

# A view from Japan

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# Global Research Library 2020?

- Compositionality
  - What will “the globe” be like in 2020?
    - Warming/Deforestation/Population/Terrorism etc
  - What will research be like in 2020?
    - Funding(bigger science)/Proprietariness
    - Publication/Authorship/Promotion
  - What will higher education be like in 2020?
    - Future of non-north American/non-Chines universities(?)
  - What will Library be like in 2020?
    - Just a large collection of uncertainties(?)

# Bill Gates' Presentation at COMDEX 1995

- No cell phone, lots of pagers
- Almost no Internet, almost no WWW, though things are networked
- No RFID
- Almost no Starbucks
- “Interactive” made possible by CD-ROM!
- Lots of information kiosks
- Sunny Seattle!

LESSON I learned from his presentaiton

: Don't predict!

(1995 + 13 = 2008 2007 + 13 = 2020)

# Research in flux

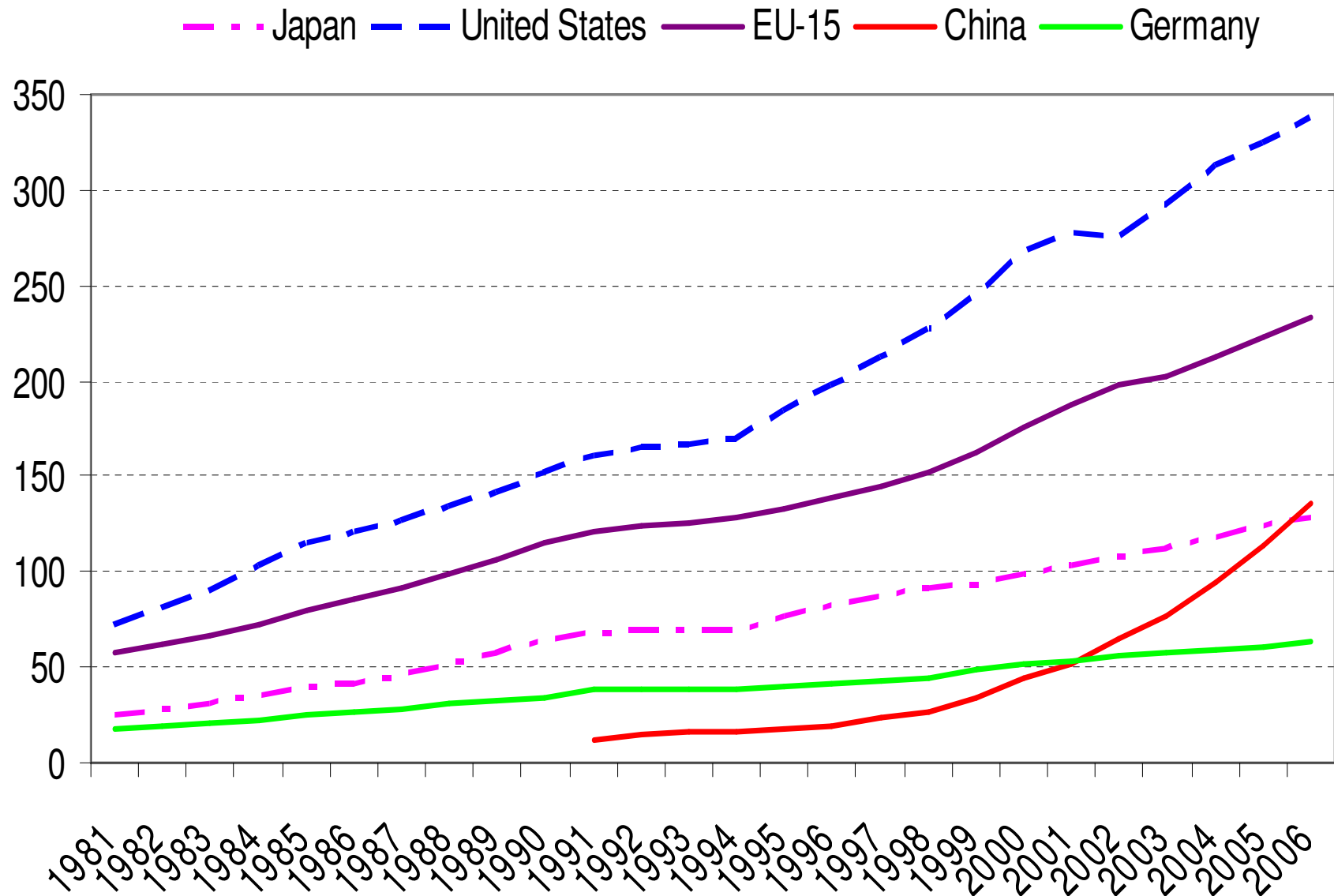
- Geopolitical perspectives:
  - Asian countries(China and more unknown India vs US/UK/Germany)
  - Japan in awkward position, being the second in production and spending in scholarly communication, knowing this geopolitics but can't do anything
- Meaning of “VERY Big Science”:
  - To what extent do taxpayers allow?
  - Meaning of research in the corporate
  - Too many coauthors
  - Must results be published? Research as process?
- E-environment not utilized enough

