

Introduction

A completely different paradigm of fierce international competition is brewing a formidable storm that obstructs Japan's future path of advancement. Unless Japan can transcend this storm, it will be forced out of the ranks of major international players and will risk losing the current plentiful and stable lifestyle of the Japanese people. Japan's declining population and its decreasing birth rate, coupled with advanced aging, is rapidly undermining this country's workforce, the wellspring of its national strength. With no quick reversal of this trend in sight, it will be essential for Japan to generate innovation and raise productivity.

As embodied in the provisions of the America COMPETES Act, the United States and other countries have already started to create new systems for creating innovation and to expand investment as they prepare for the impending storm.

As its major theme, this edition addresses ways in which Japan must also cope with and survive the coming era of fierce international competition.