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An Introduction to Yōkai Culture
Monsters, Ghosts, and Outsiders in Japanese History
Komatsu Kazuhiko
Translated by Yoda Hiroko and Matt Alt

About the Author
Komatsu Kazuhiko is Director-General of the International Research Center for Japanese Studies. A folklorist and cultural anthropologist, he has been honored as a Person of Cultural Merit by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

Contents
Part 1. An Invitation to Yōkai Culture
1. What Is Yōkai Culture?
2. Yōkai Beyond Time and Borders
Part 2. On the Trail of Yōkai Studies
3. Tsukimono
4. Yōkai
5. Kappa
6. Oni
7. Tengu and Yamauba
8. Yūrei
9. Ijin and Ikenie: Outsiders and Sacrifices
10. Boundaries

About the Book
The strange presences and phenomena known as yōkai have captivated Japan for the nation’s entire recorded history, from ominous appearances in ancient chronicles to starring roles in the biggest summer films. Particularly following the influx of Western ideas in the nineteenth century, yōkai also proved an irresistible topic for folklorists, anthropologists and other scholars seeking insight into the Japanese psyche. Over the generations, yōkai studies developed into a field so broad and rich that it was daunting for the uninitiated—until now.

An Introduction to Yōkai Culture is more than just a catalog of yōkai, or even a history of yōkai in art and literature. Written by Komatsu Kazuhiko, Japan’s premier yōkai scholar, the book is an invitation to the tradition of yōkai studies itself. Komatsu’s insightful and critical perspective renders this fascinating side of Japanese culture more accessible to English speakers than ever before.

Each chapter explores a different facet of yōkai culture, from iconic creatures like fierce oni and haughty avian tengu to more abstract concepts like outsiders and boundaries. Early modern naturalists debating the reality of kappa; folklorists attempting to reconstruct the prehistory of Japanese society from spirit possession beliefs; literary scholars finding new perspectives on premodern Japanese gender roles in tales of fierce yamauba mountain hags; contemporary researchers applying the latest analytical techniques to Edo period ghost stories.

All these and more are placed in their proper context, including valuable summaries of individual papers for those interested in going deeper. Komatsu also offers trenchant assessments of the contributions made by towering figures like Inoue Enryō and Orikuchi Shinobu, as well as candid reflections on his own intellectual development as a scholar in the field.

Marshaling vast amounts of scholarship into a compact and accessible form, An Introduction to Yōkai Culture is a distillation of the knowledge and experience Komatsu has accumulated over his storied academic career—a career that has encompassed everything from fieldwork in Micronesia to his current position as Director-General of the International Research Center for Japanese Studies.

This invaluable book provides stimulating and thought-provoking reading for everyone from casual fans of yōkai-related anime and manga to established scholars of Japanese culture.
Myth and Deity in Japan
The Interplay of Kami and Buddhas
Kamata Tōji
Translated by Gaynor Sekimori

About the Author
Kamata Tōji is currently professor emeritus, Kyoto University, and a guest professor at the Sophia University Institute of Grief Care. His research interests range widely over religion, folklore studies, Japanese intellectual history, comparative civilizations and other fields. He holds a Ph.D. in literature.

Contents
1. The Mechanism of Combination
2. The Encounter of Shinto and Buddhism in the Early Japanese State
3. The New Buddhism of the Heian Period
4. Kami and Buddhas in the Medieval Period
5. Nativist Studies and a New View of Kami-Buddha Combination
6. Epilogue: Toward a New Kami-Buddha Combination

About the Book
Shinto is a tradition native to Japan that arose naturally on the eastern fringe of the Eurasian continent and was woven over many years into the fabric of people’s everyday lives. The “eight million kami” (gods and goddesses) of Shinto, however, originated not just in Japan but also India, China, Korea and the Middle East. This, in part, is because when Buddhism entered the country in the sixth century, the two religions—rather than competing with or seeking to marginalize the other—coalesced, embracing many other folk deities as well to create a singular combinatory religious culture that continues to permeate Japan’s cultural life today.

Originally published in Japanese in 2009 by Kamata Tōji, one of the country’s most knowledgeable, penetrating, and eclectic scholars of Japanese religion and spirituality, this work traces the encounter and interplay between kami and buddhas over Japan’s long history, beginning with their portrayals in the eighth-century *Kojiki* and the *Nihon shoki*, highlighting the relationship between myth and political power. The author examines the personal aspirations of key figures in the evolution of *shinbutsu shūgō*, or kami-buddha combination, and discusses major reform movements, the banning of Christianity and the secularization of religion during the years of Tokugawa rule, the forced separation of Shinto and Buddhism in the early years of Japan’s modernization, attempts by nativist scholars to provide an intellectual grounding for research into Japanese religions, and the role of religion and myth in the prewar and postwar eras.

This book, translated into English by Gaynor Sekimori—herself an authority on Japanese religious history—offers a kaleidoscopic and engaging overview of Japan’s religious legacy as well as insights into how religion can become a force for peaceful coexistence in contemporary society rather than a source of violent extremism.
The Entrepreneur Who Built Modern Japan

Shibusawa Eiichi

Shimada Masakazu
Translated by Paul Narum

About the Author

Shimada Masakazu, born in Tokyo in 1961, received an M.A. in economics from Waseda University and a Ph.D. in management from Meiji University. A visiting scholar at the University of Michigan in 1998, he is currently a professor of business administration at Bunkyo Gakuin University. He conducts historical research on Shibusawa Eiichi’s corporate and social activities.

Contents

Introduction
1. From Farm Boy to Shogunate Vassal: Seeking an Outlet for His Talents
2. Leader of the Meiji Business World: Developing the Mechanisms for an Open Economy
3. Shibusawa’s Personal Network
4. Politics for the Benefit of the Private Sector
5. Contributing to Nation Building through Social and Public Enterprises
Epilogue: Shibusawa’s Vision of Modern Society

About the Book

This fascinating biography of Shibusawa Eiichi (1840–1931), the pioneering entrepreneur who laid the roots of modern Japan, is an unprecedented study of his life and business. It traces Shibusawa’s childhood and youth in the turbulent years before the Meiji Restoration, when he witnessed the decay of Japan’s feudal society; the honing of his financial and business skills as a retainer in the Hitotsubashi clan; his lengthy visit to Europe for the Paris International Exposition, where he experienced at first hand the benefits of modernization; his service in the new Meiji government’s Ministry of Finance, when he was involved in the establishment of the First National Bank; his abandonment of politics and successful venture into the world of business; and his emergence as a powerful and revered business figure in Japan in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Through his involvement in the founding and management of a large number of companies, many of which have become household names today, he helped to build the solid foundations of modern corporate Japan. The book also examines Shibusawa’s active involvement in public and social enterprises for the betterment of society as a whole, and his foresighted and enlightened championing of such social causes as women’s education, the rights of the disabled, and workers’ rights, as well as his philosophizing in his later years about the role of religion in society.

