

STS S.28  
Program in Science, Technology, and Society  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Dr. Takashi Nishiyama  
Dibner Institute,

**Godzilla and the Bullet Train:  
Technology and Culture in Modern Japan**

Fall 2005

Week 2: Reading maps and defining technology

The session is primarily designed to help you become familiar with the country's geography and cultivate your interest in it in a friendly, interactive setting. It will consist of two parts.

First, be prepared to talk before class for 5 to 10 minutes about your experiences concerning Japan. If you have visited the country for any duration of time, please indicate where you stayed and what you did on the map that I will bring to class. It would be great if you could share in class any photographs you took during the visit. If you have not been to Japan yet, outline on the map for us your future itinerary in terms of where you like to go and what you like to do for, say, 1 week or so.

Second, please bring to class at least two different maps of Japan that you like; it is perfectly okay to search the Internet and print the maps that interest you, though it would be a plus if you could bring to class maps of Japan that were compiled outside the United States. You will be asked a few questions based on them. First, from where and how did you get the maps you chose? Second, why did you choose what you brought to class? Third, what do the maps tell us (and do not tell us) about the country?

Note: This presentation work is NOT part of the two presentations required for class. If you have any questions before class, do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail.