

# Transboundary Game of Life

Masahiko Aoki

# Transboundary Game of Life

Memoir of Masahiko Aoki

 Springer

Masahiko Aoki  
Stanford University  
Stanford, CA, USA

Translated by Beth Cary, Oakland, CA, USA

ISBN 978-981-13-2756-8      ISBN 978-981-13-2757-5 (eBook)  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-13-2757-5>

Library of Congress Control Number: 2018959254

© The Editor(s) (if applicable) and The Author(s) 2018

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are reserved by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use.

The publisher, the authors, and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publisher nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, express or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The publisher remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

This Springer imprint is published by the registered company Springer Nature Singapore Pte Ltd. The registered company address is: 152 Beach Road, #21-01/04 Gateway East, Singapore 189721, Singapore

# Foreword

## Masahiko Aoki (1938–2015): His Pilgrimage and Legacies<sup>1</sup>

*The man who never alters his opinion is like standing water,  
and breeds reptiles of the mind.*

William Blake, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*,  
composed between 1790 and 1793.

*It's more than a game. It's an institution.*

Thomas Hughes, *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, 1857.

Masahiko Aoki passed away on July 15, 2015, at the age of 77, leaving all who knew him with a grave feeling of loss. Masa was an excellent scholar and an unforgettable person with the rare combination of a cool head and a warm heart. His brilliant and flamboyant life is marked by numerous academic distinctions and recognitions including the Nikkei Prize for Economic Book of the Year (1971) for *The Economic Theory of Organization and Planning*,<sup>2</sup> the election as a Fellow of the Econometric Society (1982), the Japan Academy Prize (1990) for *The Cooperative Game Theory of the Firm*<sup>3</sup> and *Information, Incentives, and Bargaining in the Japanese Economy*,<sup>4</sup> the Presidency of the Japanese Economic Association (1995–1996) and of the International Economic Association (2008–2011). However, his life was full of many upheavals and phoenix-like rebirths, as well as of multi-faceted academic accomplishments that left the clear mark of his original thinking and energetic leadership, which cannot be duly described by simply listing these ex-post honors. On this occasion of making his fascinating

---

<sup>1</sup>I delivered a speech at the *Masahiko Aoki Memorial Conference on Economics* held at the Bechtel Conference Center, Encina Hall, Stanford University on December 4, 2015. This foreword partly capitalizes on my Stanford speech. I am grateful to Kenneth Arrow, Nick Baigent, Kaushik Basu, Walter Bossert, Koichi Hamada, Takeo Hoshi, and Chikashi Moriguchi for their comments and useful information, which helped me greatly to write up this foreword.

<sup>2</sup>*Soshiki to Keikaku no Keizai-riron*, Tokyo: Iwanami Publishing Company, 1971.

<sup>3</sup>Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1984.

<sup>4</sup>Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1988.

autobiography, originally published in Japanese, accessible to English readers, it is my great pleasure to put my personal recollections of Masa as a wonderful individual, as well as his academic and social legacies on record.

I met Masa in person for the first time at the beginning of the 1970s at a conference held in Japan. He was then in his early 30s and had already established himself as a dazzling scholar in mathematical economics with an international reputation. I was a young graduate student at Hitotsubashi University, and I served as an assigned discussant of his work on the informationally efficient and decentralized planning procedures for an economy with production externalities.<sup>5,6</sup> Being six years junior to him, I can personally testify to the fact that he exerted a magnetic influence on many young scholars in Japan.<sup>7</sup>

Even before this first personal encounter with Masa in the academic arena, I came to know of him around 1960 in a completely different circumstance. I was only a second-year high-school boy in the remote city of Nagoya, which is some 260 km beeline distance from Tokyo, and Masa was studying economics under the dogmatic influence of Marxism at the University of Tokyo. What made him famous nationwide, known even by a high-school boy in a distant city, was his active involvement in the National Federation of Students' Self-Government Association (*Zengakuren*), which was at the heart of the 1959–1960 intense campaign against the US–Japan Security Treaty that ran riot all over Japan.<sup>8</sup> As if to prepare for the 1959–1960 campaign, an organization called the Bund was formed in 1958, which played the leadership role in student activities that were not under the control of the Japanese Communist Party. Masa was one of the founding members of the Bund. When the new Japan–US Security Treaty was about to be signed, the student activists including the Bund members tried to prevent Prime Minister Nobusuke

---

<sup>5</sup>This work was subsequently published as Aoki, M., “Two Planning Processes for an Economy with Production Externalities,” *International Economic Review*, Vol. 12, 1971.

<sup>6</sup>This first encounter with Masa eventually led to my move from the Department of Economics, Hitotsubashi University to the Kyoto Institute of Economic Research, Kyoto University as an Associate Professor, where I worked as his colleague for ten fruitful years specializing in social choice theory and welfare economics.

<sup>7</sup>A high proportion of graduate students majoring in economic theory at Kyoto University were under Masa's strong influence. I remember clearly one graduate seminar held at the beginning of the academic year, where about a dozen of graduate students introduced themselves by saying unanimously that they intend to pursue the theory of firms in comparative perspective, which was Masa's main research project around that time.

<sup>8</sup>The allied occupation of Japan after World War II was ended by the San Francisco Peace Treaty signed on September 8, 1951. The Security Treaty between the USA and Japan was signed the same day, which granted the USA the territorial means to establish in Japan a military presence in the Far East. Bilateral talks on revising the 1951 Security Treaty started in 1959, and the new Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security was signed on January 19, 1960, in Washington, DC. When the new treaty pact was submitted to the Japanese Diet for ratification, a fierce campaign against this pact was triggered. The leftist opposition was based on the fear that the new treaty might lead to the enduring subordination of Japan's independence under the US hegemony. Massive demonstrations and angry riots by students, trade union activists, and some ordinary citizens failed to prevent the passage of the new treaty pact, which was passed by default on June 19, 1960.

Kishi from flying to Washington, DC by force. Those who occupied Haneda Airport were arrested, and Masa was among 77 students who were detained for illegal trespass and property damage. Viewed from a distance, the young student leaders of the campaign seemed full of conviction in what they were doing and advocating. Although I had my intuitive doubts on the logic of their agitation and could not be too sympathetic to their extreme acts, I was fascinated by their dazzling resoluteness and wondered why they could sustain so much faith in their own campaign.

Being a second-year high-school boy, I was too naïve and ignorant of social sciences to identify the causes and consequences of my intuitive doubts about their acts and beliefs, and to establish my own stance vis-à-vis what was really at stake in the 1959–1960 movement. Nevertheless, this massive campaign and its aftermath made me wonder about the meaning and virtue of democratic methods of collective decision-making. Both sides of the dispute, the Liberal Democratic Party government and the leftist opposition, sent stern warnings on the imminent danger of the breakdown of democracy. However, the very fact that both sides were using the same portmanteau catchword of democracy sent me a clear signal that they were assigning very different meanings to one and the same term, viz. democracy. Although I could not crystallize at that time an operational definition of the democratic method of collective decision-making, it soon became clear to me that there are two distinct sides to the same coin, viz. the goodness of the final outcome to be brought about, and the intrinsic value of the decision-making procedure through which the final outcome is brought about. This naïve recognition persisted throughout my subsequent research activities in social choice theory and welfare economics. Later on, Masa and I had several heated discussions on this and related issues at the Kyoto Institute of Economic Research, Kyoto University.

The 1959–1960 campaign ended without accomplishing its proclaimed target, and the dejected activist students soon split into chaotic factions. Masa bade his farewell to the activist group altogether, and he went back to the study of economics at the University of Tokyo. As a matter of fact, not only did he leave the activist group, he also dissociated himself from Marxian economics, and proceeded anew to the study of orthodox neoclassical economics. What propelled him to this metamorphosis was his fated encounter with a marvelous article by Kenneth Arrow and Leonid Hurwicz.<sup>9</sup> In this epoch-making article, Arrow and Hurwicz showed that there is an isomorphism between their programming method for computing an optimal resource allocation and the idealized working of the perfectly competitive market mechanism. Thus, the decentralized market mechanism can bring about an optimal resource allocation under classical economic environments with universal convexity and without externalities, which the Central Planning Board (CPB) is

---

<sup>9</sup>Arrow, K. J. and L. Hurwicz, “Decentralization and Computation in Resource Allocation,” in R. W. Pfouts, ed., *Essays in Economics and Econometrics*, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1960.

unable to accomplish due to the crucial fact that privately owned, and widely dispersed, information is beyond the reach of the CPB. Besides, there is no incentive on the part of private agents to comply voluntarily with the command of the CPB.

