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Forces of Order: Police Behavior in Japan & the United States. By David H. Bayley. (Berkeley, Los Angeles & London: University of California Press, 1976 (paperback ed. 1978). Pp. xvi + 201, \$3.95 paper.)

Forces of Order is an interesting survey of police behavior in Japan. The author spent six months doing field research in the country, observing police operations and conducting interviews (through an interpreter) with hundreds of officers. The descriptions are detailed, but not burdensomely so; a balance is maintained between abstract statement and concrete illustration. The conclusions drawn are apt and even more revelatory of the society than one might expect from the subject.

The work is most interesting for its detail. One finds out, for example, that prefectural and national contests are held in which police officers compete in simulations of on-the-street interrogations; awards are given for the subtlety and skill with which participants are able to elicit information. And one learns that part of the policeman's standard equipment is a fifteen-foot length of rope kept in a trouser pocket, used after the ancient art of rope-tying to "fashion restraining lines, tourniquets, rescue hoists, and additional handcuffs" (p. 36).

The author is on shakier ground when he leaves the precincts of police work. For example, after noting that swearing is uncommon among Japanese policemen, he explains: "For one thing it is difficult for a Buddhist to be blasphemous, which removes a whole genre of expressive language as Americans understand it" (p. 49). And the chart that appears later in the book (pp. 158-159), of the sort so beloved by sociologists, presents a simplistic summarization of earlier discussion (e.g. Americans' view of government is "artifactual," whereas that of Japanese is "organic"). Bayley's book is readable precisely because he got rid of most of such trappings.

"The fundamental argument of this book is that police institutions are shaped by social context" (p. 195). Thus, although the author draws various comparisons between police behavior in the United States and Japan in which the former appears in an unfavorable light, he wisely refrains from advocating adoption of Japanese practices divorced from their social-cultural context.

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