Although Shibusawa was a man of action rather than letters, an entrepreneur rather than a thinker, he recognized early on that Japan needed to change and applied his intellect to steer the nation in the right direction. In the stormy era in which he lived, his ideas did not always catch on. But in troubled times like the present, when the limits of capitalism are being seen around the world, his methods and insistence on the inseparability of economics and morals remain as relevant as ever.
The Self-Defense Forces and Postwar Politics in Japan

Sado Akihiro
Translated by Noda Makito

About the Author

Sado Akihiro, born in 1958, is a professor at the School of Business and Public Policies of Chukyo University, Nagoya. He has extensively studied Japan’s political and diplomatic histories, particularly its postwar security policies. Sado has published a number of books on the history of the Japan Self-Defense Forces, including *Jieitai-shi: Boei seisaku no 70-nen* [History of the Japan Self-Defense Forces: seventy years of defense policy] (2015).

In 1947, Japan eternally renounced war and the possession of armed forces with its new constitution. How, then, did the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) survive and, moreover, evolve over seventy years to become the prominent presence they are today? This book reviews the JSDF’s history chiefly from the viewpoint of the uniquely Japanese practice of civilian control, in which politics played only a minor role. Civilian control has long been conducted through restrictions imposed on the JSDF by civil officials of the national bureaucracy, based on lessons gleaned from the arbitrary conduct of the military in pre-World War II days. The JSDF have also been subject to financial restrictions that limit expenditures to one percent of the country’s GNP.

Circumstances surrounding the JSDF have changed drastically in recent years, both domestically and internationally. They include new challenges such as post-9/11 international terrorism, North Korea’s aggressive missile-launching experiments and nuclear development, and China’s increased military presence in Asia. Another aspect is the immensely improved public perception of the JSDF due to a series of successful PKO activities and disaster relief/rescue operations. According to the author, however, by far the most important issue is that of the position of the JSDF within Japan’s state apparatus. The traditional negative civilian control, which was essentially geared to avoid using the JSDF, is now taken over by positive civilian control, which is concerned with how best to use the JSDF.

To address these crucial developments surrounding the JSDF that occurred after the book’s Japanese original was published in 2006, the author wrote a completely new postscript. Thus, this English-language version is the most updated attempt at responding to overseas concerns about the JSDF’s role, either from those who fear a resurgence of Japanese militarism or from those who hope Japan will play a larger role in international security.

The book comes with a list of suggested readings as well as a detailed appendix that contains, among other resources, the texts and appended tables of all five National Defense Program Guidelines, the three Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation, and the National Security Strategy, which are by far the most basic and important documents on Japan’s defense policies.
Isoda Michifumi introduces a facet of the Japanese spirit not frequently highlighted, yet one that is acutely appropriate in today’s world: selflessness. The author describes his goal for this new publication, writing: “I have waited eagerly for the day when Unsung Heroes of Old Japan would be translated into English and made available to people around the world. I wrote the book with the faint hope that people might one day become more like the men and women portrayed here. Whether humanity has any universal values, I can’t say. But looking back over the sweep of human history, I am convinced that values like those shown here result in happiness for the individual and society.” Following publication, the story of Kokudaya Jūzaburō, one of the unsung heroes portrayed, was also made into a movie entitled Tono, risoku de gozaru (The Magnificent Nine).

Unsung Heroes of Old Japan brings to life three selfless individuals from the Edo period that were, however unintentionally, influential in establishing welfare and social values in Japan at a time when the lower classes were suppressed by a bureaucracy of former samurai. We first meet Kokudaya Jūzaburō, a sake distiller determined to save his impoverished town from extinction. He collaborated with a like-minded tea merchant to implement an intricate financial strategy, both risking personal bankruptcy and the separation of their own families to achieve perpetual financial security for the greater good. What the entire town accomplished through mutual self-sacrifice and determination was miraculous.

We then meet Isoda’s second unsung hero, the Confucian Nakane Tōri, who eluded the limelight for centuries, leaving but a faint trail for modern historians to follow. His poetic genius was fueled by Zen training and a voracious study of Chinese and philosophy, yet it was his rejection of acclaim or compensation that produced the lesson from which we can all learn.

Finally, we encounter the third character, a heroine this time—beautiful Ōtagaki Rengetsu, Buddhist nun, waka poet and potter. Unwaveringly rejecting vanity and comfort, she shared all but a morsel of her hard-earned income with those in need. Her compassion for others leaves one speechless. These three figures represent lives based on humility and kindness, creating a legacy for all members of today’s global society.
About the Book

The troubles and disappointing performance of some of Japan’s corporate giants have dominated newspaper headlines. And yet Japan still has the third-biggest economy in the world. What underlies the strength of the Japanese economy? Large enterprises in fact account for no more than 11,000 of the 3.86 million companies in Japan—99.7% are actually small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), many of which maintain a low public profile. In *Global Class Japanese SMEs*, Kurosaki Makoto, a professor at Teikyo University, explains how 24 Japanese SMEs have gained high market share and become indispensable partners for larger firms.

The importance of SMEs was made most evident recently by the Great East Japan Earthquake. Many small businesses that manufacture automobile parts and other components in the affected regions were forced to shut down, bringing manufacturing by Japanese and international automakers to a halt. It was a stark reminder that small local factories can have a huge impact on both leading industries and society at large.

This book provides a useful guide for policymakers as well as business leaders, SME managers and employees. It is divided into five chapters, one for each type of SME. Kurosaki explains that some companies have become world leaders by leveraging Japan’s traditional technologies, while others have gained a competitive edge by developing highly specialized or advanced technologies that no other company can offer. Some SMEs occupy niche markets, whereas others have survived by evolving and adapting their technologies and expertise. *Global Class Japanese SMEs* is a deeply informative examination of little-known Japanese SMEs. It also offers many hints on how to develop successful global operations, which rest to a great extent on how a company is managed, how passionate and motivated business leaders are, and how competent and skilled the entrepreneurs are.

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1. World Leaders Employing Traditional Technologies:
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5. Four Companies Taking on the World with Highly-Advanced Technologies:
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7. Controlling Niche Markets Inaccessible to Big Firms:
8. Six Companies—“No Need for an Administrative Department”
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   Four Companies, Including One that “Will Not Move the Operational Core to China”
The Happy Youth of a Desperate Country
The Disconnect between Japan’s Malaise and Its Millennials

Furuichi Noritoshi
Translated by Raj Mahtani

About the Author
Born in 1985 in Tokyo, Furuichi Noritoshi is a sociologist and a senior researcher at the Keio Research Institute at Shonan Fujisawa Campus. A prolific author and TV celebrity, member of a committee of experts at governmental conferences, and a recipient of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science’s Ikushi Prize, he drew wide attention with the publication of Zetsubō no kuni no kōfuku na wakamono-tachi [The Happy Youth of a Desperate Country] (Kodansha, 2011), a work published in his mid-twenties. He continues to be in the limelight as a “young” scholar of Japan’s youth society.

