

experience has enjoyed plain sailing or affected people equally. Nor is it the case that influences in one period suddenly came to an end in the next. Modernization and its experience are, rather, a cumulative process. However, for many, possible experience and participation together with opportunities for local as well as global identity construction have opened up. Conceptualizations of urbanization have shifted from the “modern city” to the “postmodern city” and now to the “global city,” even if the activities of most cities retain shapes, appearances, uses, regulations, and other aspects from prior periods.

### East Asia

By contrast and again at the risk of oversimplification, the course of events for those in East Asia over the same fifty (or fewer) years took a different turn. At the time of the 1956 conference, East Asia was far less significant in its outside influence than it is today. All countries there were in one way or another climbing out of either extensive destruction or crises of relative impoverishment, social and political disarray, and economic underdevelopment. In cities, massive waves of either cross-border or internal immigration placed almost overwhelming pressure on inadequate services, infrastructure, and housing. For the new political regimes in place throughout almost the entire region, the desire to modernize rapidly was urgent, not only to catch up and for some, like Japan, to regain their prominent position in the world but also to ensure the livelihood and longevity of their nascent political structures and emerging senses of nationalism. The upshot for the maintenance of political power and focused modern progress—which became quickly intertwined—was development and propaganda around what amounted to broad social contracts, ranging from state dictatorship in China around the “iron rice bowl” to political leaders like Hayato Ikeda’s promissory of income doubling in one-party and oligarchic Japan.<sup>10</sup> Quickly availing themselves of available international technologies, largely of Western origin, those in power pressed forward, often in concert, with rapid, incremental forms of production-oriented modernization. As a consequence, economies grew and, in the case of China, are still growing at astounding rates. Material standards of living improved, at least for many, as did those of public health, education, and other forms of welfare. This rather singular push toward progress, together with a cultural background tending toward collectivism, the value of