

## Timeline of Reproduction in Modern and Contemporary Japan (1868-2011)

Date	
1868	Meiji Restoration. A proclamation by the new government prohibits midwives from selling medicines and performing abortions.
1872	Dutch-imported condoms called <i>roede-zak</i> marketed as anti-venereal disease devices.
1874	Medical Law ( <i>Isei</i> ) issued, which includes formalization of midwifery qualifications and licensing.
1880	The penal code is promulgated, establishing abortion as a crime (enacted in 1882). The system of concubinage is also abolished.
1899	Nationally standardized regulations for midwifery are announced.
1909	The first domestically produced condom, Hāto bijin (Heart Beauty) is released.
1914	The Drug Control Law is promulgated, prohibiting the publication of obscene materials and images related to contraception and abortion in reporting and distribution documents. Kamota Shūji publishes <i>Birth Control Theory, or, A Study of Famous Contraception</i> , possibly pioneering the term birth control ( <i>sanji seigen</i> ). Margaret Sanger initiates the Birth Control Movement.
1922	Margaret Sanger visits Japan. Yamamoto Senji publishes <i>Criticizing the Family Limitation Law of Yamaga</i> . The Ishimoto couple, Abe Isoo, and others establish the Japan Birth Control Research Association. Kuriyagawa Hakuson publishes <i>Modern Views on Love</i> .
1924	Ogino Kyūsaku's Theory is presented in the <i>Journal of the Japan Gynecological Society</i> .
1926	Contraceptive methods using Ogino's theory are introduced in magazines like <i>Shufu no Tomo (Housewife's Friend)</i> and <i>Fujin Sekai (Housewife's World)</i> .
1937	The Mother and Child Health Law and Public Health Center Law are promulgated. The Second Sino-Japanese War begins. Ishimoto Shizue is arrested in the People's Front incident, and the Birth Control Office is closed.
1939	The Ministry of Welfare establishes a Population Issues Research Institute. Taniguchi Yasaburō becomes its director. A survey called "Human Resources Survey" targeting married women in Kumamoto Prefecture is carried out.
1941	The Basic Policy for Population Policy is established with a target of 5 children per couple. The Ministry of Welfare establishes the Maternal and Child Health Section within the Population Bureau and formulates regulations for health nurses. The Pacific War begins.
1946	In the Far East Commission, GHQ Public Health and Welfare Bureau Director Sams expresses concern about Japan's population issues, suggesting the necessity of birth control. Katō Shizue wins in the first post-war general election. Magima Yutaka resumes the production of contraceptive diaphragms. Shinozaki Nobuo conducts a survey on the actual state of birth control. The Population Problem Research Association submits a proposal on the 'New Basic Policy for Population Policy' to the government, with a cautious approach to birth control. Abortions are offered at repatriation ports (until around 1947).

1949	Warren Thompson, an advisor to GHQ, visits Japan and advocates the necessity of birth control. Prime Minister Yoshida Shigeru establishes the Population Problem Council (~1950) and asserts the need for birth control to solve population issues. The Eugenic Protection Law is revised to include economic factors. A letter criticizing Japan's population policy is sent to General MacArthur from Catholic factions. The Ministry of Health and Welfare distributes the <i>Conception Control Handbook</i> to health centers. Contraceptives are permitted for sale under the new Pharmaceutical Law. The magazine <i>Fūfu seikatsu (Married Life)</i> is launched. Shinozaki Nobuo publishes <i>Birth Control and the Reality of Married Sexual Life</i> .
1952	The Eugenic Protection Law is revised, and with the abolishment of the prior examination system, abortion is effectively liberalized. The government allocates the first national budget for the promotion of conception control. Training for certified instructors in conception control begins. Japan regains sovereignty. Sanger visits Japan and receives a warm welcome. John D. Rockefeller 3rd establishes the Population Council and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) is founded.
1957	The Ministry of Health and Welfare transfers the promotion of birth control measures to cities and towns.
1958	The corporations participating in the New Lifestyle Movement grow to 82 companies. The previous year's birth rate is announced: 17.2/1,000, just above half the rate in 1949.
1964	The Ministry of Health and Welfare expresses its intention to approve an birth control pill. Family planning advocates launch a campaign in opposition.
1966	Japan's total population surpasses 100 million. Kenmochi Kazuo publishes <i>Conversations with Fetuses, 99 of 100 Which Go Unborn</i> . The Movement to Prevent the Birth of Unfortunate Children begins in Hyogo Prefecture. Margaret Sanger dies.
1967	Prime Minister Satō Eisaku remarks on the issue of labor shortage, expressing concern about 'excessive' abortions. Japanese new religion, Seichi-No-Ie and the Catholic Church form an alliance to abolish the Eugenic Protection Law in Japan. The Ministry of Health and Welfare denies approval for birth control pills, citing side effects.
1971	In Chichibu, Saitama, a temple specializing in assuaging relatives of stillborn and miscarried children, called Shiunzan Jizōji Temple, established.
1972	The Ministry of Health and Welfare designates the pill as a prescription-only medication and submits a revised Eugenic Protection Law to the National Diet. The proposed revision includes the removal of economic provisions and the introduction of new provisions related to the protection of the fetus. The Japan Family Planning Federation issues a statement opposing the revision. The Aoi Shiba no Kai and women's liberation organizations lead a movement opposing the amendment of the Eugenic Protection Law (~1974).
1974	The proposed revision of the Eugenic Protection Law is abandoned due to unresolved conflict. The Japan Population Association adopts the a Two Children Only policy. The Ministry of Health and Welfare approves the use of IUDs (intrauterine devices) including the Ōta Ring.
1980	The political alliance of the Seicho no Ie religious group's members in the National Diet is formed. The movement to amend the Eugenic Protection Act intensifies again.
1990	Japan experienced the '1.57 Shock,' a reaction to the lowest ever total fertility rate for 1989, announced in 1990.
1994	At the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, calls for easing abortion restrictions. The Japanese Eugenic Protection Law is criticized.

1996	Revision of the Eugenic Protection Law. The name of the law is changed to the Maternal Protection Law.
1999	The contraceptive pill is approved for use as a birth control method.
2011	Emergency contraception pills are approved as a prescription drug.

This timeline was compiled in consultation with the timeline found on index pages 6-11 of the Ogino Miho's 2008 book, *"Kazoku keikaku" e no michi: Kindai Nihon no seishoku o meguru seiji (A Path to "Family Planning": Politics of Reproduction in Modern Japan)*. Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten.

Timeline compilation: Michaela KELLY

Source; Online Exhibition : Maternal Health and Images of the Body Examined Through Japanese Ukiyo-e  
([https://www-nichibun.ac.jp/online/ucsf\\_maternal\\_health/](https://www-nichibun.ac.jp/online/ucsf_maternal_health/))