Masa recalls that by the time the 1960 uprising collapsed, he was completely fed up with the illogical, partisan, and political disputes in the leftist circles. This being the case, it struck him as a fresh revelation that Arrow and Hurwicz could pose fundamental questions of resource allocation and economic organizations and apply transparent logical methods for their precise analysis. This was exactly what Masa had been groping after. There is no wonder that he was intoxicated by this encounter with his destiny, which eventually led him to study at the Graduate School of the University of Minnesota, where he obtained his Ph.D. under the supervision of Leonid Hurwicz and John Chipman. Within a few years, he turned himself into a full-fledged scholar on the frontier of mathematical economic systems analysis with high distinction, which paved the road toward his highly reputable career at Stanford and Harvard, where he could nourish fruitful interactions with Kenneth Arrow and Janos Kornai.

It is not infrequent that Masa's conversion from Marxian economics to the frontier of neoclassical mathematical economics was misconstrued and criticized as if he betrayed his activist comrades and escaped to the USA for the sake of turning over a new leaf in orthodox academic circles. I dare to disagree with this cynical view for the sake of fairness. It is true that Masa's professional point of departure was to liberate himself from the influence of Marxian economics and proceed to the mathematical analysis of economic systems in the neoclassical tradition. In my perception, however, it is too shallow to regard Masa's Zengakuren-Bund experience as if it were a thwarted ambition in his youth, which is completely dead and buried in the past. Indeed, in his own recollection, the 1960 campaign was epoch-making in that it sent an unambiguous signal that the nature of the social game played in Japan was thereby altered beyond retrieval. On the one hand, it revealed that there is no future for a political system seeking a magic wand by supplementing the insufficient governability of the ruling political party by means of outright regulation, or by means of the police force or military power. On the other hand, it also revealed that the long-standing leftist myth of the "vanguard" who organizes and controls spontaneous political actions by ordinary citizens under its guidance is bankrupt beyond rectification. The upshot of this view is that the Bund played a Mephistopheles-like catalytic role as a switchman between two regimes, viz. the *militaristic and regulatory regime* and the *liberal democratic regime*.

There may still be some cynical criticism that Masa's later view is nothing but an ex-post rationalization of his past act of betrayal. My view is different. It reveals how deeply rooted is his lifetime concern with comparative institutions, and his early commitment to Marxian historical philosophy, as distinct from Marxian economics, was very much alive and kicking as an integral undercurrent of the evolution of his economics.

I should also mention the conspicuous versatility and impressive broadness of his research activities. Indeed, starting from the mathematical analysis of economic

systems with strong emphasis on the decentralized planning procedure in non-classical economic environments, Masa's pilgrimage covered the game-theoretic analysis of firms, comparative institutional analysis, and the comparative institutional developments in East Asian economies. In my view, the most conspicuous feature of Masa's versatility and broadness of his research areas lies in the internal coherence of his analysis and the strong underlying aspiration that may be traced back even to his early interest in Marxian historical philosophy. In this sense, he was a bit more than an economic theorist; he was a unique social scientist with discipline and passion.

The nineteenth-century poet John Clare left in his letter to a friend the following memorable sentence: "Had Life a 2 edition—oh! how I wou'd correct it."<sup>10</sup> Being a bit of the perfectionist, Masa might have wanted to proofread and revise some minor details of his first life if he were provided with a chance of creating the second edition of his life. However, as Paul Samuelson observed in a conversation with me, which was conducted in a completely different context, "we should always attach importance to the first edition of anything."<sup>11</sup> In my judgment, there is no need for revising anything essential of Masa's life and work in view of his brilliant accomplishments in intellectual activities, his strong and warm ties with many friends and colleagues all over the world, and his vital and lasting influence on numerous fellow economists and young scholars. It is my belief that readers of this English version of Masa's Memoire would testify to the correctness of my personal judgment to this effect. It is also my belief that readers of this English version of Masa's Memoire will enjoy a unique experience and receive an abundance of material for fruitful thought for many years to come. Bon Voyage.

