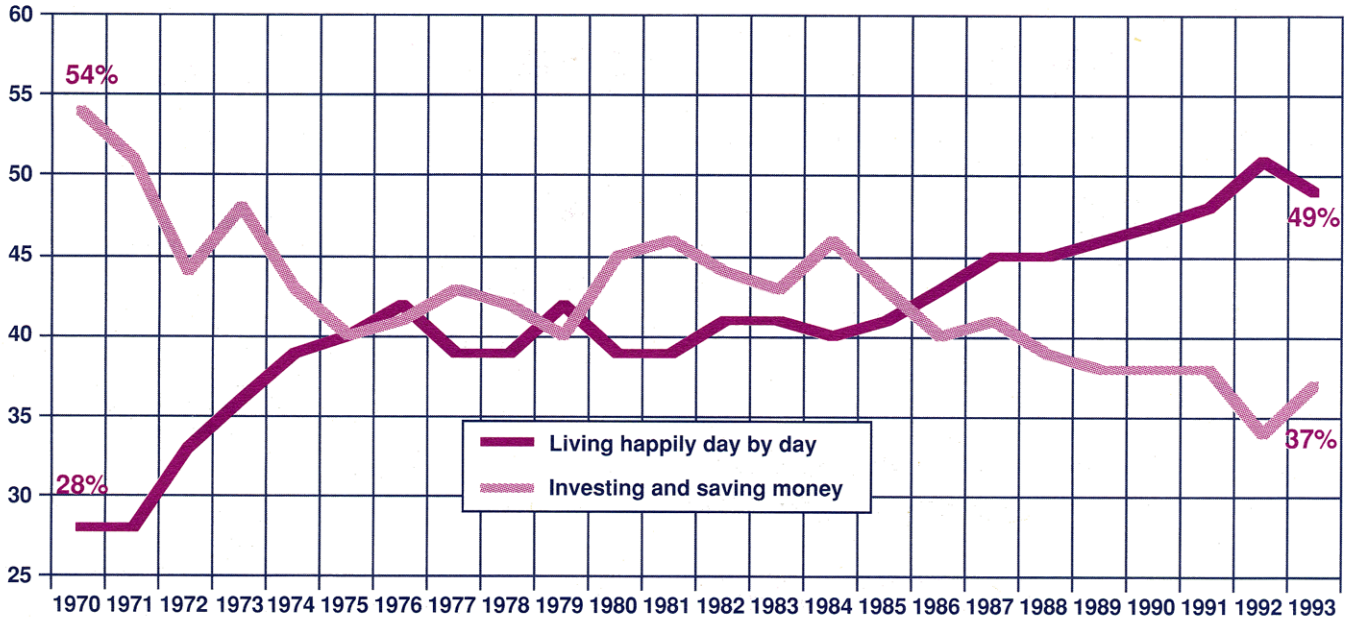


## Japan and America

### —The Japanese and Work: A Rich Society Accepts A Lower Standard of Living Than It Could Have—

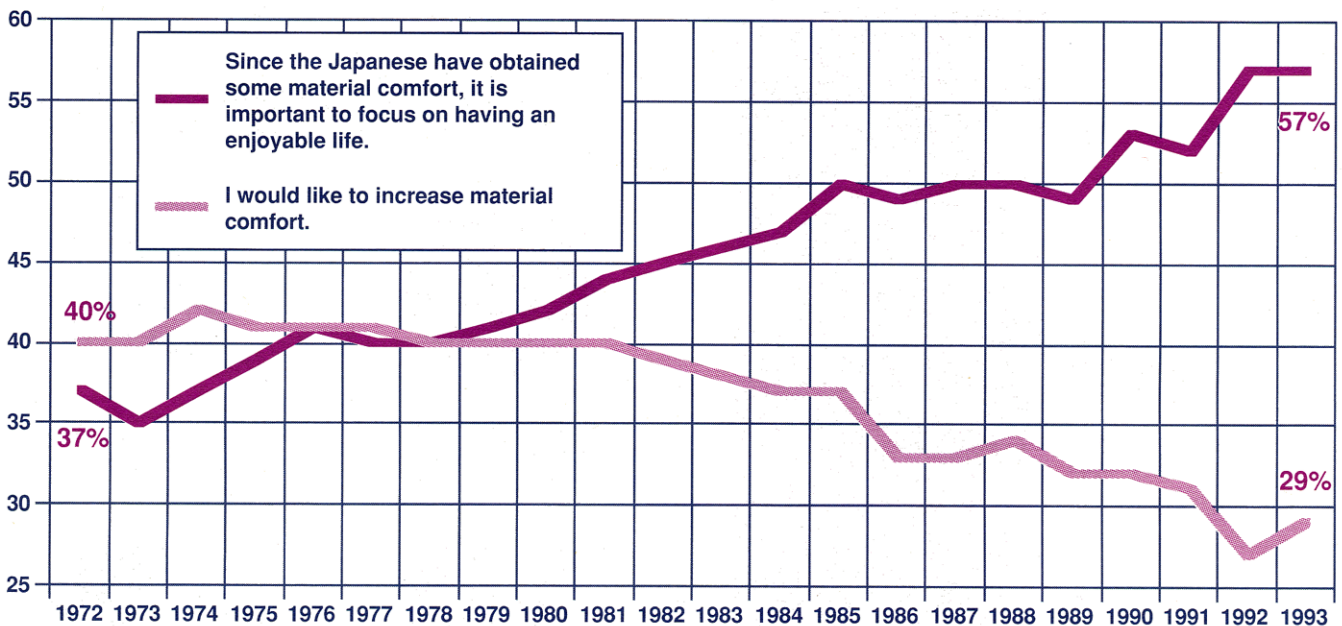
**Question:** In the future, would you like to give priority to preparing for the future by investing and saving money, or to living happily day by day?



PMO in the years shown

### —A Rich Society Endorses Less “Materialistic” Values—

**Question:** With which statement do you most agree...?



PMO in the years shown

**—What Matters in a Job? The Japanese Give More Relative Weight to Non-Competitive Factors—**

**Question:** Here are some aspects of a job that people say are important. Please look at them and tell me which ones you personally think are important in a job? (% mentioning...)

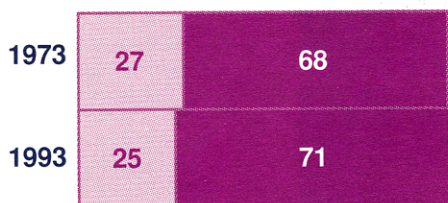
**WVS**  
1990-1993



	Japan	US
Good pay	78	85
Pleasant people	78	75
Job security	58	73
Achieve something	48	72
Job interesting	36	69
Promotions	23	58
Meets my abilities	71	58
Responsible job	48	57
Good hours	55	56
Use initiative	34	52
Job respected	26	43
Useful to society	42	42
Meet people	48	38
No pressure	42	33
Generous holidays	52	31
None	2	8

**In Japan: Cooperation is Essential**

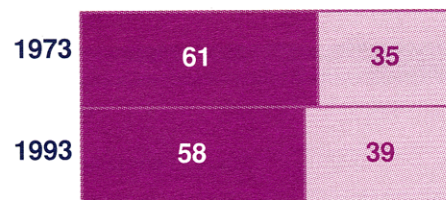
**Question:** If you were to be involved in a rather difficult long-term project, which of the following persons would you choose as your coworker?