Contents
1. The Rise and Fall of “Young People”
2. The Restless Young
3. The “Collapse” of “Japan”?
4. The Youths Who Stand Up for Japan
5. The Great East Japan Earthquake and the Young People Who Met Expectations
6. The Happy Youth of a Desperate Country
7. Supplementary Chapter: A Conversation with Takeru Satō

About the Book
Young people living today in Japan, a socially polarized society, have been reported as unhappy. According to surveys, however, 80 percent of them are currently “satisfied” with life. By drawing attention to this contradiction, The Happy Youth of a Desperate Country, by sociologist Furuichi Noritoshi, has revolutionized the discourse on youth theory.

Opening with an exploration of a meta-youth theory, which takes us on a whirlwind tour through the history of the public debate on young people underway since the Meiji period, the author reveals, with sober clarity, how the rhetoric on young people, or the so-called “youth theories,” have been essentially opportunistic: a means of soul-searching for adults, and even a marketing strategy, among other things.

The book goes on to investigate numerous arguments, including those claiming that today’s young people are introverts and buying fewer consumer goods. The portrait that arises as a result is that of a generation content with life in the here and now, but doubtful about the future—a future in which the steady impoverishment of the fruits of the “economic miracle” realized by their parents’ generation appears inevitable, exacerbated by a declining birthrate, the aging of society, and other issues such as the rise of NEETs (those not in education, employment or training) and the low-class elderly, an age group that also comprises the drifting homeless.

A sweeping reference work drawing from a wealth of statistics and perspectives, The Happy Youth of a Desperate Country is also sprinkled with up-close interviews and anecdotal accounts of the author as participant observer in various scenes, including a gathering of young people living it up in Shibuya on the night of the FIFA World Cup. In addition, in an exclusive interview with the popular actor Satō Takeru, the author delves into the mindset of young people living in Japan today, a time when, as the author puts it, the ability to play the Wii with one’s lover and friends exemplifies a decent lifestyle.

This English-language edition is based on a reissue of the book that contains approximately two hundred additional footnotes. It is the definitive work for anyone seeking to acquire a wide-ranging grasp of Japan and its young people from a defining voice of their generation.
About the Author

Kitaoka Shinichi

About the Book

Self-Respect and Independence of Mind
The Challenge of Fukuzawa Yukichi

Kitaoka Shinichi
Translated by James M. Vardaman

Fukuzawa became widely known in Japan for his book Condition in the West, essential reading for Japanese in the years after Japan opened to international trade. Insights into his views are available through An Encouragement of Learning, An Outline of a Theory of Civilization, and The Autobiography of Fukuzawa Yukichi. While interesting in and of themselves, however, these works do not fully convey the importance of Fukuzawa as an intellectual who was actively involved in the public issues of his day. What has been missing until now is a comprehensive consideration of Fukuzawa the man, the thinking that appeared in his major early works, the later newspaper articles and speeches that laid out practical policies for the evolving Meiji government, and the contemporary social and political background.

Kitaoka Shinichi bases the title Self-Respect and Independence of Mind [Dokuritsu jison] on Fukuzawa’s strongly held belief that “a nation’s independence stands upon the independence of the self,” meaning that the independence of a nation is dependent on the cultivation of individuals who respect themselves. Kitaoka’s underlying theme is that Fukuzawa attempted to find a solution to the problem of how a non-Western nation, facing the advance of Western nations, could maintain its independence, modernize its economic and political foundations, and take its place among the advanced countries, which remains a significant issue for many non-Western nations today.
Bushido and the Art of Living
An Inquiry into Samurai Values
Alexander Bennett

Hardcover | ISBN 978-4-916055-86-6 | 178 pages | 220mm (h) x 148mm (w) | March 2017

About the Author

Alexander Bennett is a professor at Kansai University’s Division of International Affairs. He is also Vice President of the International Naginata Federation, on the International Committee of the All Japan Kendo Federation, Director of the Japanese Academy of Budo, and represents New Zealand Kendo as Head Coach.

Contents

Introduction: Ever Changing Bushido
1. Zanshin: Lingering Mind and the Essence of Bushido
2. Koyo-gunkan and the Ideal Leader
3. Dead Ready to Live: Hagakure and Budo-shoshinshu
4. Live and Let Live: The Life-Giving Sword
5. Bushido: The Dark and the Light

About the Book

What is bushido, and what exactly are the cultural systems and traditions that can help us understand its true nature? In other words, what are the martial arts? This book addresses these questions.

Born in New Zealand, the author came to Japan as a high school exchange student and encountered kendo, or Japanese fencing. From then on, he became enamored with the martial arts, mastering several styles while pursuing in-depth studies and research into bushido, or the way of the warrior.

As an expert who has lived in Japan and practiced martial arts for a long time, the author provides illuminating insights into the essence of bushido, which he takes as a martial arts mindset. He explains how, as an important cultural aspect of Japan, it can teach us about not only uniquely Japanese mental traits, but also show us the path to becoming well-rounded and praiseworthy individuals.

Filled with a deep understanding of and love for the martial arts, this book is a must-read for not only readers who are interested in martial arts, but also those who want to know more about the nature, background and qualities of bushido.
Perspectives on Sino-Japanese Diplomatic Relations

The Yomiuri Shimbun
Political News Department
Translated by John Rossman

Hardcover | ISBN 978-4-916055-87-3 | 272 pages | 210mm (h) × 148mm (w) | March 2017

About the Book

In the post-Cold War era, East Asia has emerged as the growth center of the world. The region is home to old powers and new, but none make the headlines more than China, for reasons both good and bad. Emerging from many years of hardship, China has enjoyed a rapid rise, becoming the second-largest economy in the world, but its ascent has not been without growing pains. As China struggles to come to grips with its new place in the world, so too do the other members of the international community—none more so than long-time rival Japan, which thanks to China has recently been relegated to third place in the global economic rankings. Since the end of World War II and following its own economic miracle, Japan has established itself as a respected and influential leader in East Asia. Although its economy is mature, and its society both aging and shrinking, Japan is still a prominent member of the region and the global community. Moreover, as a result of its greatest political stability in many years, Japan has been able to revise its security legislation, thus enabling it to make greater contributions than ever before to maintaining the security and stability of the region.

With Asia’s largest economy and now a strengthened military as well, China is trying to change the established international order via aggressive diplomatic and military policies. Meanwhile, under the Abe Shinzo administration, Japan has been standing up to China’s aggressive stance. Nevertheless, the coexistence of the two countries is essential to the peace and prosperity of East Asia, and China and Japan must work together in pursuit of a mutually beneficial relationship based on common strategic interests. Perspectives on Sino-Japanese Diplomatic Relations is a compilation of articles written by The Yomiuri Shimbun Political News Department as part of its “Frontline Politics” series, which provides an in-depth look at relations between China and Japan, including flashpoints and the involvement of other stakeholders. This work, which consists of seven chapters, examines the diplomatic strategies taken by the two sides, the Senkaku Islands, the Japan–U.S. Alliance, cybersecurity, ASEAN and Australia, regional economic partnerships, and the dangers of China’s territorial aspirations.

About the Author

The Yomiuri Shimbun is a Japanese national newspaper with a 140-year history. Through three headquarters and regional bureaus throughout Japan and major cities of the world, it reports on domestic and foreign issues in morning and evening editions. Its morning print run alone exceeds 9,000,000 copies, giving the newspaper the largest circulation in the world.

