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## Recent Trends of Juvenile Crime in Japan

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probation must be made a meaningful experience. At the time sentence is imposed defendants should be given a written copy of the terms. Violation of the terms should not be ignored. Procedures must be instituted to insure that violations of terms are brought to the attention of the court. This is a joint responsibility of the court and the city attorney's office.

(3) Lawyers who have little or no contact with municipal courts and have no occasion even to advise a defendant in a criminal proceeding must be made aware that criminal proceedings which are conducted with the great majority of all defendants unrepresented is an indictment of their profession. It is true, even in an arraignment court, that the right to be heard is, in many cases, of little avail, if it does not comprehend the right to be heard by counsel. A better system for lawyer references in criminal cases must be developed.

(4) An increase in the number of judges will assist in solving some of the problems related above. But serious consideration must be given to changing the present master calendar and arraignment system. The Los Angeles Bar Associa-

tion should appoint a committee to visit the arraignment and master calendar courts. This committee should consult with the judiciary, the City Attorney, law enforcement officials, and experienced criminal attorneys. It should seek to advise the courts on methods to cut down the number of court appearances required in traffic cases, and if possible increase the number of arraignment courts. A study should be made of the new Metropolitan Court in Dade County, Florida, with particular attention devoted to the traffic court reforms there instituted. New arraignment courts might be combined with trial courts to function as part-time trial courts, as is now the case in Divisions 51 and 59.

(5) The arraignment courts must be considered as an important part of our judicial system. The arraignment court must not be considered the "stepchild" of our criminal courts. For a great many citizens, arraignment courts are courts of last resort. They are the courts where the greatest number of defendants receive sentences and penalties imposed by law, and where many of our citizens learn about our judicial system and the law enforcement process.

## RECENT TRENDS OF JUVENILE CRIME IN JAPAN\*

HIDEO FUJIKI†

On the numerical basis of juvenile arrests for suspected Penal Code violations,<sup>1</sup> Japanese juvenile crime<sup>2</sup> embarked on a steady climb upward in 1955. Noticeable jumps occurred in the years 1957 and 1958. In the latter year, the number of arrests rounded out the third highest record of the postwar period. The juvenile detention record, set in 1951, is currently being matched, according to unofficial sources.

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<sup>1</sup> This analysis is based upon the crime statistics (Hanzai Tokeisho) of the National Police Agency (Keisatsu-cho) of 1958.

<sup>2</sup> Statistics used in this paper refer to violations of the Penal Code. The author prefers the expression "juvenile crime" rather than "juvenile delinquency," since the former does not include delinquency on a larger scale.

"Juvenile" means in this paper minors under the age of 20 and not less than 14 years. Minors under 14 are, in legal contemplation, criminally irresponsible. Juveniles 14 years and up are tried generally by the Juvenile Court and are entitled to certain procedural safeguards.

Cessation of World War II was followed, as a concomitant, by a sharp hike in juvenile as well as adult crimes. This accelerating trend, continuing without break until 1951, was slowed thereafter. Since 1953 the number of arrests remained at the same level for the ensuing five years. The number of juvenile arrests, however, while touching its nadir in the year 1954, has risen steadily since 1955. This contrasts with the number of adult arrests, which has remained at the same level or actually decreased. Apparently, the recent increase in juvenile criminality differs from the immediate postwar period both in its distribution and in its socio-economic background. What was this socio-economic background of criminality in postwar Japan?

The defeat of Japan in World War II was attended by the collapse of the prewar social and economic order; Japan underwent a severe inflation and suffered from a crippling shortage of food stuffs. Law obedience and enforcement were weakened by the fall of the government's authority.

TABLE I  
NUMBERS OF ARRESTED JUVENILES

Year	Penal Code Violation							
	Total	Juveniles	Rape	Robbery	Theft	Battery	Assault	Extortion
1946	445,484	99,389	258	2,903	87,825	—	—	—
1947	459,339	92,551	298	2,851	77,514	—	—	—
1948	550,540	113,763	584	3,873	90,066	—	—	—
1949	585,328	113,531	1,165	2,832	78,900	—	—	—
1950	616,723	128,809	1,508	2,824	85,490	—	—	—
1951	619,035	133,656	1,509	2,134	97,439	3,032	8,348	3,472
1952	575,852	114,381	1,840	1,899	78,841	3,143	8,254	3,074
1953	547,550	98,604	1,497	1,533	64,435	3,276	7,739	2,687
1954	539,789	94,342	1,935	1,800	58,198	3,165	8,976	2,915
1955	558,857	96,956	2,078	1,969	58,458	3,700	10,099	3,903
1956	527,950	100,758	2,010	1,998	57,261	5,408	11,242	5,251
1957	544,557	114,302	2,823	2,173	59,877	7,256	13,615	8,078
1958	545,272	124,379	4,608	2,348	56,856	9,811	15,557	11,588

