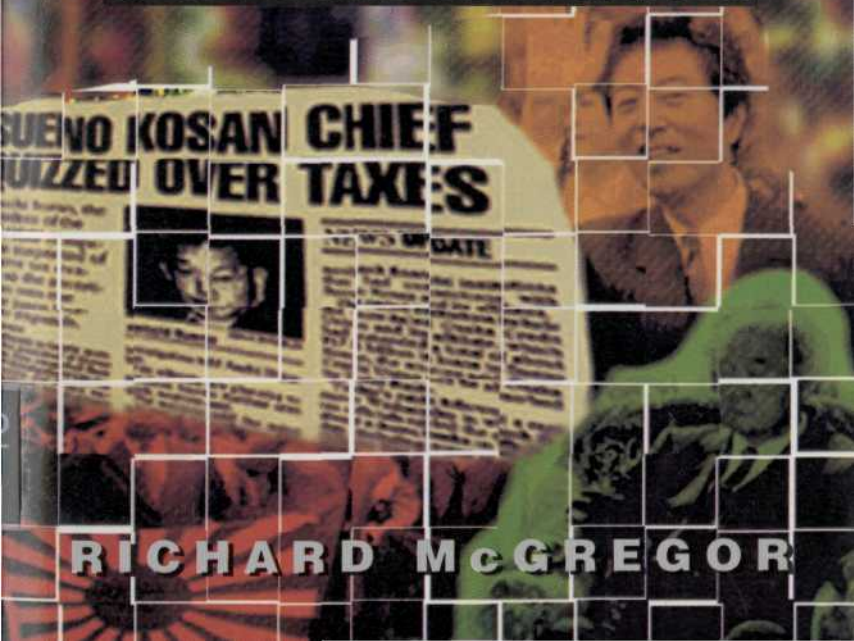


"An indispensable guide to understanding the news coming out of Japan as its astonishing comeback changes course."

— Murray Sayle *The New Yorker*

JAPAN SWINGS

**POLITICS, CULTURE AND
SEX IN THE NEW JAPAN**



RICHARD MCGREGOR

CONTENTS

Thanks to many friends and colleagues who helped me over the last two half-years I lived in Japan—and many to list here. Especially I'd like to single out a few who were helpful, generously in the process of writing the book. First and greatest thanks are due to Hiroshi Otsudo, the news assistant in the Tokyo office of News Ltd. He has informed, guided, captivated, enabled, edited work, and held the hands of countless Australian correspondents in Japan for nigh on two decades, and all over a great deal of time as I do. Thanks also to Gyron Robinson, who

Acknowledgements	vii
1 The mists of concealment	1
2 Beyond the bubble	18
3 Asia's siren song	38
4 Money politics	77
5 The Nanny State	113
6 The wages of war	149
7 The odd couple	186
8 Bad girls and mummies' boys	221
9 A nicer new nationalism	260
Notes	303
Index	316

Hong Kong, February 1990

NOTE: Exchange rates are set at the rate on September 11 1989: £1=101.01US\$ or £1=101.01New\$.