Contents

1. Cold War between Japan and China
2. Senkaku Turbulence
3. Japan–U.S. Alliance and Okinawa
4. Hidden War
5. Cooperation by Japan, the U.S., Australia, and ASEAN Encircling China
6. The Ruthless Economic Battle between Japan and America’s TPP and China’s AIIB
7. China Needs to Learn from Showa History
Japan in Asia
Post-Cold-War Diplomacy
Tanaka Akihiko
Translated by Jean Connell Hoff
Available in July

About the Author

Tanaka Akihiko is President of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo. He is the author of The New Middle Ages: The World System in the 21st Century. In 2012 he received the Medal of Honor with Purple Ribbon for his academic achievements.

Contents
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Politics

Official development assistance (ODA), direct investment in Southeast Asia, participation in the Cambodian peace process, peacekeeping operations (PKO), the founding of APEC and other large-scale regional frameworks, the response to the Asian economic crisis, grappling with the “history” problem, trilateral summits: these have all been important milestones for postwar Japan—and especially for post-Cold-War Japan—in its efforts to rediscover Asia and Japan’s place in it.

Tanaka Akihiko traces the role of diplomacy in redefining the role of Japan in Asia from the 1977 Fukuda Doctrine of “heart-to-heart contact” between Japan and its Southeast Asian neighbors to the Abe administration’s negotiations to settle the comfort women issue with South Korea at the end of 2015. But he also looks at the transformation that Asia itself underwent during that period. The Cold War in Asia was not a simple bipolar confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union and their allies. The situation there was complicated by the presence of China, the importance of nationalism for countries that had once been colonies, and the need to escape third-world status and become economically developed. Asia during the Cold War, especially East Asia, was a divided region; few countries had normal international relations with China. But in the late 20th century, Asia underwent three structural changes—the end of the Cold War, globalization, and democratization. The result has been dynamic growth in tandem with deepening economic interdependence and the development of a complex web of regional institutions among Asian countries.

What has been Japan’s role in this increasingly interconnected Asia? What has Japan achieved—or failed to achieve—in Asia? This book is a history of post-Cold-War international politics, the themes of which are crises, responses to crises, and institution-building to prevent crises before they happen, aimed to provide an overview of political trends in Asia and Japan’s diplomatic response to them.
Toward the Abe Statement on the 70th Anniversary of the End of World War II
Lessons from the 20th Century and a Vision for the 21st Century for Japan

The Advisory Panel on the History of the 20th Century and on Japan’s Role and the World Order in the 21st Century
Translated by Tara Cannon

Introduction
1. How should we view the path the world and Japan took during the 20th century? What are the lessons we should draw from the experiences in the 20th century?
2. What is the path that Japan has taken in the 70 years since the war’s end in light of the lessons learned from the 20th century? In particular, how should the commitment to peace, economic development and international contributions by postwar Japan be evaluated?
3. Seventy years of reconciliation with the United States, Australia, and Europe.
4. Seventy years of reconciliation with China, the Republic of Korea, and other Asian countries.
5. What is our vision of Asia and the world of the 21st century, drawing on the lessons learned from the 20th century? What are the contributions that Japan should make? What are the specific measures that Japan should take on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II?

About the Book
In 1995 and 2005, Japan’s prime ministers released landmark statements to mark the 50th and 60th anniversaries of the end of World War II. In 2015, as the 70th anniversary approached, many around Asia and the world were focused on what sort of statement Prime Minister Abe Shinzo would release. The media was filled with speculation about whether his statement would uphold previous prime ministers’ statements and include words such as “aggression,” “colonial rule,” or “apology.”

It was in this context that Prime Minister Abe himself commissioned a panel of Japan’s foremost experts—including professors of history and political science, business leaders, and journalists—to look back on the 20th century and the path Japan followed before and after the war, and look ahead to the role Japan should play in the 21st century. The statement he ultimately released drew heavily from the report compiled by this advisory panel.

This book brings together the presentations delivered to the panel as well as frank commentary by the panel members as they explore the history of Japan in the 20th century, lessons to be drawn from Japan’s experiences, its reconciliation with both Western and Asian countries, and the contributions that Japan should make to the world going forward.

The wide-ranging perspectives compiled here from some of Japan’s most distinguished voices provide invaluable insights for those wishing to better understand not only the background to the Abe Statement but also Japan’s trajectory and its place within the international community.
Human Resource Development in Twentieth-Century Japan

Inoki Takenori
Translated by Tony Gonzalez

About the Book

Between the late nineteenth and late twentieth centuries, Japan’s educational and industrial systems underwent fundamental changes. In the Edo period (1603–1868), workers typically entered their trade at a young age, lived in their employer’s home, and built skills gradually through a long apprenticeship. Education occurred through a diverse array of public and private institutions, from the domain schools where the children of samurai studied to the privately run terakoya that brought literacy to common townsfolk. As industrialization swept the country starting in the late 1800s, however, apprentices turned into commuting workers selected on the basis of academic testing. Factories increased the need for mass education, and the nation’s schools became increasingly uniform and systematized. Education was thus shaped by industry, but the educational background of the workforce also profoundly impacted the potential of industry.

Inoki Takenori tracks these intertwined trajectories of change to elucidate the human resource development methods that underlie Japan’s economy. Despite remarkable transformations, he argues that two features have been present at least since the Edo period, and in fact have been responsible for much of the country’s economic success. These are broad opportunity and fierce competition. Contrary to the stereotype that Japanese workers advance through their careers on a well-oiled escalator of seniority, Inoki makes a forceful case that advancement is and has always been based on merit, among blue-collar, white-collar, and public sector workers alike. In top Edo merchant houses, just one in twenty apprentices advanced to the position of head clerk; similarly, modern bureaucrats battle internally for the limited number of top-level promotions available to them.

The view of human resource development presented here is broad. Topics discussed include the impact of the military on Japan’s industrial workforce; the merits of performance-based salary systems; the economic logic of higher education; and the idea that Japan’s revolving-door system, which rewards public sector retirees with positions at public corporations, is a rational mechanism for attracting high-quality workers to government jobs. Above all, Inoki emphasizes the importance of on-the-job training rooted in a commitment to long-term growth. If Japan is to sustain its economy, he argues, it must not abandon this strong tradition.
Japan’s Wooden Heritage
A Journey Through a Thousand Years of Architecture
Fujimori Terunobu
Fujitsuka Mitsumasa
Koshihara Mikio
Translated by Hart Larrabee

Paperback | ISBN 978-4-916055-82-8 |
204 pages | 257mm (h) x 182mm (w) | March 2017

About the Author
Fujimori Terunobu is professor emeritus at the University of Tokyo. His specialty is modern and contemporary architecture. His numerous publications include Meiji no Tōkyō keikaku [Meiji Plans for Tokyo], Kenchiku tantei no bōken Tōkyō hen [Adventures of an Architectural Detective: Tokyo].