# Japanese current situation

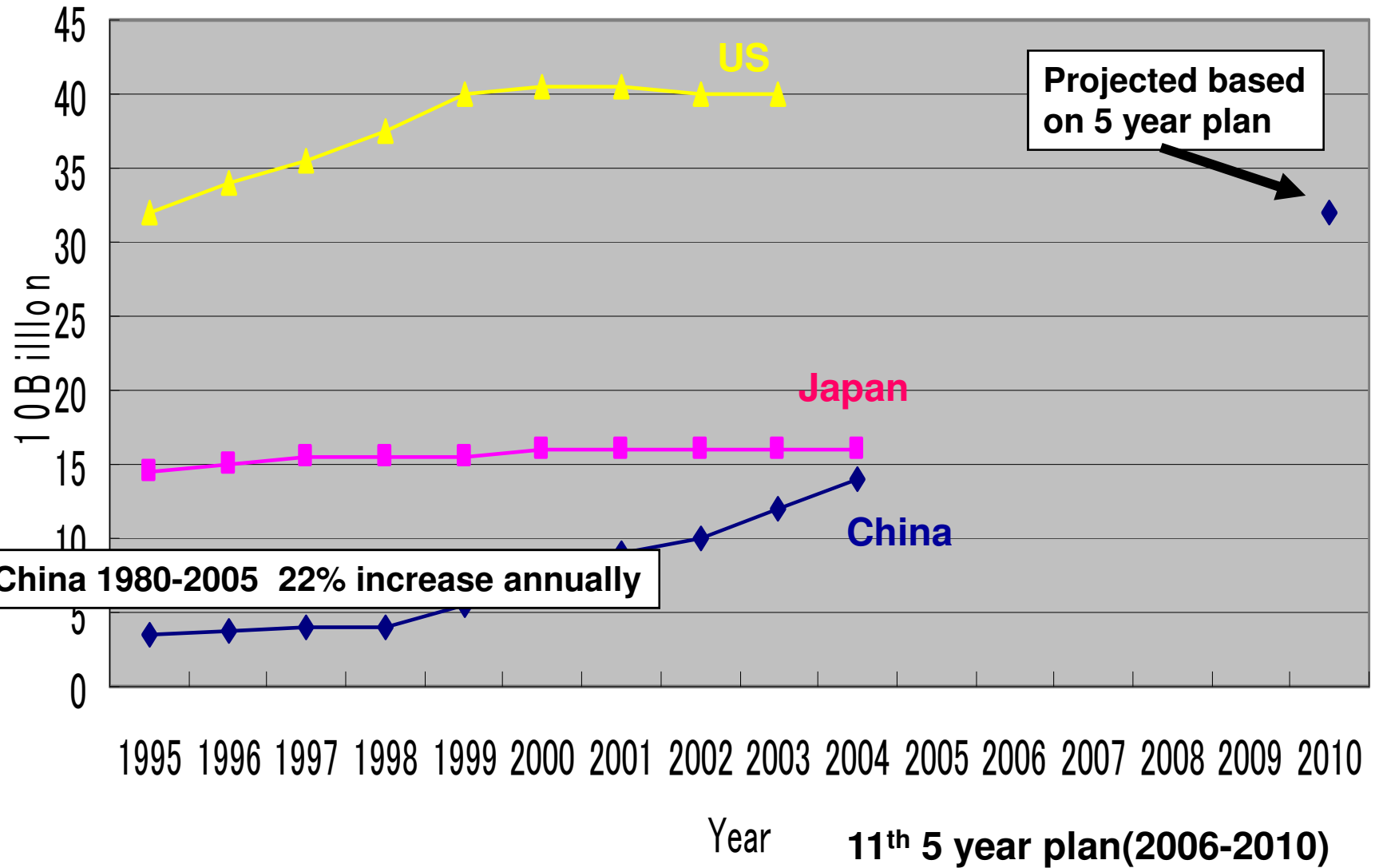
- Funding for research
  - Government funding to non-proprietary research thought to be stable till 2012, though as a whole overtaken by China last year
- More and more competitive
  - Almost no “central” money, but some bias in favor of biomedical science(regenerative etc) and material science(nano- etc)
- No funds for infrastructure
  - Pseudo-open access situation, all “good” researchers have access to necessary literature
  - No interest in improving their research environments

# China overtook Japan in R&D funding (billion current PPP \$)

(The Science, Technology and Industry Outlook 2006, OECD)



# S & T Funding



# University reform in Japan: From 1990s on

- In short, it is a late-coming Thatcherian reform with no students added
  - Already 70% continue on to school, with 40% going to 4 year higher education institutions
- By naïve “Thatcherian” I mean budget cuts, forced competition, industry friendliness, deregulation and such
- Japanese universities are too small on the average, with hard-to-destroy hierarchy

# Cyber Science Infrastructure(NII)

- Higher education/research institute, nationwide computer network(SINET)
- Grid computing middleware(NAREGI) across SINET with supercomputers in universities (and some more)
- A network of over 100 institutional repositories and research institutes' servers serving as document and data repositories/providers on SINET
- NII serving as what? and who funds how? are interesting questions
- Awkward internationality
- Most scientists not interested so much
- Ideas are there, but made little use of

# University libraries in Japan in the past

- Discrepancy between faculty and library
  - Who collects and pays for what?
  - Intermediaries on campus?
  - NO “budget” after all: Only for subscription but still post hoc
- Talking only to agents
  - No knowledge of “publishers”
  - Unilaterally dictated pricing/markup by “sole agents”
  - Almost outsourced library work, deep dependency
- A different world on campus
  - Secured positions
  - No budget, no responsibility

# Role of libraries

- Conventional librarians are an endangered species.
- Talk to researchers/faculty, but forget the established, who can't forget their successful experiences and concentrate on the young with helping tools, functioning as catalysts for new research
- Reverse the vector: Research created outside will be licensed and delivered on line, ie no need for libraries as physical storage, so concentrate on results on campus
- Collaborate nationally and internationally