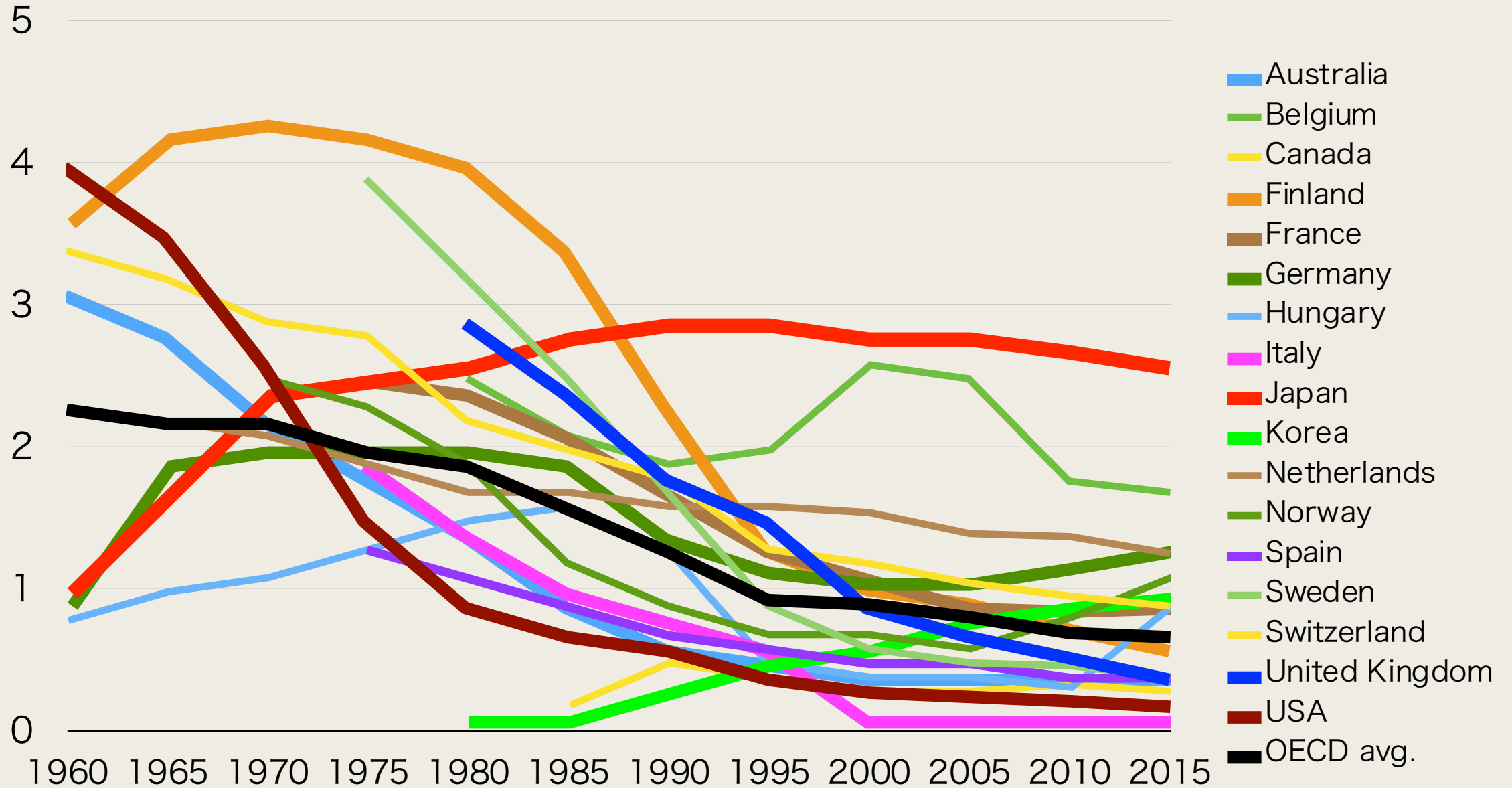


WHY DO MENTAL HOSPITALS
STILL REMAIN IN JAPAN?
PROTECTION WITHOUT ADVOCACY

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Trends in psychiatric care beds per 1000 population, 1960-2015



Protection without Advocacy

- What '**internal rationality**' is behind the persistence of Japanese psychiatric hospital-centeredness?
- **Hybrid modernity** with the indigenous culture of that society (Koto 2006)
- Civil society in Japan is "**members without advocates**" (Pekkanen 2006).
- Psychiatry requires both **protection and advocacy**
- How does the reality of "**protection without advocacy**" function in Japan's psychiatric policy
- **Why do mental hospitals continue to exist?**

Residual state

- Japan is a welfare state **based on working hard and diligently** (Ide 2021)
- 'those who do not work should not eat'
- Society loses no less than **100 billion yen a year in lost production** due to the mentally disabled. " (Public Health Department, Ministry of Health and Welfare **1951:11**).
- Returning them to **production (workfair) or hospitalizing** to prevent families from leaving production.
- The third option, **to continue to live in the community with support, even if they have a mental disability and are not able to work, is not guaranteed** by Japanese policy.

Remaining family burden

- a culture of 'apologizing for disturbing "SEKEN (Abe 1995)
- The unwritten rule of 'don't cause trouble in "SEKEN", the public' still functions strongly.
- Mentally disabled people who 'cause trouble to the world'
- the more severe a person's illness or disability, the more the family is increasingly **unable to escape the 'supervisor role' or the 'caregiver role.'** (Shiomitsu 2017:74)
- If a family member tries to obtain the **"right not to care,"** they have no choice but **to "throw" the mentally disabled person into a psychiatric hospital**

The market: Private mental hospitals

- 90% of psychiatric hospitals are private hospitals and more than 60% of inpatients are in hospital for more than a year
- The safety net in mental hospital is only to protection and 'sweep something under the rug' function
- “This society entrusts both medical care and social order to us, psychiatry. Psychiatric care does everything, even security guard. (Dr. Manabu Yamazaki, President of the Japan Psychiatric Hospital Association)
- This 'abusive words' is a 'reasonable' statement in terms of the logic of protection without advocacy.

Conclusion

- Mental hospital system has achieved great success by hybridizing the logic of protection without advocacy.
- Japanese society has a culture of 'those who do not work should not eat', 'do not cause trouble in the world' and 'sweep trouble under the rug'.
- Indigenous logic of Japanese society, which protects the socially vulnerable but does not (need to) empower or enhance their rights.
- How can this indigenous culture be transformed? This is a major challenge for the future of welfare policy in Japanese society.

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