In Japan, under the auspices of free speech and press, over 80,000 books are published every year, offering a diverse selection of literature to the nation’s readers. In this great ocean of books, we believe there are many works that should be enjoyed by not only a Japanese audience, but by a wider global audience as well. However, many such books, due to the language barrier and the limited number of translations, remain, for the most part, unread overseas.

JAPAN LIBRARY is, by publishing specially selected Japanese works in English, here to introduce to the world “the diverse and multi-layered aspects of Japan and Japanese thought” and “the rich and colorful world of Japan.” With this knowledge from Japan, JAPAN LIBRARY hopes to contribute towards the creation of a universal, global knowledge. The books for JAPAN LIBRARY are hand-picked from a wide range of areas, including politics, foreign policy, social studies, culture, philosophy, and science and technology. Furthermore, by offering these works in both traditional and electronic format, JAPAN LIBRARY hopes to present a view of the real and intrinsic Japan for the world to enjoy.

Japan possesses troves of timeless knowledge amassed across the ages—treasures that are distinctively Japanese that, nonetheless, transcend history and international borders. JAPAN LIBRARY is loading these treasures onto ships we call books and venturing forth into the open sea. The voyage of these books will cover great distances over time, and reach a countless number of readers across the globe. And once the voyage is complete, the treasure on board will shine anew, as these readers polish them with their own, distinctive intellects and sensibilities. This new shine—this new radiance—will surely light the way to the world’s shared future.

With our faith firmly placed in the boundless power of the book, we will endeavor to fulfill JAPAN LIBRARY’s vision.
This book describes the history of the relationship between the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), the heir to the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN), and the United States Navy (US Navy).

The two navies fought each other fiercely on the seas and in the air during the Pacific War. Each found the other a formidable enemy. They came to respect each other in action. Soon after the war, when the Cold War turned hot, they began to work together as allies. With the generous assistance of the US Navy, the JMSDF was established as its counterpart. Doing so was in their respective national interests, but many individual officers and sailors on both sides had mixed feelings about working with their former enemies.

Over the years, however, these two navies have gradually built strong ties, with respect for and trust in each other. This was made possible by conducting countless joint operations at sea. Leaders of the US Navy began to realize that this small maritime force, its actions being restrained in so many ways by domestic politics as well as constitutional and legal limitations, does its job well, is reliable, and can be fully trusted. The JMSDF realized that, in the Asia/Pacific region, there was no other navy with which it shares common interests and values to be allied with. Close to seventy years of accumulated shared experiences have transformed an initially timid and unbalanced relationship into one of, if not the, most successful navy-to-navy partnership in the world.

The maritime alliance between Japan and the United States today is anchored in this history. Numerous admirals, officers, and sailors of the two navies working together have greatly contributed to the stability and prosperity of the Asia/Pacific region for the past seventy years. They are not Nimitzes or Yamamotos, but are nevertheless heroes who toiled hard to bring about this unique friendship across the seas.
After the Pacific War, the bitter enemies Japan and the United States became fast friends and allies. Most observers in the West believe Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor was unprovoked, but what had led Japan to take such action? The arrival of American “black ships” in Japan in 1853 was one cause of the fall of the Shogunate and the restoration of imperial power little more than a decade later. That set Japan on the road to international expansion in imitation of Western imperial powers. This volume recounts this saga from the Russo-Japanese War and Japanese expansion in Manchuria to the brink of war with the United States.
In 2018, Japan marked the 150th anniversary of the collapse of the Tokugawa shogunate and the establishment of a new government under Emperor Meiji. This was not simply a transfer of political authority but instead signaled revolutionary transformation in Japan, including the abolition of the domains and the formation of a modern nation-state in the years that followed. A period of radical social change was ushered in with the abolition of the class system, the introduction of Western industrial and military technology, the development of mass media, and the establishment of constitutional government.

The impact on Japan of diplomatic, economic, and cultural pressure from the United States and other Western powers from 1853 onward was previously thought to be the immediate catalyst of this “Meiji Revolution.” But Japan’s modern transformation was rooted in a much deeper process of social and intellectual development that gradually unfolded throughout the latter half of the Tokugawa period. Surveying a diverse group of thinkers spanning the Tokugawa and early Meiji years—Ogyû Sorai, Yamagata Bantô, Motoori Norinaga, Rai San’yô, Fukuzawa Yukichi, Takekoshi Yo-saburô, and others—this ambitious book liberates modern Japanese history from the stereotypical narrative of “Japanese spirit and Western technique,” offering a detailed examination of the elements in Tokugawa thought and culture that spurred Japan to articulate its own unique conception of civilization during the course of the nineteenth century.

In the latter half of the Tokugawa period, Japan faced many possible alternate paths as it gradually advanced toward its encounter with “civilization” —which could also be described as an encounter with the unknown. This book offers the reader a bird’s-eye view of this process of encounter, which provides a fascinating model for the advancement of understanding and coexistence among the world’s diverse cultures. Exploring the legacy of Japan’s quest for “civilization” in the nineteenth century thus serves as a lens for examining our world today, while also suggesting an alternative narrative to the conventional success stories of Japan’s modernization.
How can peace be realized in the modern world? And how can Japan ensure its own security? Despite the intense debates over Japan’s recent security-related legislation, such vital issues as these were never explored. To give proper consideration to these thorny questions, it is indispensable to have both a knowledge of history indicating the circumstances in which wars occur and a real recognition of the security environment of the twenty-first century. This work explores hotly debated security-related matters from a standard viewpoint on international politics and diplomatic history. It also advocates in a bold yet level-headed manner the form Japan’s security should take and the path Japan should follow to make that a reality.

At the time of the heated debates over new security bills in the summer of 2015, the Japanese media was divided into two radically opposed camps, as this book describes. As a result, members of the public held different impressions of the security legislation depending on which newspaper they had in their hands.

In the international media, I often found misunderstandings regarding both the intent and the content of Japan’s 2015 security legislation. Some media clearly exaggerated the danger of these security bills. On the other hand, I found several commentaries by leading experts on Japanese foreign and security policy which appropriately evaluated the essence of the legislation. (Excerpt from Preface to the English edition)
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

What is Japanese Cinema?
A History

Yomota Inuhiko
Translated by Philip Kaffen


Discussing popular works alongside auteurist masterpieces, Yomota considers films in light of both Japanese cultural particularities and cinema as a worldwide art form. He covers the history of Japanese film from the silent era to the rise of J-Horror in its historical, technological, and global contexts. Yomota shows how Japanese film has been shaped by traditional art forms such as kabuki theater as well as foreign influences spanning Hollywood and Italian neorealism. Along the way, he considers the first golden age of Japanese film; colonial filmmaking in Korea, Manchuria, and Taiwan; the impact of World War II and the U.S. occupation; the Japanese film industry’s rise to international prominence during the 1950s and 1960s; and the challenges and technological shifts of recent decades. Alongside a larger thematic discussion of what defines and characterizes Japanese film, Yomota provides insightful readings of canonical directors including Kurosawa, Ozu, Suzuki, and Miyazaki as well as genre movies, documentaries, indie film, and pornography. An incisive and opinionated history, What Is Japanese Cinema? is essential reading for admirers and students of Japan’s contributions to the world of film.