in percent

**Plan Ahead**

**Question:** How would you prepare for a vacation?



Somewhat unfriendly person/high ability  
 Friendly person/low ability

Make plans early to make best of time/money  
 Leave schedule flexible

**NHK** in the years shown

*Japan and America*

# Religious Beliefs and Practice...

in percent

	Japan	U.S.
<b>Do you agree or disagree...[% agree]</b>		
Life is meaningful only because God exists.	13	58
The meaning of life is that you try to get the best out of it.	72	82
Death is inevitable, it is pointless to worry about it.	39	80
Death has a meaning only if you believe in God.	7	46
If you have lived your life, death is a natural resting point.	43	79
In my opinion, sorrow and suffering only have meaning if you believe in God.	11	33
<b>...Which...[statement] comes closest to your own point of view...?</b>		
There are absolutely clear guidelines about what is good and evil. These always apply to everyone, whatever the circumstances. (% agree)	13	49
There can never be absolutely clear guidelines about what is good and evil. ...[It] depends entirely upon the circumstances at the time. (% agree)	66	44
Were you brought up religiously at home? (% yes)	22	80
...[W]hether you go to church or not, would you say you are...a religious person (% yes)	21	82
<b>Which...of the following do you believe in?</b>		
God	37	94
Life after death	30	70
A soul	50	88
Hell	17	66
Heaven	23	82
Sin	13	86
Resurrection of the dead	6	65
<b>Which...statement...comes closest to your beliefs?</b>		
There is a personal God	4	67
There is some sort of spirit or life force	29	23
I don't really know what to think	39	6
I don't really think there is any sort of spirit, God or life force	8	2
Not answered	21	2

**WVS**  
1990-1993

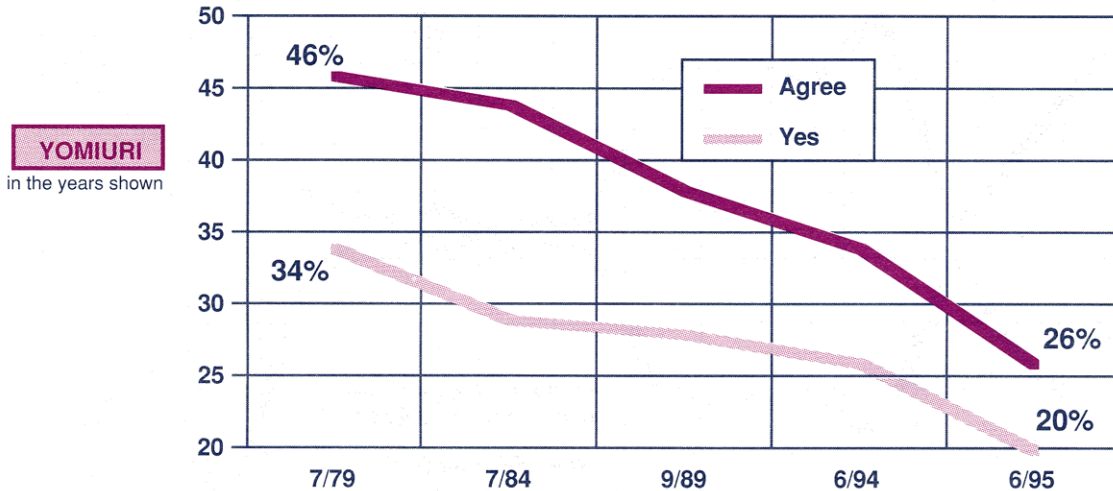


*Japan and America*

**...Another Facet of the Two Countries' Exceptionalisms:  
By Western Standards, the Japanese Are Exceptionally  
Irreligious, Americans Exceptionally Religious**

**In Japan, a Sense of Religion as Important Shows Further Decline From a Low Base**

**Questions...**[Do you agree or disagree]...Religion is necessary for a happy life? [percent shown is for those responding "agree"]; Do you have any religious affiliation? [percent shown is for those responding "yes"]



**About a Third of the Japanese Say They Believe in God and in Life After Death**

**Question:** Which of the following do you believe in?

**Question:** Do you think your soul exists even after death or not?

Buddha	44
God	35
Teaching of the Bible or sutras	6
Power of amulets or charms	16
The afterworld or heaven	13
Miracles	13
Fortune-tellers or prophets	6
Nothing that relates to religion	24
Not sure/no response	7

**NHK**  
May 1994