Fujitsuka Mitsumasa is a photographer known for his dynamic, journalistic shots of structures and environments. He is the author of Dō natte ru no? mijika na tekunorōji [What Makes It Work?: Familiar Technology] and the Kenchiku rifuru [Architectural Riffle] series.

Koshihara Mikio is a professor at the University of Tokyo Institute of Industrial Science and Director-General of Team Timberize. He investigates the potential of a variety of materials from a structural perspective. His publications include Toshi mokuzō no vijon to gijutsu [Vision and Technology for Metropolitan Timber Architecture].

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18. The Ferryman’s Hut at Suge
19. The Ō-dō (Great Hall) at Fuki-ji Temple
20. The Five-tiered Pagoda at Rurikō-ji Temple
21. The Tsubokawa House
22. The Jo-an Tea Ceremony House
23. Itsukushima Shrine

About the Book
Japan’s Wooden Heritage: A Journey Through a Thousand Years of Architecture brings together essays by architectural historian Fujimori Terunobu, photographs by Fujitsuka Mitsumasa, and commentary by structural engineer Koshihara Mikio that originally appeared in Kajō-gahō, Japan’s premier magazine of art and culture, supplemented with additional essays by Fujitsuka Mitsumasa.

Japan’s world-renowned tradition of wooden architecture has frequently been the subject of both specialist and popular texts. Indeed, from ancient Shinto shrine buildings to imposing Buddhist temples, rustic farmhouses to merchant homes, multi-tiered pagodas to tea ceremony spaces, the stylistic breadth of traditional Japanese architecture across the centuries offers a dazzling array of material through which to glimpse Japan’s history and culture.

Whether lavishly photographed coffee table books, technical treatments filled with meticulous diagrams, or ethnographic works focusing on regional variation, there is no shortage of books surveying outstanding examples of traditional Japanese architecture.

What distinguishes this volume is its selection of 23 locations—including well-known temples and shrines but also lesser-known structures such as a kabuki theater, covered bridges, and an old ferryman’s hut—to represent a broad scope of architectural styles, functions, and time periods; the outstanding photographs; and the distinct approaches taken by each of the three essayists.

As an architectural historian, Fujimori engagingly illuminates where each building stands in the context of the evolution of Japanese architecture from early pit dwellings and raised-floor buildings through the elaborate complexity of the Edo period. Focusing on origins, he places each building in a deeper context beyond its superficial characteristics.

Fujitsuka’s essays describe his efforts to capture the essence of each site through his photography, recounting episodes from the shoots that give a visceral sense of being there. His photographs reveal new aspects of even familiar buildings by employing rarely seen camera angles and his particular sensitivity to light and shadow.

Koshihara brings the perspective of a structural engineer to each building, describing distinctive construction methods and how they contribute to earthquake resistance.

Filled with new discoveries for the reader, this book will appeal to anyone with an interest in Japan’s architecture, history and culture.
Soetsu Yanagi
Selected Essays on Japanese Folk Crafts

Yanagi Soetsu
Translated by Michael Brase

Hardcover | ISBN 978-4-916055-75-0 | 246 pages | 220mm (h) x 148mm (w) | March 2017

About the Author

Yanagi Soetsu (1889–1961) was the founder of the Japanese folk crafts movement, establishing the Japan Folk Crafts Museum in 1936. Having devoted his life to a true understanding of handicrafts, in 1957 he was designated a Person of Cultural Merit by the Japanese government. 1972 saw the publication of his widely influential The Unknown Craftsman: A Japanese Insight into Beauty.

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7. The Characteristics of Kogin
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13. Washi
14. Seeing and Knowing
15. A Letter to My Korean Friends
16. The Japan Folk Crafts Museum

About the Book

Japanese folk crafts were considered artistically insignificant until their discovery by Soetsu Yanagi in the early 20th century. It was Yanagi who first came to appreciate the wholesome beauty created by humble craftsmen and craftswomen working unselfconsciously on the same objects day after day, year after year. To bring these crafts to the notice of the world, Yanagi established the Japan Folk Crafts Museum in 1936 and devoted himself wholeheartedly to promoting handicrafts through his writings and the organizing of exhibitions.

In the essays in this book, Yanagi passionately expounds his philosophy of folk crafts through his discussion of textiles, ceramics, wood and lacquer, metal, sculpture and pictorial art. While his principal focus is on Japanese handicrafts, he does not disguise his love of Korean folk art, as evinced by the fact that he established a Korean folk crafts museum in Seoul in 1924.

One highlight of the book is Yanagi’s insightful discourse on the Japanese aesthetic perspective; another is his account of his discovery of the 18th and early 19th century sculptor Mokujiki, and the detective work he undertook to bring Mokujiki’s lost sculpture to light and learn more about the man himself, who until then had been an unknown entity. Altogether, from subtropical Okinawa to the northern snow-laden extremes of Hokkaido, the book provides an incisive insight into the world of Japanese handicrafts.
The History of US-Japan Relations
From Perry to the Present
Edited by Iokibe Makoto
English translation edited by Tosh Minohara
Published by Palgrave Macmillan

Examining the 160-year relationship between America and Japan, this edited volume deals in depth with the evolution of the relationship of these two nations on the opposite sides of the Pacific, from the very first encounter in the early 19th century through the major international shifts in the post-9/11 era.

This book traces the emergence of Japan in the wake of the 1905 Russo-Japanese War and the development of U.S. policies toward East Asia at the turn of the century. It goes on to examine the impact of World War I upon Asia, the Washington Treaty system, the immigration issue and the gradual deterioration of US-Japan relations during the 1930s. It also deals with the difficult period of US-Japan relations in the Pacific War as well as the Occupation, and the country’s postwar resurgence, democratization and economic recovery, as well as the various challenges facing the current bilateral relationship as it further progresses into the 21st century. This is a must-read for those interested in the history of this important relationship as well as for scholars of diplomatic history and international relations.

“This is a wonderful book that provides a fresh perspective into the current state of US-Japan relations by placing it within the greater historical context of nearly two centuries of political and diplomatic interactions between the two nations across the Pacific.”

—Watanabe Akio, Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo, Japan
Japan-China Relations in the Modern Era

Kokubun Ryosei  
Soeya Yoshihide  
Takahara Akio  
Kawashima Shin

Translated by Keith Krulak  
Published by Routledge

From before the dawn of recorded history, there has been a rich flow of interaction between Japan and China. Japan has long learned many things from Chinese civilization, and in the modern era China began to learn from Japan. In the 21st century, however, China surpassed Japan in terms of GDP in 2010 to become the world’s second-largest economy. Amid this rapid rise of China and what has been called a power shift in Japan-China relations, there are signs that bilateral tensions are rising and that the image each country has of the other is worsening.

This volume provides a cogent analysis of the politics of the bilateral relationship, explaining the past, present and future of Japan-China relations during a time of massive political, social and economic changes. Written by a team of internationally renowned Japanese scholars and based on sources not available in English, this book is essential reading for students and scholars of Japan-China relations, Japan’s international relations, and the politics and international relations of East Asia.

About the Author

Kokubun Ryosei is President of National Defense Academy of Japan.

