

The Ruination of Japan

The ruination of Japan began with the Tokyo Olympics in 1964. There was a sudden excessive modernization of everything- roads, hotels, tourism, food, clothes and transport. The heart of old Edo was torn out of modern Tokyo and concrete poured in its place. Tokyo became an impersonal city without a heart, without a centre, without an identity. It became just one big American suburb. It is a strange fact that any city which hosts the olympics loses its soul. Cities like Montreal and Munich were torn apart, and never put together again. To have no heart and soul is not modern at all; it's a return to barbarism.

However, the return to barbarism began in Japan some time before the Tokyo Olympics. It began with the sudden increase in television sets and cars in the early "Sixties". In every country in the world we can see that television brings the death of society and even the break-up of the family, whose members spend hours glued to the idiot box, and forget how to talk to one another. My grandfather always said that the radio would bring the death of conversation. He was not quite right about that, and in the end allowed us to have a radio in the house. But he would never permit a television set: he said it would bring not just the death of conversation, but the death of society, and time has proven him right.

The rapid increase in cars, too, marked another step in the ruination of Japan. The figures of traffic accidents shot up as the Japanese played with these dangerous new toys. The air became unbreathable, and the trees and flowers died. The noise of traffic became unendurable, and the term "noise pollution" was coined.

Let us also remember that with increases and advances in technology life is made easier and in many ways better as a result. Modern conveniences such as washing machines, microwave ovens and air-conditioners have made our lives easier and more comfortable, while other appliances such as refrigerators and heaters have made our lives safer too. Technology gives us more free time to pursue other interests such as learning foreign languages and reading up on current events, this in turn makes us smarter and leads to other interests and possibly even more inventions.

In the end we have to strike a balance and try to conserve and protect our culture as well as our environment. We have to remember who we are, where we come from and we are not only citizens of Japan but also citizens of the world.