Tokyo, Japan  
April 2018

Kotaro Suzumura  
Professor Emeritus of Hitotsubashi University  
Professor Emeritus and Honorary Fellow of Waseda University  
Fellow of the Japan Academy

---

<sup>10</sup>This letter is kept in the British Library, Egerton Manuscript 2246, fol. 230v. I am indebted to Professor Nick Baigent of the London School of Economics, Mr. Robert Heyes, Honorary Membership Secretary of the John Clare Society, and Ms. Linda Curry, Former President of the John Clare Society, for tracking down the whereabouts and the precise wording of the cited sentence.

<sup>11</sup>This citation is taken from Suzumura, K., "An Interview with Paul Samuelson: Welfare Economics, 'Old' and 'New', and Social Choice Theory," *Social Choice and Welfare*, Vol. 25, 2005, p. 332.



# Preface

This volume is an expanded version of “My Memoir” serialized in *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* newspaper during the month of October 2007. When I was approached by the newspaper about the serialization, my first reaction was one of hesitation. I had no confidence that I could spare the time when I had a pile of my academic work to complete. I was also concerned that being a “Memoir,” I couldn’t avoid giving an account of my student days, which I had never publicly spoken about, and I asked myself whether I was mentally prepared to do this. Ultimately, I agreed to the proposal as I was assured of two supporting factors.

One was that a sensitive reporter would prepare the text based on interviews with me; specifically, Yō Makino, who had prepared the text for Peter Drucker’s “My Memoir” serialization, was chosen. As I had thought that among the many memoirs serialized in the newspaper, Drucker’s was one of the most impressive, and my concerns were allayed.

The second factor was that around that time Prof. Hideo Ōtake of Kyoto University had published *Shinsayoku no Isan: New Left kara Post Modern e* (Heritage of the New Left: From the New Left to Post Modern) (University of Tokyo Press, 2007). This allowed me to think that the anti-Security Treaty struggle was becoming the subject of inquiry in the social sciences, lifting my feeling of it as a psychological burden.

I had thought to write about the intertwining of my own history and the larger history of the times. It was only toward the end of the serialization that I came to the realization that this endeavor, if I can overstate it, was actually related to my present struggles with theories of social science. Some of what I added toward the end of this book relates to this, but I think it is still in a preliminary state. However, there appears to be no easy solution to this study of mine, so I will let this stand as it is at this stage.

My collaboration with Yō Makino was extremely agreeable and productive. I asked him to schedule the interviews during Stanford University’s summer vacation in August 2007. He was kind enough to arrange to come to Stanford for two weeks to interview me.

The newspaper's editorial department had chosen Makino because he had become familiar with American academics through interviewing Peter Drucker. As I began working with him, I discovered another reason that made our work truly collaborative. His father, a few years older than me, had been an activist in the student movement. We had friends in common between us, and this work was a chance for Makino to rediscover part of his family as well. Because of this, almost half of this memoir covers the time from my student movement days to when I graduated from activism and departed at age 26 for the USA to pursue academic studies, veering away from what I had initially anticipated.

Being the obsessive sort, I added and changed a considerable amount from the draft prepared from the interviews, making me responsible for the final content of the entire volume. I was fortunate to have had many people whom I have encountered in my life and who have been a great influence on me.

My wife Reiko has shared the greater part of my life as a scholar with me. She has been a wonderful partner, understanding of my work, compensated for my shortcomings, and has been a staunch supporter of six of my intellectual ventures. For this volume, she gave me advice on content as well as phrasing and offered careful editing of the text. Thank you.

Stanford, USA  
March 2008

Masahiko Aoki

## Preface for the English Edition

Masahiko Aoki passed away on July 15, 2015, at the age of 77. Aoki, an economic theorist, made contributions to various fields including mechanism design, theory of the firm, corporate governance, Japanese economy, Chinese economy, economic history, and comparative institutional analysis, the field he created with his colleagues at Stanford University. He changed the way we approach national economies outside the USA and Europe, such as those of Japan and China. At the same time, he changed economic theory so that it can be applied to those economies.