“A famously rambunctious critic, Inuhiko Yomota proves to be an even better pedagogue. He deftly organizes Japan’s kaleidoscopic genres and film fashions into a totality you can grasp. Auteurs and stars sparkle above an omnivorous industry that metabolized traditional theater, popular manga, and Hollywood techniques into unmistakably Japanese forms. A swift, truly satisfying summary, What Is Japanese Cinema? is also just as vibrant and searching as its title, because its author is clearly in the thrill of his marvelous subject.” —Dudley Andrew, Yale University
Both Japan and South Korea are democratic countries with strong economic ties. Yet, why do they continue to be in conflict over historical perception? What is the story behind the history textbook issues from the 1980s and the “comfort women” issue of the 1990s? By examining the political processes in both Japan and South Korea, this book reveals the structure behind the emotional seesawing between “hope” and “despair” which the governments are failing to manage upon rising nationalism in both countries.

“Is time going to solve the history problem that divides the nations of Northeast Asia? Unfortunately, the answer is “no,” as we witness even stronger nationalist sentiments in the new generation. The answer attests to the urgency of concerted efforts to narrow the perception gap through better understanding of how historical memories are formed and politicized on the other side. This book will make an important step forward in achieving that challenging objective.”

—Gi-Wook Shin (Stanford University), Fall 2018

(Excerpt from the Foreword)
Spanning the 130-year period between the end of the Tokugawa Era and the end of the Cold War, this book introduces students to the formation, collapse, and rebirth of the modern Japanese state. It demonstrates how, faced with foreign threats, Japan developed a new governing structure to deal with these challenges and in turn gradually shaped its international environment. Had Japan been a self-sufficient power, like the United States, it is unlikely that external relations would have exercised such great control over the nation. And, if it were a smaller country, it may have been completely pressured from the outside and could not have influenced the global stage on its own. For better or worse therefore, this book argues, Japan was neither too large nor too small.

Covering the major events, actors, and institutions of Japan’s modern history, the key themes discussed include:

- Building the Meiji state and Constitution.
- The establishment of Parliament.
- Party Politics and International Cooperation.
- The Pacific War.
- Development of LDP politics.
- Changes in the international order and the end of the Cold War.

This book, written by one of Japan’s leading experts on Japan’s political history, will be an essential resource for students of Japanese modern history and politics.
Religion and tourism seem to be an unlikely pair, but in fact, taking a look at these two human behaviors provides invaluable insight into modern society.

In the past, holy sites were of immense importance to those who followed a particular religion, and these places used to attract many faithful pilgrims. These days, however, people without faith visit holy places simply to experience something out of the ordinary. Furthermore, many places without any connection to religion are being called “sacred” and attracting people’s interest. What really drives people there, and what do people want to gain from the experience?

In this informative book, the author discusses various pilgrimages in order to shed light on new types of religious views and faiths that have come into being in the twenty-first century. The book explores the Santiago pilgrimage in Spain; the eighty-eight temple pilgrimage in Shikoku, Japan; B-grade tourist spots; so-called “power spots”; sacred anime sites; and much more. Through examining these places and the people who visit them, the reader will experience a shift in perspective and discover that in this secular age, holy places are no longer supported by religions and doctrines alone. The interchanges between a place and its community of people are what make a place holy. People are placing more importance on the shared image and experience expected to be had there.

This is a must-read for researchers investigating the link between tourism and religion and how the two influence each other.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born in Tokyo in 1979, Okamoto Ryosuke is an associate professor of Media and Communication Studies at Hokkaido University. He graduated from the College of Letters at Ritsumeikan University and completed his doctorate at the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Tsukuba. He specializes in religious studies and the sociology of tourism.

His published books in Japanese include Seichi to inori no shukyo shakai-gaku [The sociology of religion as seen in holy places and prayer] (2012) which received the Japanese Association for Religious Studies Award for Outstanding Scholarship in 2013, and Edo Tokyo no seichi o aruku [Visiting Tokyo’s sacred sites from the Edo period] (2017). He has also co-authored Seichi junrei tsurizumu [Pilgrimage tourism] (2012), Shukyo to shakai no furontia [The frontiers of religion and society] (2012), and Higashi Ajia kankogaku [Tourism studies in east Asia] (2017).
Heritage Culture and Business, Kyoto Style
Craftsmanship in the Creative Economy

Murayama Yuzo
Translated by Juliet Winters Carpenter

Publication Date: March 2019
Publisher: JPIC
Size: 210mm (h) x 148mm (w)
Extent: 160 pages
Color Plates: over 50
ISBN 978-4-86658-058-6 (Hardcover)

Kyoto, where world-class high-tech industries exist alongside heritage industries. Achieving highly competitive strength by keeping a step ahead of the global standard while maintaining the spirit of harmony that distinguishes Japanese style management. What is the essence of this style of management? How has Kyoto’s living traditional culture as a part of daily life been preserved? A thorough study of various unique approaches, based on interviews with managers and craftspeople, Murayama’s work covers everything from distinct management styles aimed at increasing workforce motivation to the development of capabilities that yield products with high cultural value, and innovation for the sake of business continuity. This book is packed with valuable hints for the future management of not only Japanese firms but also businesses worldwide.
Every Day a Good Day
Fifteen lessons I learned about happiness from Japanese tea culture

Morishita Noriko
Translated by Eleanor Goldsmith

I could not walk correctly. I did not know where to sit. I did not know which hand to use, what to pick up, how to pick it up. Nothing had stuck with me, even though I had done it all just an hour before. You have to start from zero...
languages change over time. No matter how hard we try to control and regulate them, they exist in a state of endless metamorphosis. This does not mean, though, that we should simply stand by and watch as language devolves into nonsense.

What should we do, then? Recognizing the inevitability of change is a given, of course. But we must also navigate the delicate line between the pull of popular trends and the urge to cling blindly to the ways of the past. The ideal balance, Professor Nakanishi argues in this book, lies in being “one step behind the times,” which is the best approach for wielding all the charms of a language.

