lished by Pietrusewsky and Douglas (2002) in which paleopathological studies were also undertaken. Domett's book, as well as the Ban Chiang report, provide a significant step in advancing our knowledge of health in prehistoric human remains in Southeast Asia. I highly recommend this book not only to scholars interested in the prehistory of Southeast Asia, but also to all researchers and students working in the fields of forensic anthropology and bioarchaeology.

Reference

Pietrusewsky M. and Douglas M.T. (2002) Ban Chiang, A Prehistoric Village Site in Northeast Thailand I: The Human Skeletal Remains. The University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Philadelphia.

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Growth, Maturation, and Physical Activity, second edition.

By Robert M. Malina, Claude Bouchard, and Oded Bar-Or. Human Kinetics, Champaign, IL: 2004. ISBN 0-88011-882-2. 712 pp. \$69.00 (cloth)

The first edition of *Growth, Maturation, and Physical Activity* (1991) was translated from English into Japanese in 1995, and many readers will be familiar with its contents. The revised edition expands on the first one and the focus of this review will be primarily the revised sections. Oded Bar-Or joined Malina and Bouchard as authors of the second edition. Sections of the book dealing with physiological development, physical activity, nutrition, and risk factors were expanded, in addition to new chapters on the measurement of physical activity, undernutrition, obesity, children with selected clinical conditions, and secular trends. The clinical chapter focuses on conditions that teachers and coaches might encounter in schools and sports, e.g. diabetes and the consequences of low birth weight. The chapter on secular trends considers changes in Europe, the United States, and Japan, including changes in growth, maturation, and physical performance. As a result, the second edition is the most comprehensive text on the biological growth, maturation, physical performance, and physical activity of children and adolescents. It is difficult to identify another such book, which covers many topics but is written by only three authors. The physical size of the revised version is larger than the first edition, which permits easier reading. I recom-

mend this book to anyone who wants to understand the physical growth and maturation of children.

The overall structure and contents of the revised version are as follows. There are six major sections and 29 chapters. Each section is introduced with a brief summary of the focus and contents. Each chapter opens with an outline of the contents, followed by a comprehensive presentation of information and then a summary, sources, and suggested readings (cited references and recommended readings). The many tables and figures are clear and easily understood. The six sections include an Introduction, Postnatal Growth, Functional Development, Biological Maturation, Influencing Factors, and Applications. Compared with the first edition, the sequence of the sections and respective chapters have changed somewhat. All chapters were revised and updated, and several new chapters were added: thermoregulation, undernutrition, obesity, measurement of physical activity, clinical applications, and secular trends. In addition, there is an appendix with suggested laboratory activities for students. Some chapters were revised more than others, e.g. body composition, maturity assessment, genetics, energy and nutrient requirements, hormonal regulation, effects of physical activity, other factors affecting growth and maturation, risk factors for adult disease, and young athletes. There are suggestions for individual and group activities in the appendix, including several relevant web sites. This book will be very useful for upper level undergraduate and graduate students as well as for researchers (in human biology, physical anthropology, exercise physiology, etc.) and professionals working with children and young adults (physical educators, health educators, nutritionists, etc.).

The authors are three outstanding teachers and researchers of children's growth and development, and have engaged in a wide variety of studies on the specific topics considered in the book. Malina was a professor at the University of Texas when the first edition was published. He then moved to Michigan State University to be director of the Institute for the Study of Youth Sports. He has now formally retired, but continues as a research Professor at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. Bouchard was a professor at Laval University in Quebec at the time of the first edition and is now director of the Pennington Biomedical Research Center of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Bar-Or is a pediatrician and professor and director of the Exercise and Nutrition Center at McMaster University, Canada. This book is a truly collaborative work. However, the sound editorial activity of Malina helps to make the contents well balanced for ease of reading as in the first edition.

Growth at Adolescence by J.M. Tanner is perhaps the most representative book on auxology in the world. Allowing for social and cultural change, especially in lifestyle and associated modifications in physical activity and diet, the publication of the second edition of *Growth, Maturation, and Physical Activity* is very timely. The revisions cover not only growth and maturation (i.e. traditional auxology) but also physical performance, physical activity, health problems and risk factors, and children in sport. I am of the opinion that *Growth, Maturation, and Physical Activity* will replace Tanner's *Growth at Adolescence*.

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Kamikaze, Cherry Blossoms and Nationalisms: The Militarization of Aesthetics in Japanese History.

By Emiko Ohnuki-Tierney. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 2002. ISBN 0-22662-090-5 (cloth), 0-22662-091-3 (paper). xvii + 411 pp. \$45.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper).

