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OKABE, MITSUAKI. *Cross shareholdings in Japan: A new unified perspective in the economic system.* Cheltenham, U.K. and Northampton, Mass.: Elgar; distributed by American International Distribution Corporation, Williston, Vt., 2002. Pp. xiii, 104. ISBN 1-84064-976-3. JEL 2003-0135

Focuses on cross shareholding, or mutual share-holding between corporations in Japan; studies re-cent trends in cross shareholding; and explores their implications for the Japanese economic system. Discusses cross shareholding as an underlying element of the Japanese economic system; Explains various forms of cross shareholding and presents relevant statistics. Documents recent trends in share owner-ship and structural changes in cross shareholding.

Points out various factors behind the recent “dissolution” of cross shareholding. Examines the various functions of cross shareholding. Explains how the dissolution of cross shareholding effects the stock market, corporate governance mechanism, and the entire Japanese economic system and considers the appropriate financial system for Japan in the present situation. Forecasts the future prospects of cross shareholding and discusses the required public policy. Okabe is a professor at Keio University. Index.