When Masahiko Aoki started his research on the Japanese economy, the study of the Japanese or the Chinese economic system had little overlap with mainstream economic theory. Many scholars argued that characteristics that differentiated those economies from the USA and Western European ones are explained only by the unique culture of Asia. The standard economic theory also lacked the proper tools to understand those economies that appear different from market-based capitalist economies in the West. Masahiko Aoki filled this gap by seriously applying standard tools in economics to understand the Japanese economic system. At the same time, Aoki also advanced economic theory to explain why we observe seemingly different economic systems in different places and times and how an economic system evolves over time.

This book is the English version of the *Memoir of Masahiko Aoki* that was published in Japanese in 2008 (青木昌彦『私の履歴書 人生越境ゲーム』日本経済新聞出版社, Masahiko Aoki, *Watashi no Rirekisho: Jinsei Ekkyō Game*, Nihon Keizai Shimbun Shuppan-sha). In this memoir, Aoki goes over his life as a young boy in Japan immediately after WWII, as an activist who opposed rearmament of Japan under the US–Japan Security Alliance, as a student of Marxist economics first and then modern mathematical economics, and eventually as a leading economist in both Japan and the USA. He looks back on his graduate student days at Minnesota, and the experiences as a young and rising economist at Stanford, Harvard, and Kyoto. The book reveals the motivations for Aoki’s major contributions to economics, including analysis of the Japanese economy and development of comparative institutional analysis. The book also describes Aoki’s efforts to build several research institutions including the Stanford Japan Center, the Research

Institute of Economy, Trade, and Industry (RIETI), the Virtual Center for Advanced Studies in Institution (VCASI), and the Center for Industrial Development and Environmental Governance (CIDEG).

Aoki likens his life to a game, which is an analytical concept that he often used in academic research. For example, he characterized the corporate organization as the equilibrium of a game between management and workers. His Comparative Institutional Analysis (CIA) explains an economic system as a set of equilibria of many games in various aspects and levels of economic, social, and political interactions. Aoki says his game of life has been “transboundary” in two senses. He lived and conducted research in two countries: Japan and the USA. He also visited China numerous times and studied its economy. In addition to crossing the boundaries in the geographical sense, Aoki also moved between many fields in economics and often ventured outside economics into history, sociology, psychology, and political science.

Until now, his memoir was available only in Japanese and in Chinese. I hope this English edition will allow young social scientists everywhere to touch the life and work of Masahiko Aoki and be inspired to make their own versions of a “transboundary game of life.”

I was not a student of Masa Aoki in a narrow sense, but I learned tremendously from his written work as well as from talking with him. I feel lucky that I was a colleague of his for the last three years of his life. I am very honored to have worked on the project to publish this English edition of his memoir.

The translation from the Japanese version was conducted by Beth Cary, who also worked with Masa on some projects and is familiar with his writing. Throughout the book, references to people’s positions, organizations, etc., are as of the writing of the Memoir (2007 for the parts published in the newspaper series or 2008 for the parts added when the book came out), unless otherwise noted. For the titles of Japanese books cited in the Memoir, the English title is given when an English translation exists. If no English translation is found, the Japanese title is spelled in Romanization with English translation in parentheses. When a person’s name is mentioned for the first time, the given name (e.g., Prime Minister Jun’ichirō Koizumi) is shown even when the Japanese version only refers to the surname.

I thank Reiko Aoki and her daughters Maki and Kyoko who encouraged me to embark on this project. Professor Kōtarō Suzumura, who is a great economist himself and a longtime friend of Masa, wrote the superb Foreword that only he could write. I give him my deep thanks. I also thank Meiko Kotani at the Japan Program at the Asia Pacific Research Center (APARC) at Stanford University for providing administrative assistance including scanning the pictures for this book.

Financial support for the project was provided by the Japan Fund at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Affairs (FSI) and the Japan Program at APARC, both at Stanford University. Finally, I am grateful to Juno Kawakami at Springer, who understood the value of this project and guided it to completion. Without her efforts and patience, this project would not have materialized.

