

Published based on [Wardrobes Through The Decades](#)

# Wardrobes Through The Decades

In Japanese society, what we in our society would class as a small wardrobe were classed as normal size wardrobes. Today in Japanese society the European wardrobes have sized down and become not only smaller but far less decorative as well as a lot less narrower. The type of wood used has also undergone a transformation predominantly in North America where the trend for certain types of wood has also changed over the decades.

The history surrounding Japanese wardrobes is far more interesting then one would at first perceive. The Japanese are very traditional and to understand the culture one has to look closely at the Japanese history of this era and in many senses look beyond what seems apparent and look at why there has been changes in wardrobe construction and the effects these changes have had.

On travelling to Japan I was lucky enough to look at the changes of Japanese society. I managed to look beneath the surface and examined the life style not just of the present but also of the past. I started in Tokyo and soon found myself in more rural settings. Outside of the hub of the capital it is very easy to see the more traditional style of life and paramount to this is also the old traditions and the old traditional views of life. So if tradition is so important what caused the changes?

Traditionally the Japanese have always been much smaller then Europeans and this can be put down to to the contrast in diet. In Japan white rice is produced and grown and this forms a large part of the staple diet of this county. Surrounded by sea fishing is an important industry and the two combined form the staple of most people diet, included in this is a rice gruel which is consumed for breakfast.

After the second world war, the American army took control of the country whilst they occupied it. Japan was slowly influenced by the American way of life. The once small race gradually changed as their diet changed. The Americans bought over hamburgers and the Japanese children grew larger on the new food sthat were introduced. The traditionally small wardrobes that had featured so long in Japanese society had to be made bigger to accomodate the change in the size of robes and also the bulkier western clothes. As a result the previous standard small wardrobes were replaced by western sized wardrobes.

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