Soeya Yoshihide is a professor in the Faculty of Law, Keio University.

Takahara Akio is a professor at the Graduate School of Law and Politics, the University of Tokyo.

Kawashima Shin is a professor at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the University of Tokyo.

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6. Japan-China Relations at the Start of the 21st Century—The Rocky Path to a Strategic Mutually Beneficial Relationship
7. The Current State of Japan-China Relations—Navigating a Fragile Relationship
The Remarkable History of Japan-US Relations

Kosaka Masataka
Translated by Terry Gallagher

The United States and Japan both appeared on the world stage much later than other advanced countries, the former a relatively young nation and the latter emerging from a seclusion policy it had maintained for over two centuries. How did these two countries build ties, and in what ways have they fostered their relationship over the years? To answer these questions, we need to understand their relationship in the present day.

This is a historical text written from the perspective of a Japanese political scientist covering the dawn of US-Japanese relations from the time of Commodore Matthew C. Perry’s arrival at Uraga, Japan in 1853 until the end of World War I in 1918. At the beginning of this period, both countries were still young in international relations terms, as they were relative latecomers to the global political scene and not well versed in diplomacy. The author evokes elements of storytelling while shining a light on several key developments and individuals involved in such episodes as the Iwakura Mission to the United States and the inner workings of the anti-Japanese movement there. The author introduces a great deal of economic data to build on these stories, while also exploring the cultural differences between the countries that often caused clashes, creating a truly unique bilateral relationship.

The book makes the case that countries that have engaged in international politics for a much longer time than either the United States or Japan might view the nature of this relationship as highly unusual. This is a must-read for anyone interested in understanding how Japan fits into the international community.

About the Author

Kosaka Masataka (1934-96) was a professor of international politics at Kyoto University from 1971 to 1996. He was one of the leading scholars of international politics in postwar Japan. He also served as an advisor to the cabinets of successive governments. In recent years, he has received wider attention as a thinker beyond the framework of a political scholar. His numerous books include Saisho Yoshida Shigeru [Prime Minister Yoshida Shigeru] (1968) and Kotengaiko no seijuku to hokai [Maturity and Collapse in Classic Diplomacy] (1978).

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1. America and the Whaling Ships
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10. Behind the Scenes as the Movement to Exclude Japanese Heats Up
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“Flower petals fall, but the flower endures. The form perishes, but the being endures.” Inspired by the saying of Kaneko Daiei, a Buddhist philosopher in modern Japan, philosopher Takeuchi Seiichi explores the Japanese philosophy of mujo (transience).

The impermanence of life—Japanese people call this feeling mujokan. What if we could accept this idea and apply it to our own lives to clear away the feeling of doom and gloom that is pervasive in modern life? With his look into the unique Japanese perspective on life and death, Takeuchi explores the foundation that the mind and spirit of the Japanese people rests upon. He discusses philosophical concepts through the use of Japanese words and their etymology to produce a better understanding and idea of how these concepts still exist within the modern Japanese language. This vital understanding of meaning and origin gives further insight into the unique tradition of Japanese thought found throughout the ages. The concepts of onozukara (the universe), mizukara (the self), and the awai (interaction) between the two is also examined in depth to shed light on the underpinnings of Japanese philosophy on mujo.

Introducing works spanning more than a thousand years, Flower Petals Fall, but the Flower Endures presents the Japanese philosophy on life and death and how it relates to modern society. Takeuchi finds relevance in the context of numerous Japanese works and pinpoints their prevailing themes of mujo. This book presents a full record of Takeuchi’s valedictory lecture in honor of his retirement from the University of Tokyo. As Japan’s leading expert on the history of Japanese philosophy, Takeuchi provides a stimulating and thoughtful read for readers interested in ethics, the environment, philosophy, spirituality, and/or the challenges society faces in a modern context. A key read for those wishing to better understand the deeply rooted philosophy found in Japanese thought.

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1. Mujokan in Contemporary Japan: “Shogon” of “Kusokuzeshiki”
2. What Is the Meaning of “Totoi”?
3. Flower Petals Fall, but the Flower Endures
4. What Is “Shiawase,” and What Is It Like?
5. The “Awai” between “Onozukara” and “Mizukara”
Why did Showa Japan rush to war? Where did Japan fail? What can be said about the view that the United States chose an option that it knew would force Japan to start a war? And what about the conspiracy theory purporting that the United States had known of Japan’s plan to launch a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor beforehand?

This compilation of the most up-to-date studies by fifteen leading Japanese historians tries to find answers to these questions. Each contributor is requested to unveil their newest, most accurately substantiated research and to incorporate the findings of recent studies as much as possible in the most easy-to-understand manner. The fifteen chapters offer nuanced understandings of pre-World War II Showa history that challenges the stylized discourse about Showa Japan so prevalent in recent historiography. Readers should be able to detect the authors’ joy in sharing with them the most recent fruits of their work.

* Showa refers to the years of Emperor Hirohito’s reign, 1926 to 1989.
About the Book

If There Were No Japan
A Cultural Memoir
Roger Pulvers

An award-winning writer and translator who has immersed himself in Japanese culture for half a century delivers a firsthand account of the country’s customs and the profound changes occurring in contemporary Japanese society.

Originally published in Japanese, If There Were No Japan: A Cultural Memoir was acclaimed for its insights into Japanese life, bringing together aspects of history, culture and everyday life to paint an original and revealing portrait of the Japanese people and the pressing issues facing them today. This national bestseller was hailed as a roadmap for “innovation of the mind”—essential knowledge that could guide Japan out of the economic and psychological doldrums that have held sway for the past two decades.

During his decades of passionate engagement with Japan, Pulvers became close friends with many of the most gifted writers, filmmakers, actors and journalists in the country. Whether delving into ancient traditions or providing vivid accounts of contemporary customs, analyzing characters in Japanese fiction or recounting personal encounters with individuals, the author illuminates those inventive elements that have made Japanese culture and design the envy of the world — and that signal a way forward into the 21st century.

“Roger Pulvers’s life reads like an adventure story. His recollections of life in Japan in the 1960s are bound to become a part of Japan’s national heritage.”
—Sakamoto Ryuichi, musician and composer

“This book is a delight. Few Japanese intellectuals have absorbed Japanese culture to the extent that Pulvers has. If there were no Pulvers, Japan would be a much less interesting country!”
—Matsuoka Seigo, editor, author and professor

“Roger Pulvers … is a master at transcending borders. He builds a convincing case for Japan as an indispensable presence on the world stage.”
—Numano Mitsuyoshi, author and professor at the University of Tokyo

“Roger Pulvers delves into and examines values that the Japanese have lost sight of. His notion that there is much diversity in Japan refutes the conventional wisdom with great persuasiveness.”
—Fukuhara Yoshiharu, Honorary Chairman, Shiseido

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Kabuki, a Mirror of Japan
Ten Plays That Offer a Glimpse into Evolving Sensibilities

Matsui Kesako
Translated by David Crandall

From its inception in the 17th century through its flowering in the Edo period, kabuki never enjoyed the backing of the ruling samurai class. It was only through popular support that kabuki managed to survive repeated attempts at suppression, making it an invaluable tool in understanding the sentiments of the common people.

