

Rethinking *Nihon modanizumu* (Theory of Japanese Modernism): How It Has Been Adopted in Japanese Studies in the United States

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This article focuses on the theory of Japanese Modernism (*nihon modanizumu*), a significant contribution by Minami Hiroshi, and its influence on the interpretation of modern Japanese culture in Japan Studies in the United States. Minami's theory, which centered around the 1920s culture in Japan and termed it as *Nihon modanizumu*, was an interdisciplinary interpretation that marked the beginning of cultural studies. The article also explores the studies on Taisho democracy that shaped Minami's modernism theory. In conclusion, I clarify that Minami's theory derived from the debates known as Modernization theory, which were prevalent among US historians in the 1960s.