During the last ten months of World War II, as a seemingly unstoppable Allied juggernaut smashed across the western Pacific to close in on the Japanese home islands, Emperor Hirohito's armed forces—without the luxury of computerized 'smart bomb' technology—used human pilots as onboard target acquisition and guidance systems to increase the accuracy and destructive capacity of their dwindling defensive arsenal. The weapons thus deployed included explosive-laden fighter and bomber aircraft, manned rocket bomb gliders, and manned torpedoes that were crashed into enemy targets by crewmen fully cognizant that successful completion of their missions would entail their own deaths. Referred to by the Japanese as *tai'atari* ('body crashing') or, more commonly (and euphemistically) as *tokkō* ('special attack'), these so-called 'suicide tactics' were responsible for the deaths of over 5000 Allied personnel and the sinking or severe damaging of nearly 200 warships. Over 6000 Japanese *tokkōtai* ('special attack unit' or 'kamikaze') pilots and sailors—hundreds of them graduates of the finest universities in the land—sacrificed their lives carrying out these missions. In *Kamikaze, Cherry Blossoms and Nationalisms: The Militarization of Aesthetics in Japanese History*, anthropologist Emiko Ohnuki-Tierney analyzes this legacy—and the cultural and aesthetic factors behind it—in an attempt to answer a question that is as pressingly relevant in our post-9/11 world as it was in the Western Pacific in 1944–45: What could possibly motivate intelligent, well-educated young men to turn themselves into human bombs of their own free will?

In an online interview, Ohnuki-Tierney states that she started the project that eventually became this book "just want[ing] to have fun writing about cherry blossoms—and then I discovered how the military abused the symbolism of the cherry blossom—and the unexpected angles and results of the research" (Ohnuki-Tierney, 2004). The book certainly

reads like it was written by someone thoroughly enjoying what they were doing and clearly in their element expounding on a dizzying variety of esoteric topics. In the process of attempting to answer the above-mentioned question, Ohnuki-Tierney takes the reader on a long, winding stroll through the well-appointed garden of an erudite intellect, and she rarely misses an opportunity to stop and smell the roses. *Kamikaze, Cherry Blossoms and Nationalisms* is a wide-ranging and multi-focused work that is not so much one book as a series of short books (or long essays)—one each for: the aesthetics of cherry blossoms (Part 1); the political and theological evolution of the institution of the Emperor (Part 2); the *tokkōtai* program itself and fairly detailed profiles of some pilots (Part 3); and finally, in Part 4, a potpourri of musings including: the inappropriateness of Western schema and mainstream theories of nationalism and ethnicity (Gellner, Hobsbawm, Arnold, and others) in studies of Japanese collective identity; the culpability of wartime Japanese intelligentsia in contributing to the militaristic transformation of Japanese aesthetics; and a treatise on the semiotic concept of *méconnaissance* (the simultaneous misreading of symbols by different actors). Ohnuki-Tierney frequently displays a very intellectually stimulating and clever, almost Umberto Eco-like virtuosity in stringing together such seemingly disparate elements and lands the occasional body blow, but the knockout punch—the breakthrough for which the reader reads on and on in hopes of getting—is never really achieved, and lengthy passages of the book (a three-page riff on Tokugawa meat-eating taboos comes to mind as one notable example) often left this reviewer scratching his head and wondering "What does this have to do with kamikaze?"

The main thrust of Ohnuki-Tierney's thesis—taking up no less than half the book (Parts 1 and 2)—is dedicated to a highly detailed and rigorously documented semiotic analysis of Japanese culture, centered on the aesthetic evolution of the cherry blossom as a religious, spiritual, cultural, and political icon. This process is traced from ancient Shintō origins as a symbol of rebirth and bountiful rice harvests, to use of the flower during the early medieval period as an assertion of Japaneseness vis-à-vis the overwhelming cultural influence of Tang China, through idealization in the late Edo period nativist movements of Moto'ori Norinaga and the Kokugaku scholars, and finally, to the blossom's metamorphosis into a ceremonial fetish in service of the Japanese militarists' *pro Mikado et patria mori* 20th century death cult.

It is in discussion of this last topic in her chapter 'The Militarization of the Masses' (pp. 125–153) that I believe Ohnuki-Tierney comes closest to hitting her ultimately elusive homerun. During this discussion, she makes the highly astute (and, in my opinion, courageous) observation that the collective psychological and aesthetic foundation for Japan's militaristic death cult was laid not during Japanese fascism's most frenziedly goosestepping years of the 1930s and 1940s, but rather, with the appearance some five decades earlier of the Meiji Constitution. Abolishing the 250-year-long Tokugawa caste system but falling short of providing a framework capable of creating and sustaining democracy, the new constitution instead promulgated a