Beautiful words have an ageless quality, regardless of when they first appeared in a language. The Japanese language testifies to that truth. This book introduces a balanced mix of new and old words that reflect the singular beauty of the Japanese language.

The beautiful words of the Japanese language are not—as some people say—simply old, antiquated terms. Discerning beauty in a language requires more than having an antiquarian’s ear; it requires certain sensitivities and sensitivities. Only by submerging ourselves in a language can we perceive its splendid subtleties, appreciate its true beauty.

This book offers readers an opportunity to delve into to those nuances of Japanese, explore the language’s history, and savor its unique beauty.
The Lure of Pokémon
Video Games and the Savage Mind

Nakazawa Shinichi
Translated by Ted Mack

Video games are often thought to draw children out of nature and into isolated, closed spaces. In *The Lure of Pokémon: Video Games and the Savage Mind*, however, Nakazawa Shinichi shows how the Pokémon series of video games, far from standing in opposition to nature, actually seeks to represent the true, hidden essence of the natural world.

From humble beginnings as a video game launched in the mid-90s, Pokémon has become a global entertainment franchise, even reaching into the real world with “augmented reality” via the mobile game Pokémon Go. Nakazawa argues that the Pokémon worldview is the best contemporary example of Lévi-Strauss’s “savage mind” (*la pensée sauvage*).

As the natural environment is transformed around them, the author suggests, children that would once have directly observed and explored nature encounter it through technology instead. Contemporary games and other narratives can often be viewed as attempts to reconnect the human unconscious with nature, undoing the separation effected by the scientific, rational thought of Western modernity.

Nakazawa also shows how games like Pokémon recreate deep-rooted social patterns. When characters capture monsters, carry them around in “Poké Balls,” and swap them with other characters, they are part of a tradition in which trade is more than just the exchange of goods. Barter is a much more profound form of communication in which each participant also receives part of the other.

The author supports his argument through close analysis of the history and even prehistory of video games in Japanese culture. Drawing on mythology, Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalysis, and other resources, he explores cultural touchstones like Space Invaders, Ultraman, and the RPG as a genre, showing how their rich, direct expression appeals directly to the urges and impulses within children themselves, helping them come to terms with their place in the world.

*The Lure of Pokémon: Video Games and the Savage Mind* is both a work of game criticism revealing *la pensée sauvage* within today’s video games and an examination of Japanese culture as the context from which the Pokémon phenomenon was born.
For several hundred years, Japanese porcelain has been highly acclaimed and sought after around the world. Sophisticated porcelain ware has long been produced in the Arita area of Kyushu, and artisans from the Kakiemon family have gained particular renown for their skill in enamels and their artistic designs.

Now, for the first time, the techniques and tradition behind the creation of their ceramic works are disclosed through the words of the late Kakiemon XIV. Starting with his childhood memories, he talks about his father and grandfather and what he inherited from them; how the craftsmen work at the kiln; and how materials such as stone, clay, and firewood play a crucial part in creating the works. Most striking of all are the explanations of aka-e overglaze enamels and nigoshide porcelain, the characteristics that make Kakiemon ware so phenomenal.

With more than twenty color plates depicting Kakiemon pieces from museums and private collections, this volume provides rare insight into one of the world’s most famous kilns.
The Book of Urushi
Japanese Lacquerware from a Master

Matsuda Gonroku
Translated by Michael Brase and Komada Makiko
Supervised by Murose Kazumi

Publication Date: March 2019
Publisher: JPIC
Size: 210mm (h) x 148mm (w)
Extent: 256 pages
Color Plates: over 60
ISBN 978-4-86658-060-9 (Hardcover)

Urushi, Japanese lacquerware, is perhaps the oldest and most sublime of all the Japanese arts and crafts. Its history goes back more than 7,000 years, and it is still vibrantly alive today. It is practiced by craftsmen working in time-honored techniques and by modern artists forging the future. Valued for its utilitarian durability, urushi developed into an incomparable art, adorning a multitude of objects from luxurious palaces to lavish murals and exquisitely crafted fountain pens. The present book, written more than fifty years ago by the Living National Treasure Matsuda Gonroku, has long been a must-read for collectors, researchers, and laypeople. It is the “bible” of urushi, covering every conceivable aspect of the subject. It includes some fifty full-color illustrations of masterpieces honored by history and masterworks by Matsuda himself.

The present edition has been supervised by Murose Kazumi, a disciple of Matsuda’s and a Living National Treasure in his own right. His foreword enables the reader to acquire a broader understanding of the contents of the book and gain a deeper appreciation of its value and impact on the world of urushi.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Matsuda Gonroku was born in 1896 into a farming family in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, an area endowed with a rich tradition in arts and crafts from premodern times. In February 1955, at the age of fifty-nine, he was designated a Living National Treasure by the Japanese government. In September, he took part in the repair of the National Treasure Chūsonji Konjikidō (repair complete in 1967). In April 1967, when he was seventy-one, the Ishikawa Prefectural Wajima Lacquer Technology Research and Training Institute opened, which he had so wholeheartedly supported, and he served as a lecturer.

When he was ninety, he submitted his flat tea caddy with ivy design to the 3rd Japan Traditional Japanese Lacquer Exhibition. On June 15 of 1986, he passed away from heart failure.
I have received color without limit from the natural world in the years since I entered the dyer’s way. It has poured down on me endlessly, too much for this meager vessel to hold. Joyful as a child with a new set of paints, I have woven and woven yarn dyed by the grasses and trees. A startlingly original creator in the medium of textiles, Living National Treasure Shimura Fukumi is also well known in Japan for her essays on color, nature, and the work of weaving and dyeing. The Music of Color collects some of Shimura’s most insightful writing together with Takao Inoue’s stunning photographs of her art and the natural world that inspires it.

From winter snows to spring blossoms, from the foothills of Japan’s “Southern Alps” to the back streets of Gion, Kyoto, Shimura initiates the reader into a facet of Japanese culture where the boundary between craft and art is blurred. Her insight into the sources and uses of natural color, along with her decades of experience in the world of Japanese textiles, from silkworm and loom to finished kimono, are both on full display in this rich collection. Travels from Basho’s “Deep North” to the western island of Kyushu are recorded, as are valuable accounts of Shimura’s encounters with other figures in Japanese aesthetics such as lacquerware master Kuroda Tatsuaki and poet–critic Ôoka Makoto.

Offering new perspectives on contemporary textiles, Japanese folk craft traditions, and thoughts on how Japanese artists engage with the four seasons, the gemlike essays and translucent photographs of The Music of Color will linger with the reader long after the book itself is over.