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Seven Intellectual Ventures</b> . . . . .	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Student Movement</b> . . . . .	<b>5</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Three Influential Seniors</b> . . . . .	<b>9</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Reiji Himeoka</b> . . . . .	<b>13</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Nouvelle Vague</b> . . . . .	<b>17</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>From Whence My DNA</b> . . . . .	<b>21</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Childhood</b> . . . . .	<b>25</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Middle School Years</b> . . . . .	<b>29</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>High School Years</b> . . . . .	<b>31</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Sugamo Prison and Anti-security Treaty Struggle</b> . . . . .	<b>35</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Dissolution of the Bund</b> . . . . .	<b>39</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Fleeing the Frontline</b> . . . . .	<b>43</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Toward Modern Economics</b> . . . . .	<b>47</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Operation Study Abroad</b> . . . . .	<b>51</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>To University of Minnesota</b> . . . . .	<b>55</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Job Market</b> . . . . .	<b>59</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Serra House</b> . . . . .	<b>63</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Counterculture</b> . . . . .	<b>67</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Day of Departure from America</b> . . . . .	<b>71</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Wavering About Economics</b> . . . . .	<b>75</b>

**21 Visiting Closed China . . . . . 77**

**22 Thoughts on Corporations East and West . . . . . 81**

**23 Return to My Former Haunts . . . . . 87**

**24 Taking Stanford to Japan . . . . . 91**

**25 Toward a Comparative Institutional Analysis . . . . . 95**

**26 To Kasumigaseki . . . . . 99**

**27 Light and Shadow of Independent Administrative Institutions . . . . . 103**

**28 Engaging with China . . . . . 109**

**29 Teaming up with Toyota on Environmental Issues . . . . . 115**

**30 Social Game and Virtual Research Institute . . . . . 119**

**31 Conclusion: The Challenge of the Trans-boundary Game. . . . . 127**

**Bibliography . . . . . 131**

**Name Index . . . . . 135**

## About the Author

**Masahiko Aoki** was the Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Professor Emeritus of Japanese Studies in the Department of Economics, and a senior fellow of the Stanford Institute of Economic Policy Research and the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University.

Aoki was a theoretical and applied economist with a strong interest in institutional and comparative issues. He specialized in the theory of institutions, corporate architecture and governance, and the Japanese and Chinese economies.

His most recent book, *Corporations in Evolving Diversity: Cognition, Governance, and Institutions*, based on his 2008 Clarendon Lectures, was published in 2010 by Oxford University Press. It identifies a variety of corporate architecture as diverse associational cognitive systems and discusses their implications to corporate governance, as well their modes of interactions with society, polity, and financial markets within a unified game-theoretic perspective. His previous book, *Toward a Comparative Institutional Analysis*, was published in 2001 by MIT Press. This work developed a conceptual and analytical framework for integrating comparative studies of institutions in economics and other social science disciplines using game-theoretic language. Aoki's research has been also published in the leading journals in economics, including the *American Economic Review*, *Econometrica*, the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Review of Economic Studies*, the *Journal of Economic Literature*, *Industrial and Corporate Change*, and the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organizations*.

Aoki was the president of the International Economic Association from 2008 to 2011 and was also a former president of the Japanese Economic Association. He was a fellow of the Econometric Society and the founding editor of the *Journal of Japanese and International Economies*. He was awarded the Japan Academy Prize in 1990, and the sixth International Schumpeter Prize in 1998. Between 2001 and 2004, Aoki served as the president and chief research officer of the Research Institute of Economy, Trade, and Industry, an independent administrative institution specializing in public policy research in Japan.

Aoki graduated from the University of Tokyo with a B.A. and an M.A. in economics and earned a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Minnesota in 1967. He was formerly an assistant professor at Stanford University and Harvard University and served as both an associate and full professor at the University of Kyoto before rejoining the Stanford faculty in 1984.

Printed with permission from [https://aparc.fsi.stanford.edu/people/masahiko\\_aoki](https://aparc.fsi.stanford.edu/people/masahiko_aoki)