The Power to Compete. An Economist and an Entrepreneur on Revitalizing Japan in the Global Economy

Description: A Penetrating, Sensitive, and Engaging Analysis of the Road to a Brighter Future for Japan

The Japanese economy needs a jump–start. This is not an indictment, but rather an honest assessment of reality. The Power to Compete is a conversation between two of the men most qualified to discuss the situation: a CEO of one of the world's largest Internet companies and his father, a leading international economist and longtime Kobe University professor.

Between Hiroshi and Ryoichi Mikitani, there is a depth of understanding both of global issues and of the Japanese identity that makes their conversations stimulating, informative, and even transformational. In each chapter of The Power to Compete, father and son tackle complex issues with intelligence and humor, arriving at a series of recommendations for the future that have the power to inspire a generation of readers to work for a more prosperous Japan. Their ideas are ambitious, wide-ranging, and often controversial, but they aren't shy about presenting them.

Internationally, Japan has a reputation of resisting foreign ideas and isolating itself from progress. To change this image and cure "the Japan Disease," members of all generations need to work together. The Power to Compete is an inspiring book that will show you how to take the history and traditions of Japan onto the global stage.

"Hiroshi Mikitani is not only an important business leader in Japan, but, along with his late father, Ryoichi, someone who has done a tremendous amount of strategic thinking on the Japanese economy, its history and its recovery. Mikitani-san is a shining example for up and coming innovators and entrepreneurs across Japan who will be critical to Japan's economy and, in turn, the U.S.–Japan relationship for years to come."

John V. Roos, former U.S. Ambassador to Japan

"Ryoichi Mikitani was one of Japan's most thoughtful and probing economists, and Hiroshi is today probably Japan's most dynamic entrepreneur. And Ryoichi clearly passed on to his son a deep Japanese patriotism in the finest sense. Everyone who wishes Japan well should hope that the ideas they shared will receive the widest attention among the country's government and people."

Benjamin M. Friedman, William Joseph Maier Professor of Political Economy, Harvard University, and author of The Moral Consequences of Economic Growth

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