In a delightfully engaging look at Japan’s traditional dance-drama, Matsui Kesako examines the historical evolution of kabuki’s content and form in the way a paleontologist might examine geological layers, with each play offering fascinating insights into the pervading spirit of the era in which it was created and performed.

Starting with Danjuro I’s Shibaraku, which dates from the late 17th century, Matsui artfully traces the origins and development of many of kabuki’s defining characteristics—rich showmanship, elaborately designed costumes and eye-catching makeup, dynamic sets like revolving stages and trap lifts, and the hanamichi bridgeway that leads through the audience—while linking them to larger patterns of cultural development in Japanese society.

As a novelist and former writer for the kabuki stage herself, the author examines ten of the most famous and beloved plays in the traditional repertory, ending her survey with Mokuami’s Sannin Kishisa, which premiered in 1860, just before Japan embarked on the path of modernization and Westernization.

Matsui’s insights, encyclopedic knowledge and easy writing style bring this centuries-old theatrical tradition to life, rendering it readily accessible even to those who have no prior knowledge of the subject. By examining the kabuki repertory in the chronological order in which the surviving plays were originally performed, the author illustrates the genre’s rich diversity, identifying both the changing and enduring elements in the intellectual, emotional and aesthetic sensibilities of the Japanese people.

Originally intended for Japanese readers, Kabuki, a Mirror of Japan is a groundbreaking work offering the international community glimpses into why kabuki can truly be called a “mirror of Japan.”

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1. Shibaraku: A Hero in the Nick of Time
2. Kuruwa Bunshō: Descendants of Hikaru Genji, the Shining Prince
3. Sugawara Denju Tenarai Kagami: Plays of Substitute Sacrifice
4. Yoshitsune Senbonzakura: Humans Seen through Animal Fantasies
5. Kanadehon Chūshingura: More than Just a Tale of Feudal Loyalty
7. Sanmon Gosan no Kiri: A Montage of Stage Effects
8. Tsumoru Koi Yuki no Seki no To: A Sophisticated Fairy-Tale Dance
9. Tōkaidō Yotsuya Kaidan: Queen of Japanese Horror
10. Sannin Kichisa Kuruwa no Hatsugai: Bonnie and Clyde, Japanese-Style

About the Author

Matsui Kesako was a member of the production company Shochiku, where she was responsible for the planning and production of kabuki plays. Later, as a freelancer, she pursued scriptwriting, directing and critical writing under the mentorship of stage and film director Takechi Tetsuji. In 2007, her Yoshiwara Tebikigusa [Revenge in Yoshiwara] won the Naoki Prize.
The People and Culture of Japan
Conversations Between Donald Keene and Shiba Ryotaro
Donald Keene and Shiba Ryotaro
Translated by Tony Gonzalez

About the Book
Japan’s extraordinarily rich culture spans thousands of years of art, literature, religion and philosophy. From the start, it has been shaped by a broad range of outside influences. In *The People and Culture of Japan*, scholar of Japanese literature Donald Keene and novelist and essayist Shiba Ryotaro engage in a passionate dialogue about that culture and its influences. The book is a record of three conversations that took place between the two men in 1971 in the historic cities of Nara, Kyoto and Osaka, translated for the first time from Japanese into English. Their central theme is Japan’s relations with foreign cultures, probed through observations of the poets, pirates, monks and warriors who populate Japanese history. Their topics range from ancient attitudes toward war and religion to the aesthetics of the Muromachi period, which laid the foundation for contemporary cultural practices such as *ikebana* and the tea ceremony.

Keene and Shiba were uniquely positioned to address these topics. At the time of their meetings, Shiba was already one of Japan’s most accomplished historical novelists, having penned over two dozen titles that included his renowned account of the Russo-Japanese war, *Clouds Above the Hill*. Keene, who studied literature at Cambridge and Columbia, had recently completed translations of classical poetry and Noh plays, as well as commentaries on Japanese puppet theatre and literature. In their conversations the two men draw freely and creatively on these deep reservoirs of knowledge. The questions that concern them are simple but essential. What does Japanese morality consist of, and what is it based upon? What is considered beautiful? Who is a hero? Is Japanese culture “masculine” or “feminine”? Marshaling snippets of poetry and literature, personal experiences and episodes in the lives of historical figures from Kukai to Basho, they trade arguments that sometimes conflict but more often build upon one another. Occasionally this yields pithy observations about Japanese culture. “The Japanese don’t mind an irresponsible outlook, so long as your art is good,” Keene notes at one point, to Shiba’s agreement. Ultimately, however, their insights illuminate a culture whose diversity and richness elude easy definition.

About the Author
Donald Keene, born in New York in 1922, has published about 50 books relating to Japanese literature. He received the Order of Culture in 2008.

Shiba Ryotaro (1923-1996) was an award-winning novelist who also published many historical works such as *Saka no Ue no Kumo [Clouds Above the Hill]*. He received the Order of Culture in 1993.

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1. The Birth of Japanese Culture
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4. The Japanese View of War
5. Confucianism and Japanese Morals
6. Westerners in Japan
7. Japanese Morals, Revisited
8. The Culture of Edo
About the Book

Saving the Mill is a story of determination, resilience and recovery in the face of almost unimaginable disaster. On March 11, 2011, one of the largest earthquakes in human history struck northeastern Japan, triggering a tsunami that devastated surrounding coastal areas. Nippon Paper Industries’ Ishinomaki Paper Mill and its 1,500-some employees were among the disaster’s many victims. Inundated by a two-story-high wall of water and littered with uprooted houses, cars and other debris, the factory was forced to shut down completely. The damage was so severe many employees feared it would never open again. Meanwhile, outside the factory gates, the city of Ishinomaki had no power, no gas, no water, and was grieving the death of over 3,100 residents. It was amidst these grim conditions that factory chief Kurata Hiromi announced the mill would be producing paper again in just six months. He felt he had no choice: NPI provided around 40 percent of the paper used by Japan’s publishing industry, and the Ishinomaki mill was its core production facility. Losing the plant would have been a devastating blow not only to the town, but to the company and the publishing industry as a whole.

Told through the eyes of the men and women who revived the plant against all odds, Saving the Mill is both a gripping account of a disaster that made headlines around the world and a window into a rapidly changing industry. As in many countries, Japan’s paper-based publishing industry is under threat from digital technologies, and NPI is no exception. Journalist Sasa Ryoko explores these issues as she recreates the days and months after the earthquake in harrowing detail. Among her memorable cast of characters are Kurata, who leads the recovery with unwavering determination; Suzuki Hiroyuki, a labor union representative who loses both his grandparents to the tsunami; Kimura Yasuo, the company baseball coach who struggles to make his team a symbol of recovery; and Sato Noriaki, the book-loving, joke-cracking engineer who oversees Machine No. 8, the first machine at the mill to come back online. Together, their story is a monument to the indomitable spirit of the Japanese worker.

