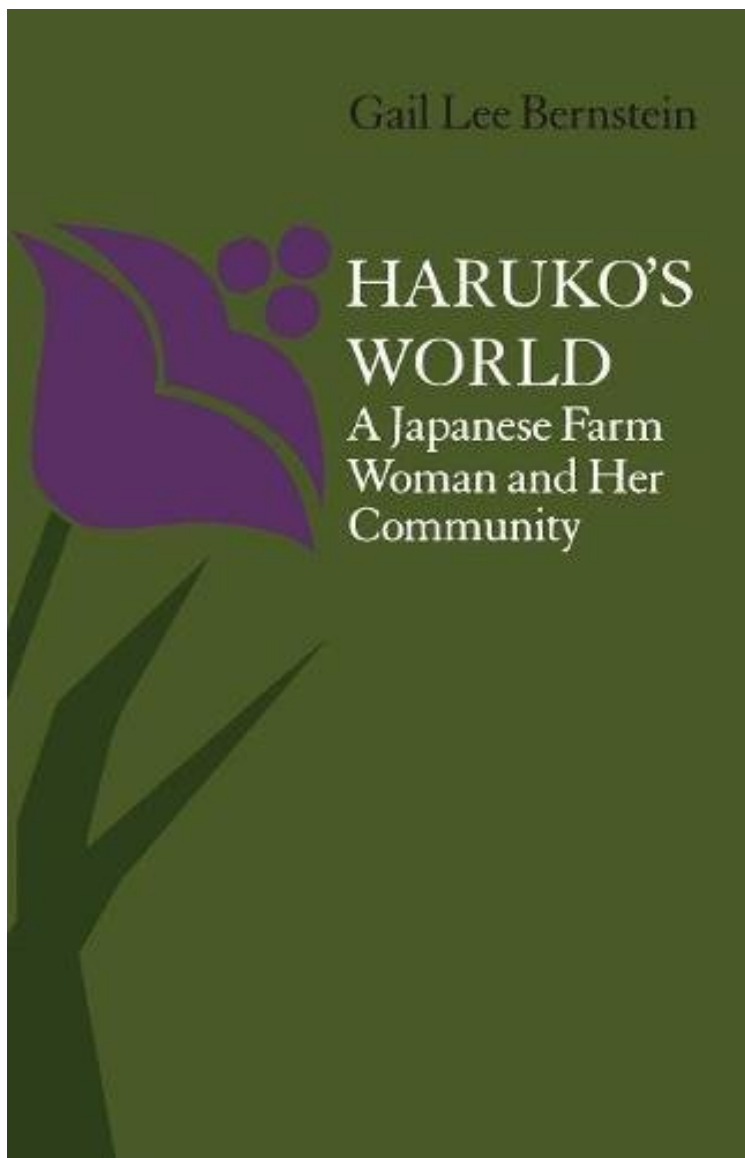


(Free pdf) Haruko's World: A Japanese Farm Woman and Her Community

## Haruko's World: A Japanese Farm Woman and Her Community

*Gail Lee Bernstein*

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**Gail Lee Bernstein : Haruko's World: A Japanese Farm Woman and Her Community** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Haruko's World: A Japanese Farm Woman and Her Community:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An enjoyable read full of juicy anecdotesBy GromerAlthough this book wasn't written as a popular book for the lay reader, it's one of those wonderful cross-over books that manages to be lively, detailed, and readable to anyone who just wants to know about Japanese farm and family life in the 1970s. It

doesn't feel very dated at all - some of the details are still relevant to 21st century Japan. Since English-language accounts of Japanese "real life" in the countryside are quite rare, even today, this book would be enjoyed for anyone wanting a sneak peek. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Quintessential book on Japanese family life By transargonaut This ethnography is still THE quintessential read on "the real" Japanese experience. I just can't believe it took me this long to find it! Having spent some time in Japan, I can confirm that Gail Bernstein's experience touches on practically all of the frustrations and exhilarations Americans encounter when immersed in the family life of the Japanese. Whether you are already familiar with Japanese culture or just curious this is a great read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Absolutely wonderful biographical description of Japanese agriculture and agricultural transitions in ... By S. Davis Absolutely wonderful biographical description of Japanese agriculture and agricultural transitions in contemporary Japan. This book was exceptionally useful in my research and was also a pleasure to read.

In Japan as in the United States, family farming is on the wane, increasingly rejected by the younger generation in favor of more promising economic pursuits and more sophisticated comforts. Yet for centuries past, the village and the family farm have constituted the world of the vast majority of Japanese women, as of Japanese men. The dramatic economic and demographic developments of the past two decades have forced extensive changes in the lives of Japanese farm women, many of whom have been left virtually in charge of their family farms. This book is a study of Japanese farm women's lives in the present era: its central figure is 42-year-old Haruko, a complex, vibrant woman who both exemplifies and makes a mockery of the stereotype of Japanese women. Through Haruko we learn the work routine, family relationships, and social life of the women who are the mainstay of Japanese agriculture. Other women from Haruko's village also figure in the story, and the author's observations of them, based largely on a six-month stay with Haruko and her family in 1974-75, are supplemented with data from questionnaires and personal interviews. An epilogue recounts the author's return to Haruko's village in 1982 and describes the changes that have occurred since 1975 in the lives of Haruko's family and other village women. The book is illustrated with photographs.

'Absolutely fascinating and a delight to read.' Edwin O. Reischauer 'Drawing a portrait of contemporary rural Japanese women by studying family life from the inside is Gail Bernstein's objective in this book. She has succeeded marvelously ... Bernstein presents an account that vividly portrays her subject and illuminates many issues pertinent to women's lives, the Japanese family, and Japanese rural life today ... This excellent volume deserves wide readership.' Laurel L. Cornell, *Journal of Asian Studies* 'A joy to read ... I will recommend Haruko's World to all who want to know how the Japanese really feel.' Ezra F. Vogel 'This is a deeply human story, told with sensitivity and discernment. A memorable portrait emerges ... The book gives an excellent analysis of Japanese society not often available to Western scholars.' Miriam R. Miller, *Agricultural History* 'Rich and nuanced description that, like a good novel, leaves the reader amused, edified, and sorry that the final page has been reached.' Ann Waswo, *Monumenta Nipponica* From the Inside Flap In Japan as in the United States, family farming is on the wane, increasingly rejected by the younger generation in favor of more promising economic pursuits and more sophisticated comforts. Yet for centuries past, the village and the family farm have constituted the world of the vast majority of Japanese women, as of Japanese men. The dramatic economic and demographic developments of the past two decades have forced extensive changes in the lives of Japanese farm women, many of whom have been left virtually in charge of their family farms. This book is a study of Japanese farm women's lives in the present era: its central figure is 42-year-old Haruko, a complex, vibrant woman who both exemplifies and makes a mockery of the stereotype of Japanese women. Through Haruko we learn the work routine, family relationships, and social life of the women who are the mainstay of Japanese agriculture. Other women from Haruko's village also figure in the story, and the author's observations of them, based largely on a six-month stay with Haruko and her family in 1974-75, are supplemented with data from questionnaires and personal interviews. An epilogue recounts the author's return to Haruko's village in 1982 and describes the changes that have occurred since 1975 in the lives of Haruko's family and other village women. The book is illustrated with photographs.