of what it felt like to live in Japan. It’s unavoidable that this is rather “personal”. My writing reflects what I felt, what I enjoyed and what I found amusing or irritating. Other people will have had very different experiences

of Japan and so I think of this as “one British person’s view of Japan”. It’s not even “the British view of Japan”, let alone a “definitive guide to Japan”.

It isn’t always easy to “see” your own country but I have tried to help readers do that through these chapters. Things that you think of as normal turn out to be unfamiliar to people from overseas. In my own case, I can remember being amazed noticing that tourists from many different countries didn’t know that there was no table service at English pubs.

And sometimes things that you think of as unique to your country are not at all surprising to people from other countries. Just for example, people sometimes assume that their country is the only one with regional accents or that tongue-twisters only exist in their language.

Writing about Japan by outsiders is sometimes said to “hold up a mirror” to Japanese society. That may be a bit grandiose if applied to my scribblings but I have tried to help readers do that through these chapters. I like the idea of a “mirror” because I don’t think that I have given conclusive answers but rather would like students to look again at their own country, language and culture. The only thing that I really want to make readers see is what an interesting subject Japan is.

Colin Joyce



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# Unit 1

## Best Behaviour

### 日本でしか目にしなかった光景

日本人は親切で礼儀正しく、海外でも評判になっています。今や「おもてなし」という言葉は、日本を世界にアピールする代表的な表現となりました。外国人の観光客も増え、2015年には、45年ぶりに訪日外客数が出国日本人数を上まわったそうです。今一度、日本人の親切さと礼儀正しさを日本の文化から考えてみてはいかがでしょうか。



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People all around the world think of the Japanese as very polite people. So I was rather surprised that, when I lived in Japan, people there sometimes said that they think of the English as “gentlemen”.

Personally, I don't think my countrymen are always particularly well mannered. The English swear and drink a lot, for example. I certainly found Japanese people more courteous. So it was very flattering to hear such praise from Japanese,

although I suspected it was in fact just an example of Japanese being polite.

There are certain manners in Japan that I came to really like. When I am at a supermarket or a bookshop or wherever, I tend to stand back and scan the shelves. Quite often this is inconvenient for other customers as I will be blocking the aisle. The only option for them is to walk in front of me, which I don't think is rude at all. However, in Japan, people see it as ill-mannered to cut across someone's line of vision. Out of the corner of my eye, I often noticed someone hesitating to walk in front of me. Then he or she would scurry past with a slight nod of the head while raising one hand in apology. This gesture struck me as very cute because I was aware that I had caused the situation and the other person had barely caused me any trouble at all by hurrying past.

There are more passengers than seats on Japanese trains. Sometimes, I would see two people who were travelling together but were presented with a dilemma when one seat became available in front of them. Of course, both of them would offer the seat to the other but eventually one of them would take it. This happens in other countries too but what happened next is peculiar to Japan: the person who has sat down would offer to take the bag from the friend left standing, to place it on his or her knees. This little act of "reciprocity" always touched me.

After I returned to England, I realised that the British have some good manners too. It is just that I was so used to them, having grown up in England, that I didn't notice them. For example, if you accidentally bump into someone the other person will apologise at the same time as you, as if both parties were equally to blame. The English say "Sorry" a lot and not only



when something is their fault. (e.g. “Sorry but you are standing on my toe.”)

The English are also good at queueing. If, for example, there are long queues at three supermarket tills, another shop assistant will come and open a new till and invite customers to come over. At this point, the customers at the other tills will usually try to work out between themselves who should go over and in what order. Obviously, the person who has been waiting the longest will get priority. But also, if one person has only two items, he or she might be invited to go first by a person with lots of shopping. So the English try to act fairly and decently. (I have been in other countries where people seem to think of such a scenario as “my chance to be first” and run over to the newly opened till.)

When I went to live in New York, I was expecting to meet a lot of bad-mannered people because New Yorkers have a reputation for being rude. I did have some unpleasant experiences but they were rare and were far outnumbered by experiences of very polite people. I was amazed to find, for example, that if you sneeze in a public place, complete strangers will say “Bless you”. Americans also called me “sir” a lot, which I found disarming.

It may sound strange but I can remember a male assistant at a New York gym displaying perfect manners on one occasion. I was lifting weights, which I then put on a leather bench while resting. The man came over, introduced himself by name, told me he worked at the gym and asked how I was. Then he asked me not to put the weights on the bench “because they can damage the leather”. He apologised for troubling me and wished me a nice day. It only took a few seconds but I was impressed that he

had done it so nicely rather than just saying, “Don’t put weights on the bench, please.”

If I had to choose one custom that I particularly appreciated from all of my experiences, it would be a Japanese one. Young people now will probably not know about this because of the spread of digital cameras and camera phones but, until the late 1990s, Japanese people would often make extra copies of photographs that they had taken and give them to the people in the photographs. I like looking at photographs very much but I didn’t take many. Somehow, I found it distracting to take out my camera when I was at a party, but later I would have no memento of the occasion. It wasn’t cheap to have photographs developed and order extra prints but thanks to the kindness of Japanese friends I have pictures to help me recall many happy times in that country.



Queuing is more orderly in some countries than in others.

## Comprehension Check

### I. Match each word with its definition.

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 1. swear      | a. to examine an area carefully but quickly    |
| 2. courteous  | b. full of praise and compliments              |
| 3. flattering | c. polite and showing respect for other people |
| 4. scan       | d. to run with quick short steps               |
| 5. scurry     | e. to use rude and offensive language          |

### II. Complete each sentence by choosing the correct answer.

1. The author doesn't think of the English as particularly polite
  - a. because they often use offensive language.
  - b. because they rarely say sorry even when they are at fault.
  - c. because they often rush to the newly opened till in a shop.
  
2. When the author lived in New York,
  - a. an assistant at a gym called him "sir".
  - b. he met more polite people than rude people.
  - c. a stranger asked him to say, "Bless you".
  
3. The author particularly appreciates that
  - a. Japanese friends gave him copies after they took pictures together.
  - b. the Japanese offer available seats to each other on trains.
  - c. the Japanese always say "Sorry" at shops.

### III. Think about the following questions.

1. What are some examples of good manners in Japan compared with good manners in England and America?
2. Why do the Japanese say "*Itadakimasu*" before eating meals?