About the Author

Sasa Ryoko became a teacher of the Japanese language after graduating from Waseda University’s School of Law and is currently a nonfiction writer. Her works include Kakekomidera no Gen-san [Gen-san, a Man Who Devoted Himself to an Urban Shelter] in 2011. She was awarded Shueisha’s Takeshi Kaiko Award for Nonfiction for her book Enjeru Furaito [Angel Flight] about international funeral repatriation teams.

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8. Getting the Paper Rolling
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About the Book

What defines a “good” company? Is it simply the ability to increase sales and grow profits? Or is it something more fundamental? In Tree Ring-Management, successful Japanese businessman Tsukakoshi Hiroshi argues that companies exist to make their employees happy, and profit is no more than a means to that end. To make employees happy, however, companies must endure. The key lies in what Tsukakoshi calls “tree-ring management”: slow, steady expansion of operations over the long term, just like a tree adding rings. In trees, rapid growth makes for wider but weaker rings; similarly, Tsukakoshi writes, companies should avoid rapid short-term expansion that might undermine their ability to provide for employees in the long term. This approach stands in stark contrast to the prevailing American model of management, which led to the financial crash of 2008 through the individualistic pursuit of enormous profit at any ethical cost.

Tsukakoshi is the chairman of a company that manufactures kanten, a seaweed-based jelling agent widely used in food, health and beauty products. Based amid the natural beauty of Nagano prefecture, far from the bustle of Tokyo, the company has enjoyed over fifty years of uninterrupted growth since Tsukakoshi came on board as acting president at the age of twenty-one. It now welcomes a steady stream of visiting executives and analysts from major corporations such as Murata Manufacturing and the Toyota Group. Tsukakoshi’s work has won much recognition, such as the Outstanding Businessperson Award from Nikkan Kogyo Shimbun Company, the Good Company Award Grand Prize from the Medium and Small Business Research Institute, and so on.

In this accessible and engaging volume he shares his insights into good management practices. He advises businesspeople to invest in employee welfare; turn down opportunities for quick growth; nurture fair, long-lasting relationships with suppliers; support the local community through investments in art and culture; implement seniority-based rather than performance-based promotion and wage systems; and above all measure success according to employee happiness. Tree-Ring Management challenges conventional wisdom on how to succeed in business and offers an inspiring model for executives worldwide.
About the Book

Not only are there very few countries that love wood as much as Japan, but Japan’s woodworking techniques are virtually unrivaled. This applies particularly to plain coniferous wood. The two cultures that are most fond of untreated wood are the Scandinavian and the Japanese, but there is a basic difference in the two traditions and how they use wood. This is clear from the fact that, historically, Japan has exclusively used wood as an architectural material.

From the ancient past, the Japanese people have had a deep and abiding knowledge of trees and wood. This may be summed up in the teachings of the Buddha by the word *juon*, which can be translated as the “blessings of trees.” For more than a thousand years, Japanese have lived in wooden homes. They have developed the techniques for working with wood that best suit its individual qualities, for wood is a living material and its properties vary. The interiors of their homes and other buildings were made with natural, unvarnished conifer wood, and the flooring consisted of woven mats raised a step above ground level, making footwear unnecessary and enabling inhabitants the luxury of sitting directly on the floor. This lifestyle continued for more than a millennium.

Horyu-ji temple was first erected in the 7th century and has come down to us today in the magnificent form it achieved in 711, over 1,300 years ago. It has given the lie to the common misconception that wood is destined to quickly rot and decay, and has demonstrated the enduring value of wood; it should not go without mention that the temple has been designated a World Heritage Site as the earth’s oldest wooden structure.

Here, Nishioka Tsunekazu, a master carpenter who undertook the repair of this monumental structure in the mid-20th century, shares the insights and knowledge he gained from that experience. To make Nishioka’s words and observations more easily understood by later generations, Kohara Jiro has buttressed them with scientific experiments and commentary, bringing into sharp view Horyu-ji’s long-concealed mysteries and secrets. The result is a revealing picture of Japan’s immemorial love of trees and wood, and a broad-ranging introduction to the country’s wood culture.
At the end of the Edo period, the dawn of the modern era, sweeping political reform took place that would alter the Japanese way of thinking. Along with new policies designed to promote industry (shokusan kōgyō) and increase wealth and military power (fukoku kyōhei) came the introduction of Western science. As science was initially considered a means to political ends, its philosophical and theological foundations, forged in the West during the Renaissance and the Age of Enlightenment, were disregarded in favor of a more utilitarian resource allocation. Japan’s first generation of scientists essentially received a set of facts and conventions, already separated into fields such as physics, chemistry, and pharmacology, without the cultural background from which those facts and conventions had originated. This created a unique challenge for the first Japanese scientists, but it also created a space for novel reflection, within which would develop a rich zone of theoretical advancement.

This work, *Essays on the History of Scientific Thought in Modern Japan*, is an illustration of the development of that space into new interpretations of reality. In the historiographical introduction it covers the influence of Marxism, the effects of total war on scientific thought in Japan, paradigm shifts, and the politicization of science. Following this, the book focuses on curious heroes struggling to elucidate the nature of the cosmos within the frothy tide of Japan’s rise to global prominence. In theoretical physics, the text continues by examining the tragedy of Nagaoka Hantaro and the catharsis of Yukawa Hideki. In organic chemistry, the physical and theoretical spaces unlocked by the energy of Majima Rikō are explored. Finally, there is the struggle of Japan to reimagine its own cultural heritage of traditional medicine (kampō) within the new confines of modern science.

This book is meant for any academic or lay reader trying to understand the vast changes that took place within Japan in the 20th century. It is a testament to the impact of science on civilization in terms of its capacity to transform even the basic way humans think, and in terms of its frightening tendency to effect uncontrollable change.
Listen to the Voice of the Earth
Learn about earthquakes to save lives

Oki Satoko
Translated by Takako Iwaki

Oki Satoko, experiencing a catastrophic natural disaster in her childhood, grew up hoping to learn about the mechanism of earthquakes to save lives. She studied earth sciences and became a seismologist. Now a doctor, Oki still found herself in the same place when the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami hit Japan in March 2011. The moment it started, she was able to predict that this was going to be a major earthquake of tremendous magnitude, accompanied by tsunamis. Yet she was unable to use that knowledge to save people, and felt tormented by the idea that she should have done more. She vowed anew to share her expertise with people to help prevent further disaster. This book is her gift to the world; in it, she explains how earthquakes occur and how we can save ourselves and those we love.

“I wrote this book in the hope that readers will be able to save their own lives as well as those of the ones they love when an earthquake next strikes, so that the tragedy of March 11, 2011, will never be repeated.”

—Oki Satoko

About the Author

Oki Satoko is an associate professor on the faculty of environment and information studies, Keio University, specializing in seismology, disaster information and disaster prevention education. Her works include Cho-kyodai Jishin ni Semaru—Nihonretto de Nani ga Okiteiruka [Mega-Earthquakes: What is happening in the Japan islands?], which she coauthored with Professor Koketsu Kazuki after the Great East Japan Earthquake.

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