“We draw the beautiful colors of the sakura not from the petals but the gnarled bark and branches. . . . The blossoms have already bloomed, so no color can come from there. It is the spirit of the tree entire, ceaselessly active, that emerges in the hue of each petal— and do we not see the same truth in the world of words?”
Backlist titles

2015–2018
Fifteen Lectures on Showa Japan
Road to the Pacific War in Recent Historiography

Edited by Tsutsui Kiyotada
Translated by Noda Makito and Paul Narum

Publication Date: March 2016
Publisher: JPIC
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Extent: 316 pages
ISBN 978-4-916055-60-6 (Hardcover)
ISBN 978-4-86658-050-0 (Paperback)

Why did Showa Japan rush to war? Where did Japan fail? This compilation of the most up-to-date studies by fifteen leading Japanese historians tries to find answers to these questions. Each chapter contains a list of selected reference books with brief annotations for the benefit of readers who wish to study more about the subject. The fifteen chapters offer a nuanced understanding of prewar Showa history that challenges stylized discourse about Showa Japan prevalent in recent historiography.

Fifteen Pivotal Points in Showa History
1. The Washington Treaty System
2. The Second Movement to Protect the Constitution
3. The Assassination of Zhang Zuolin
4. London Naval Conference
5. The Manchurian Incident
6. The Emperor-as-Organ Theory Incident
7. February 26 Incident
8. The Marco Polo Bridge Incident
9. The Sino-Japanese War
10. The Nomonhan Incident
11. The Tripartite Alliance of Japan, Germany, and Italy
12. The New Konsse Order
13. The Holding of the US-Japan Negotiations
14. The “Sacred Decisions” and Japan’s Surrender
15. The Occupation of Japan
Japan-China Relations in the Modern Era
Kokubun Ryosei, Soeya Yoshihide, Takahara Akio, Kawashima Shin
Translated by Keith Krulak

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 since the modern era China began to learn from Japan. In the twenty-first 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 in the modern era, 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, Japanese international relations, and the politics and international relations of East Asia.

Self-Respect and Independence of Mind
The Challenge of Fukuzawa Yukichi
Kitaoka Shinichi
Translated by James M. Vardaman

It is said that Japan is currently experiencing its third opening to the outside world. However, in terms of importance, rather than the so-called second opening—which refers to the reforms following World War II—the more significant opening was that of the Meiji Restoration, initiated and carried out by the Japanese themselves. Consequently, as Japan today finds itself feeling trapped with a sense of despair, it is to the Meiji era that we should turn, and more than to anyone else, the person we should turn to is Fukuzawa Yukichi.

With the general reader in mind, this volume brings together the results of the present-day research into the accomplishments of Fukuzawa as part of an overall appraisal of the man himself. (Excerpted from the foreword)
Today, as globalization deepens daily and the world becomes increasingly integrated, the time has come to revise the conventional Euro-centric view on world history. The world history that we learn and understand today is already out of step with the times. Therefore, it is imperative to envisage a new world history that is suitable to our own time.

What description of history, then, is appropriate for our contemporary times? To answer this question, the author first reviews what kind of perception we have of world history and what is wrong with it. Subsequently, he looks into the new world history that is called for and how it can be created. Haneda finds that more and more people are behaving with an awareness of themselves as inhabitants of this earth, willing to mutually transcend differences of views so as to defend this one and only earth of ours and let people the world over live more peacefully and happily.

On the basis of these soul-searching explorations, the author comes to propose a world history for inhabitants of the earth from the viewpoint of “there is one world.”

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Haneda Masashi is a professor at the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia and Vice President of the University of Tokyo, specializing in global and world history. He is the author of *Isuramu sekai no sōzō* [Creating the notion of the Islamic world] (University of Tokyo Press, 2005), *Le châh et les Qizilbâš* (K. Schwarz, 1987), and numerous other books and articles.

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Toward Creation of a New World History

Haneda Masashi
Translated by Noda Makito

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Unsung Heroes of Old Japan

Isoda Michifumi
Translated by Juliet Winters Carpenter

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Michifumi Isoda received a Ph.D. in history from Keio University and is currently a professor at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies in Kyoto. He recreates the spirits and minds of significant figures from Japan’s past through his unceasing appraisal of historical materials and extensive knowledge of socioeconomic history. His bestselling novel *Bushi no kakeibo: Kaga han gosanyômono no bakumatsu ishin* [A samurai’s account book: The accounting officer of the Kaga Domain on the eve of the Meiji Restoration] won the 2003 Shinchô Document Prize and was subsequently turned into a movie.

True stories of three little-known Japanese of the Edo period who lived lives of sublime selflessness and purity, blurring the boundary between self and others. Merchant Kokudaya Jûzaburô comes up with a brilliant scheme to rescue his dying town from poverty. He and others go deep into debt, risking all to raise money for the cash-strapped daimyo and receive annual interest in return. Prodigious scholar and former Zen monk Nakane Tôri refuses a government post and elects to live in abject poverty, weaving sandals. Though perhaps the age’s greatest poet, he throws his works into the fire and ends his days teaching in a country village. Ôtagaki Rengetsu, a noted beauty in Kyoto, loses two husbands and five children. She becomes a Buddhist nun and devotes her life to poetry and pottery. With her savings she feeds the hungry and builds a bridge across Kamo River.

The story of Kokudaya Jûzaburô in *Unsung Heroes of Old Japan* was made into an award-winning movie titled *Tono, risou de gozaru!* [The Magnificent Nine] in 2016.
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 between Japan and its Southeast Asian neighbors to the Abe administration’s negotiations with the Republic of Korea. He also looks at the transformation that Asia itself underwent during that period. 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.

More than any other region in the world, Asia has witnessed tremendous change in the postwar era. A continent once engulfed by independence and revolution, and later by the Cold War and civil war, has now been transformed into the world’s most economically dynamic region. What caused this change in Asia? The key to answering this question lies in the post-war history of maritime Asia and, in particular, the path taken by the maritime nation of Japan.

