

American Press's Interest in Japan

It is difficult to mathematically measure the extent of the American interest in Japan or the Japanese people. However, counting the number of articles in specific American newspapers which contain the word "Japan" gives us an insight into the general trend of the American interest.

The chart shows the number of articles containing the word "Japan" carried in the *Washington Post* and the *Los Angeles Times* since the mid-1980s. For comparison, the number of articles containing the word "Japan" carried by the *Financial Times* of Britain and those con-

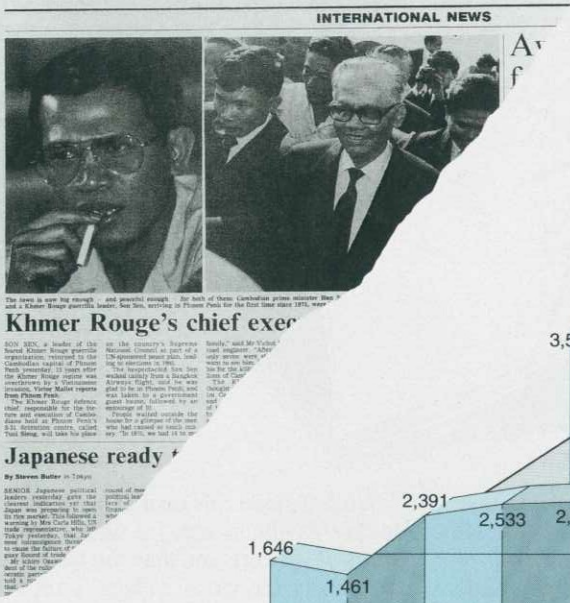
taining the word "China" carried by the *Washington Post* is given alongside. The data were retrieved from an American database by Isao Tokuhisa, a researcher with the Broadcasting Culture Research Institute of Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK).

The number of *Washington Post* articles on Japan has risen steadily year by year since the late 1980s, with the 1990 figure being double that of 1985. The frequency of articles on Japan by the *Los Angeles Times* during the period was almost double that of the *Washington Post*,

reflecting the strong interest in Japan on the U.S. West Coast.

As far as the figures for the past five years in the *Financial Times* are concerned, the British newspaper does not seem to have made any change in the degree of interest it shows in Japan.

Incidentally, the *Washington Post* has consistently carried fewer articles containing the word "China" than those containing the word "Japan," except in 1989 when the Chinese government cracked down on the Tiananmen Square demonstrations.



The Number of Articles Containing the Word "Japan" Carried in American Newspapers

