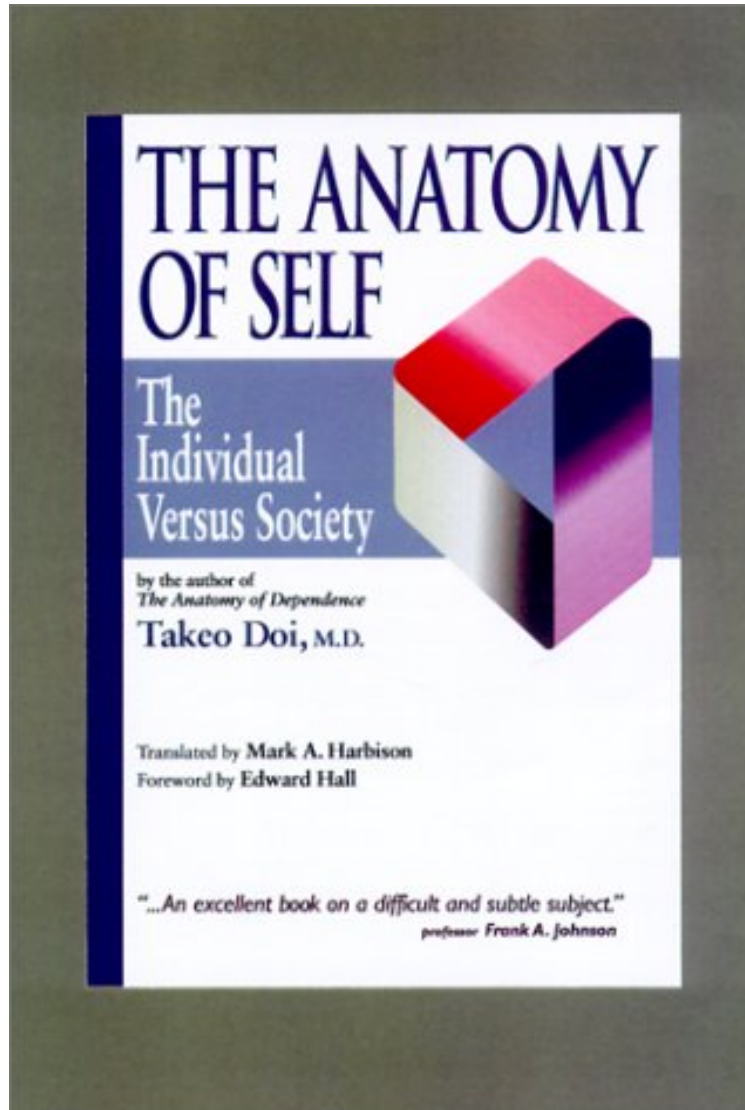


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The Anatomy of Self: The Individual Versus Society

Takeo Doi

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Takeo Doi : The Anatomy of Self: The Individual Versus Society before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Anatomy of Self: The Individual Versus Society:

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Japanese uniqueness. By A Customer For the student of Japanese Society, Culture, and language, (or any person interested in Japan or Cross-cultural psychology wanting to pursue the notions of self in a Japanese societal frame or context) *The Anatomy of Self* is a great starting point. Dr. Takeo Doi explains the psychological and cultural significance of inner and outer notions of the self in relation to others in Japanese society...Doi uses the terms Ura/Omote, Honne/Tatamae, Uchi/Soto rather than 'inner' and 'outer'. While Doi argues that these notions are present within all humans, he also explains the significance of the linguistic phenomenon that allows the Japanese to have explicit linguistic signs relating to these notions, thus making them unique to the Japanese. However, while Dr. Doi does give great insight to how participants in Japanese society relate to one another, he also happens to propound a particular world view of the uniqueness of The Japanese, which has been a source of great criticism by Western and Japanese intellectuals alike. (ie. The Japanese experience of nature as something uniquely Japanese) *The Anatomy of Self* succeeds at analyzing the complex notion of self within Japanese context, however Doi does make great leaps from one concept to another that may force the reader to re-read throughout several areas of the text. This text, I believe, also falls into the category of Nihonjinron (my translation: Discussions or Theories on Japanese (people) and Culture), which falls inline with theories of Japanese uniqueness.

Japan's foremost clinical psychiatrist presents his ideas on the role of the individual in a society that often appears to have no individuals: the Japanese. The author is as quick to explode the myths the Japanese have about themselves as he is to defend what he sees as the genius of their society. He spreads his net wide, drawing his conclusions from an extensive knowledge of his own culture but that of the West: Freud, Weber, Max Picard, and George Orwell are every bit as influential here as sources from his own tradition. *The Anatomy of Self* is a sequel to Doi's pioneering and acclaimed bestseller, *The Anatomy of Dependence* in which he set out his theory of passive, dependent love as the key to understanding the Japanese. More than 100,000 foreign readers have been intrigued by this work. With *The Anatomy of Self*, Japanese society again serves as the subject of an analysis by one of its most original thinkers. Like Doi's renowned *Anatomy of Dependence*, *The Anatomy of Self* addresses the question of the Japanese individual and his or her integration into Japanese society. Its approach is based on an analysis of the Japanese perception of public and private. What kind of society is made up of individuals capable of a constant traversing between behavior based on two simultaneously held, mutually contradictory modes of perception? Doi discusses this feature of the Japanese psyche, often referring to Western psychology. He compares the individual trauma that classic Western psychology believes to result from such a split, to the Japanese sense that adulthood is only achieved by acknowledging and accommodating the difference. Finally, the wide-ranging references to history and psychology serve to provoke thought on Freudian notions of the unconscious.