Analyzing the importance of Japan’s relationship with Southeast Asia, this book therefore aims to illustrate the hidden trail left by Japan during the period of upheaval that has shaped Asia today—an era marked by the American Cold War strategy, the dissolution of the British Empire in Asia, and the rise of China. It provides a comprehensive account of postwar maritime Asia, making use of internationally sourced primary materials, as well as declassified Japanese government papers. As such, Japan’s Quest for Stability in Southeast Asia will be useful to students and scholars of Japanese politics, Asian politics and Asian history.
Perspectives on Sino-Japanese Diplomatic Relations

The Yomiuri Shimbun
Political News Department
Translated by John Rossman

I in East Asia, the growth center of the post-Cold War world, two regional powerhouses survey one another from opposite sides of the Sea of Japan. China, a rising power with tremendous economic clout and an increasingly assertive foreign and military policy, and Japan, a respected leader in the region and a mature nation enjoying its greatest political stability in many years, must coexist for the peace and prosperity of East Asia and the Asia-Pacific. But just how well can these neighbors—and oftentimes rivals—get along? What stands in the way? And who else is caught up in their volatile relationship?

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, and has published a number of books on the history of the Japan Self-Defense Forces.

The Self-Defense Forces and Postwar Politics
in Japan

Sado Akihiro
Translated by Noda Makito

I n 1947, Japan eternally renounced war and the possession of armed forces with its constitution. How, then, did the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) survive, moreover, evolve over the ensuing 70 years into the prominent presence it is today? Sado Akihiro reviews the JSDF’s history chiefly from the viewpoint of restrictions imposed on it by civil officials of the national bureaucracy, based on lessons gleaned from the arbitrary conduct of the military in pre-World War II days. He also explores the financial constraints placed on the JSDF in the form of a percentage of the GNP. This book traces the inside story of US-Japan relations and Japan’s defense policy. It attempts to shine a light on the true state of the JSDF in the midst of new challenges that put it at a crossroads, including post-9/11 international terrorism, North Korean nuclear development, and China’s increased military presence in Asia.
The Territory of Japan
Its History and Legal Basis
Serita Kentaro
Translated by Alex Meyer

The Northern Territories, Takeshima, and the Senkaku Islands—what exactly is the territorial extent of Japan? To answer this fundamental question, the author, an authority on international law, retraces and analyzes the history of negotiations over these territories, while also setting forth his vision of the future of issues concerning territorial land, air, and sea.

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

In 2015 as the world commemorated the seventy anniversary of the end of World War II, the international community focused its attention on the Abe Statement, the statement released by Prime Minister Abe Shinzo on the seventieth anniversary of the end of the war. This book encapsulates the discussions held by the Advisory Panel on the History of the 20th Century and on Japan’s Role and World Order in the 21st Century, a panel of preeminent academics, journalists, businesspersons, and others, which met in order to clarify the points to be considered by Prime Minister Abe as he formulated his statement.

This book, the outcome of highly accomplished specialists across a broad range of fields coming together to set out parameters for the recognition of history, is a must-read for discussing contemporary history that will be highly valued by anyone analyzing Prime Minister Abe’s statement on the seventieth anniversary of the end of the war and by the statement’s supporters and critics alike.
The Happy Youth of a Desperate Country
The Disconnect between Japan’s Malaise and Its Millennials

Furuichi Noritoshi
Translated by Raj Mahtani

Publication Date: March 2017
Publisher: JPIC
Size: 220mm (h) x 148mm (w)
Extent: 294 pages
ISBN 978-4-916055-83-5 (Hardcover)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Furuichi Noritoshi was born in 1985 in Tokyo. He is a sociologist and a senior researcher at the Keio Research Institute at Shonan Fujisawa Campus. A recipient of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Ikushi Prize, he is also active in a wide variety of fields, including TV shows, where he makes appearances as an emcee and commentator; in the field of publishing; and in politics as a member of a committee of experts at governmental conferences.

Young people in present-day Japan, a socially-polarized society, have been reportedly “unhappy.” According to statistics, however, 80 percent of them are currently “satisfied” with life. By drawing attention to this very fact, The Happy Youth of a Desperate Country, a magnum opus by acclaimed sociologist Furuichi Noritoshi, has revolutionized the discourse on youth theory in Japan. Containing more than six hundred footnotes, this work offers a probing examination of the portrait of “young people” and serves as the definitive edition for anyone seeking to attain a wide-ranging grasp of Japan and its “young people”—all from a defining voice of their generation.

“We no longer have “those days” we should be returning to, and we face problems that are stacked up before us, and we have no such thing as “hope” for the future. But we aren’t that dissatisfied with our existing circumstances. We’re somewhat happy, and somewhat anxious. Such are the times we live in, and will be living through—as the happy “youth” of a nation in despair.

(Excerpt from Chapter 6)

If There Were No Japan
A Cultural Memoir

Roger Pulvers

Publication Date: March 2015
Publisher: JPIC
Size: 248mm (h) x 220mm (w)
Extent: 248 pages
ISBN 978-4-916055-44-6 (Hardcover)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Roger Pulvers is an acclaimed author, playwright, theater director, translator, and journalist. He has published more than forty books in Japanese and English and received the Kenji Miyazawa Prize in 2008 and the Noma Award for the Translation of Japanese Literature in 2013. He currently divides his time between Sydney, Australia, and Japan.

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 twenty-first century.
Global Class
Japanese SMEs

Kurosaki Makoto
Translated by Larry Greenburg

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Kurosaki Makoto was born in Gunma Prefecture in 1944. During his time working at Jiji Press, he was constantly on the business beat, covering institutions like the Japan Business Federation, the Bank of Japan, and the Ministry of Finance. He also reported on major business events like the Recruit scandal. Kurosaki headed the Miyazaki and Fukushima bureaus and served as editor-in-chief and commentator. He left Jiji in 2004 and is now professor at Teikyo University’s Faculty of Economics.

Thirty years have passed since Japan emerged on the global stage as the second largest economy quickly moving upwards. More than twenty years have passed since the bubble burst, wiping away inflated dreams of Japan as Number One. The Cold War has ended and China has overtaken Japan as Number Two. The digital revolution has come and IoT is changing everything. And yet Japan remains near the top as the third richest economy in the world despite the fallout from the scandals and disappointing performance from some of Japan’s former giants. How can this be? What is the true source of strength of the Japanese economy? Who are the real little giants who continue to sustain Japan? Read about 24 amazing Japanese SMEs that have left footprints way beyond their corporate size.

Human Resource Development in Twentieth-Century Japan

Inoki Takenori
Translated by Tony Gonzalez

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Inoki Takenori is a former dean of economics at Osaka University and Director of the International Research Center for Japanese Studies. One of his numerous works is College Graduates in Japanese Industry (with Koike, K.; Japan Institute of Labor, 2003).

For Japan, where natural resources are not abundant, the importance of human resources cannot be overstated. It is the person, and the person only, that determines economic wealth. So what characteristics will emerge when reviewing the economic development of modern Japan through its history of human resources formation?