TABLE II

RATIO OF ARRESTED JUVENILES TO ALL ARRESTS AS TO EACH CRIME

Year	Rape	Rob- bery	Theft	Bat- tery	Assault	Extor- tion	All Penal Code Violations
1954	45%	31	25	15	13	20	17
1955	45	30	24	16	13	24	17
1956	45	34	27	19	14	29	19
1957	53	39	29	22	16	43	21
1958	54	38	32	25	17	48	23

Stringent measures were successfully initiated in 1949 to combat inflation. However, the harsh monetary policies, necessitated by this curtailment program, impeded Japan's rehabilitation and employment growth. Destruction as well as abandonment of key government-owned industries, resulting in burgeoning laborless ranks, intensified labor disputes and contributed to social unrest. No remarkable ameliorization in living standards was realized.

The Korean War, calling for war material purchases by the United States in Japan, gave the Japanese national economy a shot in the arm. During the so-called "Korean Boom" (1951-53), reconstruction of the national economy took beneficial strides. Conditions were improved.

Except for an intervening recession following the "Korean Boom," the Japanese national economy enjoyed its highest prosperity in 1955-56.

The gross national product returned to the prewar level. This latest boom, halted only momentarily in 1957 by a foreign trade deficit, was surpassed in 1958 by a favorable ratio of exports to imports as well as heightened industrial investment and a growing consumer market. This rapid industrial growth has continued at the rate of ten per cent annually. Unemployment decreased during this period. The so-called "revolution of consumption" was realized by the country everywhere, and especially by white-collar families of the urban areas. ("Westernization" of this latter group's mode of living continues unabated.)

The recent increase in juvenile crime takes place in a period, then, of prosperity and rapid economic growth. (Even in the recession of 1957, more than three per cent of the economic growth was marked mainly by domestic needs.)

Distribution of recent criminality also shows noteworthy differences. (See Table I.) In the immediate postwar period, the most common crime was theft. In contrast, current criminality reveals a preponderance of crime of a violent character, particularly rape, assault, battery, and extortion. Arrests for theft have decreased in their total number as well as in their ratio to total arrests for Penal Code violations. The ratio dropped below 50 per cent in 1958.

The increase of juvenile criminality marked its highest record in 1958 over both prewar and postwar periods. In addition, the ratio of juvenile suspects to all suspects of Penal Code violations

TABLE III  
INDEX FIGURE OF JUVENILE ARRESTS

	(1954: 100)									
	14 & 15 Years of Age					16 & 17 Years of Age				
	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
<b>Total: Penal</b>										
Code Violation.....	100	105	108	127	141	100	96	101	138	148
Homicide.....	100	93	100	53	140	100	59	60	69	96
Rape.....	100	113	121	166	296	100	99	92	164	266
Arson.....	100	83	63	55	89	100	68	58	67	58
Robbery.....	100	127	167	244	264	100	110	116	131	159
Theft.....	100	105	104	116	117	100	95	91	101	101
Battery.....	100	125	235	414	637	100	111	178	262	362
Assault.....	100	116	152	224	264	100	104	127	183	215
Extortion.....	100	116	183	369	695	100	122	178	321	439
						18 & 19 Years of Age				
						1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
<b>Total: Penal</b>										
Code Violation.....	100	106	110	113	116					
Homicide.....	100	95	87	80	83					
Rape.....	100	113	111	125	200					
Arson.....	100	94	75	87	100					
Robbery.....	100	108	103	104	104					
Theft.....	100	102	100	94	80					
Battery.....	100	119	156	179	224					
Assault.....	100	116	122	130	142					
Extortion.....	100	148	181	220	297					

is in the ascendancy. In 1958, almost half of the suspected rapists, robbers and extortionists were juveniles. (See Table II.)

The ratio of juvenile criminals to the total juvenile population also is on the rise. Since 1954, approximately 80 were arrested monthly out of every 100,000. Four years later the ratio had climbed to 92.22 per 100,000.

It is also worthy to note the sharp increase made by the lower-age groups in these years. As indicated in Table III, the increase of criminality of those in the 16 and 17 year age group leads the 14 and 15 year group. The 18 and 19 year group has the least criminal violations.

In short, characteristics of high criminality of juveniles of recent years include 1) a hike in the

commission of crimes of a violent nature, and 2) an increase in criminality among the lower-age juveniles.

Juvenile crime in Japan has not captured public attention except for isolated cases of brutal murders, political assassinations, or similar "sensational" crimes. Remarkably little study has focused on the causative forces behind juvenile crime in Japan in an age of rapid economic growth and a changing social structure in the postwar society. One such force may be the conflict of values among the old and the young generations. Whatever the answer, it is safe to say that Japanese society now faces a new challenge of juvenile crime. Future research should be focused primarily against this social backdrop.