This book examines the formation and allocation of human resources that brought about economic growth, focusing on the form of education and training in schools, companies, and the military. In particular, how are knowledge and skills delivered in a “have-not” country like Japan? Following transitions from the Edo period to the present age, we approach the core of Japanese systems from both historical and theoretical perspectives.

Figure 5. Relations between position, risk, and wage
Saving the Mill
The amazing recovery of one of Japan’s largest paper mills following the 2011 earthquake and tsunami

Sasa Ryoko
Translated by Tony Gonzalez

On March 11, 2011, one of the largest earthquakes in human history struck offshore of northeast Japan, triggering a massive tsunami that devastated nearby coastal areas. One of the many victims of this epic disaster was Nippon Paper Industries’ Ishinomaki Paper Mill, which was so flooded and covered in debris that it was completely shut down. NPI provided around 40% of the paper used by Japan’s publishing industry and its Ishinomaki mill—home to one of the largest paper machines in the world—was its core production facility. The loss of this plant would have been a devastating blow.

When the factory’s leader, Hiromi Kurata, announced that the mill would be producing paper again in just six months, few believed him. The city of Ishinomaki still had no power, no gas, and no water. Even finding food and shelter was a challenge for many, and the plant was so covered in debris that large parts were still inaccessible. Even so, the burden of saving their company, their city, and even the Japanese publishing industry had been placed on the shoulders of the mill’s employees. Their story is a testament to the indomitable spirit of the Japanese worker.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tsukakoshi Hiroshi became President of Ina Food Industry Co., Ltd. in 1983, established a stable supply system for kanten and pioneered new markets in areas such as health care, biotechnology, and nutritional care. In March 2005, he assumed the post of Chairman and in 2006, as recognition for his accomplishments of achieving 48 consecutive years of rising sales and rising profits, and for his company’s philosophy, track record, and future potential, Ina Food Industry Co., Ltd. received the Good Company Award Grand Prize from the Medium and Small Business Research Institute.

Tsukakoshi Hiroshi is the chairman of a kanten manufacturer that is far from the bustle of Tokyo amid the natural beauty of Nagano Prefecture. His desire has been to build the kind of company that makes its employees happy and makes a contribution to society by doing so. His philosophy is to take the long view, growing his business slowly and steadily through “tree-ring management.”

“Over the last 20 years, no one has left the company because they were unhappy,” Tsukakoshi declares. His unique management principles include such ideas as “rapid growth is the enemy” and “the essence of management is creating fans.” His approach has resulted in rising sales and profits for half a century since the company’s founding, and his company welcomes a steady stream of visiting executives and analysts from major corporations. Tsukakoshi’s philosophy of seeking steady growth over the long term will enlighten businesspeople around the world about a better way to manage corporations.

ABOUT THE EDITOR

Kanamori Osamu (1954–2016) was born in Sapporo. He studied at the Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology at the University of Tokyo and received a doctorate in philosophy from Pantheon-Sorbonne University (Universite Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne). He lectured at the University of Tsukuba and taught as Associate Professor at Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology.

This book covers the history of physics, chemistry, and pharmacology in modern Japan, focusing on the 1920s through the early 1960s. Led by the editor’s introduction, “A Portrait of the History of Scientific Thought,” readers will soon find themselves in the middle of a complex double narrative comprising both ‘the telling of history’ and ‘the telling of the history of history.’ In the end, readers will come to understand an intricate historical aspect, made possible through such a grand and meta-appreciation.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Oki Satoko decided to become a seismologist when the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake struck Japan in her first year of high school. She is currently an associate professor in the Faculty of Environment and Information Studies, Keio University, specializing in seismology, disaster information, and disaster prevention education.

“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, would never be repeated.” —Oki Satoko

The Earth talks in many different voices—the voice of the air, the voice of the sea, the voice of volcanoes, and the voice of the Earth. Seismologists listen to this voice using high performance seismometers that do not miss what our human ears cannot hear, learning about what causes earthquakes and even what it is like inside the planet.

Listen to the Voice of the Earth
Learn about earthquakes to save lives
Oki Satoko
Translated by Iwaki Takako

Publication Date: March 2015
Publisher: JPIC
Size: 210mm (h) x 148mm (w)
Extent: 142 pages
ISBN 978-4-916055-45-3 (Hardcover)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born in Yamagata Prefecture in 1968, Sakurai Susumu graduated from the Department of Mathematics and the graduate school at the Tokyo Institute of Technology. He is a science navigator and was a Fellow of the Center for the Study of World Civilizations at the Tokyo Institute of Technology (2007–2013). While studying at the university, he taught at cram schools and explained mathematics and physics to students in interesting ways. In doing so, he developed “Science Entertainment,” which includes activities that communicate the surprising and inspiring nature of mathematics through human interactions between people and familiar objects.

Wasan—a unique form of Japanese mathematics—was developed during the Edo period (1603–1868), a time when the entire country was isolated from the rest of the world. Mathematics was enjoyed as a form of entertainment by adults and children alike and by people of all social classes. Jinkôki, an extraordinary mathematics textbook, was used at private elementary schools called terakoya and became a bestseller that could be found in every household. Furthermore, world-class works were produced by Japanese mathematicians such as Seki Takakazu and Takebe Katahiro.

This book explores the beauty and fascination surrounding wasan by providing a guided tour that goes back in time over three hundred years and navigates through the mysterious and incredible world of mathematical wizardry found during the Edo period Japan.

Wasan, the Fascination of Traditional Japanese Mathematics
Sakurai Susumu
Translated by Emma Ford, with Gaynor Sekimori

Publication Date: March 2018
Publisher: JPIC
Size: 188mm (h) x 128mm (w)
Extent: 180 pages
ISBN 978-4-86658-017-3 (Hardcover)
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Okazaki Hisahiko (1930-2014) entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1952. He was appointed the first director-general of the Information Analysis, Research and Planning Bureau in 1984 and served as ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Thailand before retiring in 1992. He was the director of the Okazaki Institute until his death in 2014.

Toward the end of the Tokugawa shogunate, Mutsu Munemitsu was ousted from his home in Kishu domain as a result of his father’s defeat in a power struggle. To avenge this, Mutsu bolstered his talent to become a man of “genius and learning in equal measure.” He joined the Kobe Naval Training Center founded by Katsu Kaishu and, later, Kaien-tai, a trading and shipping company and private navy founded and managed by Sakamoto Ryoma before the Meiji Restoration was accomplished.

During the Meiji era, Mutsu fully exercised his extraordinary ability, including working to revise unequal treaties with Western powers as foreign minister. In his last days, he scrambled to end the First Sino-Japanese War; his efforts resulted in the signing of the Treaty of Shimonoseki with favorable terms for Japan. Mutsu also helped Japan ride out the subsequent wave of the Tripartite Intervention by Russia, France, and Germany.

This book’s author, a career diplomat himself, traces the footsteps of modern Japan’s diplomacy by reviewing the philosophical and political journey of this extraordinary diplomat who protected the dignity of Japan as a modern nation throughout his professional life.
Edo Japan
Encounters the World
Conversations Between
Donald Keene and Shiba Ryotaro

Donald Keene and Shiba Ryotaro
Translated by Tony Gonzalez

Publication Date: March 2018
Publisher: JPIC
Size: 210mm (h) x 148mm (w)
Extent: 140 pages
ISBN 978-4-86658-018-0 (Hardcover)

Since ancient times, the Japanese have lived with superstitions of strange presences and phenomena known as “yōkai,” creating a culture by turns infused with unease, fear, and divinity. Tsukimonos spirit possessions. Fearsome kappa, oni, and tengu. Yamauba crones. Ghostly yūrei. Otherworldy ijin...

Edo Japan encounters the World continues the conversation, begun nearly twenty years earlier in the People and Culture of Japan, between scholar of Japanese literature Donald Keene and historical novelist Shiba Ryotaro. In discussions that took place in Osaka and Kyoto from 1989 to 1990, these two penetrating and original observers of Japanese culture turn their attention to the long peace of the Edo period (1603-1868), when Japan developed in relative isolation from outside influence. From analysis of literary masters like Basho and Chikamatsu to critiques of the repressive aspects of Edo life, their exchanges bring much insight to this often romanticized period of Japanese history.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Donald Keene (1922-2019) was born in New York and attended Columbia University before serving as a translator and interpreter in World War II. After returning to Columbia for a Ph.D., he became a professor there in 1955. He has authored over 50 books on Japan’s literature and culture and in 2008 received Japan’s Medal of Culture.

Shiba Ryotaro (1923-1996) was an extremely popular, award-winning novelist who also wrote many historical works. Born in Osaka, he graduated from the Osaka Foreign Language School. In 1960, while working as a newspaper reporter, he received the Naoki Prize for his first novel, after which he became a full-time novelist. His numerous historical works such as Saka no ue no kuma (Clouds Above the Hill) have garnered many awards.

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

Publication Date: March 2017
Publisher: JPIC
Size: 210mm (h) x 148mm (w)
Extent: 196 pages, 44 illustrations / photos
ISBN 978-4-916055-80-4 (Hardcover)
ISBN 978-4-86588-049-4 (Paperback)

Folklorist and cultural anthropologist, Komatsu Kazuhiko began teaching at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies in 1997. In April of 2012, he became the Center’s Director-General after serving as Deputy Director-General since 2010. In 2013, he was awarded the Order of the Purple Ribbon for scholarly achievement by the government of Japan.

Since ancient times, the Japanese have lived with superstitions of strange presences and phenomena known as “yōkai,” creating a culture by turns infused with unease, fear, and divinity. Tsukimonos spirit possessions. Fearsome kappa, oni, and tengu. Yamauba crones. Ghostly yūrei. Otherworldy ijin...

An Introduction to Yōkai Culture is written by Japan’s premier scholar of yōkai and strange tales, this book is both an introduction to the rich imagination and spirituality of Japan’s yōkai culture and a history of the authors and writings that have shaped yōkai studies as a field.

Japanese yōkai band together to attack the invading Son Goku and his army of monkeys. Ehon Saiyûki hyakki yagyô no zu (An Illustrated Catalog of the Demons’ Night Parade in Journey to the West). Courtesy of the International Research Center for Japanese Studies
Kabuki, a Mirror of Japan
Ten Plays that Offer a Glimpse into Evolving Sensibilities
Matsui Kesako
Translated by David Crandall

Publication Date: March 2016
Publisher: JPIC
Size: 220mm (h) x 148mm (w)
Extent: 256 pages
ISBN 978-4-916055-58-3 (Hardcover)

In this delightfully engaging look at Japan’s traditional dance-drama, Matsui Kesako approaches kabuki by examining and revealing the fascinating story about the time and place in which each play was created and performed. Starting with Danjûrô I’s Shibaraku, Matsui artfully traces the origins and evolution of many of kabuki’s defining characteristics while linking them to larger patterns of cultural development in Japanese society. As a novelist and former writer for the kabuki stage herself, she offers a unique perspective on ten of the most famous and beloved plays in the traditional repertory, ending her survey with Mokuami’s San-nin Kichisa, which premiered in 1860—just prior to the start of Japan’s modernization.

The People and Culture of Japan
Conversations Between Donald Keene and Shiba Ryotaro
Donald Keene and Shiba Ryotaro
Translated by Tony Gonzalez

Publication Date: March 2016
Publisher: JPIC
Size: 210mm (h) x 148mm (w)
Extent: 174 pages
ISBN 978-4-916055-57-6 (Hardcover)
ISBN 978-4-86658-048-7 (Paperback)

This book features conversations between Donald Keene, a preeminent scholar of Japanese literature, and Shiba Ryotaro, the author who continued to contemplate the human condition through his original and distinctive lens of history. These talks—which mainly explore the foundation of Japanese culture—took place in Japanese on three occasions in 1971 in the historic cities of Nara, Kyoto, and Osaka. Drawing on their profound insights into Japan’s relations with foreign cultures over the course of Japanese history, the two engage in a passionate discussion of their first-hand impressions and observations of Japanese culture.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Takashina Shûji was born in 1932 in Tokyo. After graduating from the University of Tokyo’s College of Arts and Sciences, he studied in France on the invitation of the French government. Since his return to Japan, he has held positions including professor at the University of Tokyo and his current role as director of the Ôhara Museum of Art in Kurashiki, Okayama Prefecture. A specialist in Western art from the Renaissance onwards, he is also deeply versed in the art of Japan.

What makes Japanese art unique? In The Japanese Sense of Beauty, art critic and historian Takashina Shûji reflects on the aesthetic and philosophical sensibilities underlying Japanese art throughout its history, from the earliest calligraphy and painted screens to modern masters like Hishida Shunso and Yokoyama Taikan.

The Japanese Sense of Beauty is an important contribution to the study of aesthetics and cultural history, offering insights that will change the way you think about Japanese art.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nishioka Tsunekazu (1908-1995) worked on the repair of Horyu-ji and other temples as a miyadaiku (master carpenter), including the reconstruction of Horyu-ji’s three-story pagoda as well as Yakushi-ji’s main hall and west pagoda. He was called the last miyadaiku of the Showa period (1926-89).

Kohara Jiro (1916-2016) graduated from Kyoto University with a Ph.D. in Agriculture. After serving as professor in the Engineering Faculty, Architecture Department, and chair of the Engineering Faculty of Chiba University, he was appointed professor emeritus at the same university. His fields of specialization were ergonomics, the housing industry, and timber engineering.

Horyu-ji temple was first erected in the seventh 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, not to mention the fact that the temple has been designated a World Heritage Site as the earth’s oldest wooden structure.

Here, Nishioka Tsunekazu, the master carpenter who undertook the repair of this monumental structure in the mid-twentieth 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.

Soetsu Yanagi
Selected Essays on Japanese Folk Crafts

Yanagi Soetsu
Translated by Michael Brase

The common utilitarian objects depicted in this book were considered aesthetically insignificant until the appearance of Yanagi Soetsu. It was Yanagi who discovered the beauty that could only be produced by simple, humble craftsmen repeatedly and unselfconsciously working on the same objects day after day. From this quotidian world emerged a distinctive beauty—wholesome, free, and devoid of self-awareness. To bring these crafts to the notice of the world, Yanagi established the Japan Folk Crafts Museum in 1936, from whose collection the objects illustrated herein have been chosen for inclusion by the publisher. In the essays, Yanagi expounds his philosophy of folk crafts and highlights particular pieces. Altogether, the book constitutes a penetrating insight into the world of Japanese handicrafts.

Publication Date: March 2017
Publisher: JPIC
Size: 220mm (h) x 148mm (w)
Extent: 246 pages
Color plates: 76
ISBN 978-4-916055-75-0 (Hardcover)

Soetsu Yanagi
Selected Essays on Japanese Folk Crafts

Yanagi Soetsu
Translated by Michael Brase

The Building of Horyu-ji
The Technique and Wood that Made It Possible

Nishioka Tsunekazu and Kohara Jiro
Translated by Michael Brase

The common utilitarian objects depicted in this book were considered aesthetically insignificant until the appearance of Yanagi Soetsu. It was Yanagi who discovered the beauty that could only be produced by simple, humble craftsmen repeatedly and unselfconsciously working on the same objects day after day. From this quotidian world emerged a distinctive beauty—wholesome, free, and devoid of self-awareness. To bring these crafts to the notice of the world, Yanagi established the Japan Folk Crafts Museum in 1936, from whose collection the objects illustrated herein have been chosen for inclusion by the publisher. In the essays, Yanagi expounds his philosophy of folk crafts and highlights particular pieces. Altogether, the book constitutes a penetrating insight into the world of Japanese handicrafts.

Publication Date: March 2017
Publisher: JPIC
Size: 220mm (h) x 148mm (w)
Extent: 246 pages
Color plates: 76
ISBN 978-4-916055-75-0 (Hardcover)
Fujimori Terunobu is professor emeritus at the University of Tokyo. His specialty is modern and contemporary architecture.

Fujitsuka Mitsumasa is a photographer known for his dynamic, journalistic shots of structures and environments.

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.

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 Kateigahō, Japan’s premier magazine of art and culture, supplemented with additional essays by Fujitsuka Mitsumasa.

What distinguishes this volume is its selection of 23 locations—including well-known temples and shrines but also lesser-known structures—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.

Filled with new discoveries for the reader, this book will appeal to anyone with an interest in Japan’s architecture, history, and culture.

Contemporary Japanese Architects
Profiles in Design
Igarashi Taro
Translated by David Noble

Architects play an essential role in contemporary society, helping to shape the environment in which we live and work. This book explores how architects in Japan have responded to the demands of their times and how they continue to engage with new economic realities and the shifting global order.

The moving image of Japanese society is reflected in the work of the architects profiled in this book: from the generation rising from the ashes of postwar Japan, through the postwar economic boom, to the generation that quietly gathered strength during the recession of the 1970s; from the generation that debuted in the bubble economy of the 1980s to the generation that began their work after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the collapse of the bubble economy; and finally, after decades of economic stagnation, to the generation that has come to the fore since the early twenty-first century.

Contemporary Japanese architects have pioneered developments in sustainability and introduced engineering innovations that have changed not only the look of modern buildings but also the ways in which they can be constructed.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alexander Bennett is currently employed as a Professor at Kansai University’s Division of International Affairs. Bennett is Vice President of the International Naginata Federation, on the International Committee of the All Japan Kendo Federation, a Director of the Japanese Academy of Budo, and represents NZ Kendo as Head Coach. Recent publications in English include *Hagakure: The Secret Wisdom of the Samurai* (Tuttle, 2014); *Kendo: Culture of the Sword* (University of California Press, 2015), and *Naginata: History and Practice* (Bunkasha International, 2016).

*What is Bushido? What is Budo? How are the culture and traditions of samurai connected with the modern martial arts? Is the ancient wisdom of Japan’s feudal warriors truly relevant in the twenty-first century? If so, how can it be accessed? This book addresses these questions and is a must-read not only for martial artists but also for those who want to know more about the enigmatic Japanese mind and notions of self-identity.*

“The origins of Bushido are in the medieval battlefields of Japan, where samurai never knew whether they would live to see another day. Questions of life and death and of how to live life to its full potential are not unique to the samurai experience. We all face these issues.”

(Excerpt from the Preface)
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kamata Tôji was born in Tokushima Prefecture in 1951. After graduating from Kokugakuin University, majoring in philosophy, Kamata pursued doctoral research in Shinto theology at the same university. He is currently professor emeritus, Kyoto University, and 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 doctoral degree in literature. He is qualified to hold Shinto rituals and is a Shinto songwriter.

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. 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 to create a singular, combinatory religious culture that continues to permeate Japan’s cultural life today. This English translation of a book originally written in Japanese by one of the country’s most knowledgeable, penetrating, and eclectic scholars of Japanese religion and spirituality presents an engaging overview of the country’s religious legacy, as well as offering insights into how religion can become a force for peaceful coexistence rather than violent extremism.

Publication Date: March 2017
Publisher: JPIC
Size: 226mm (h) x 152mm (w)
Extent: 218 pages
Color Plates: 2
ISBN 978-4-916055-84-2 (Hardcover)
ISBN 978-4-86658-052-4 (Paperback)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Flower Petals Fall, but the Flower Endures
The Japanese Philosophy of Transience
NEW ENGLISH EDITION
Takeuchi Seiichi

Publication Date: January 2019
Publisher: JPIC
Size: 188mm (h) x 128mm (w)
Extent: 198 pages

Life is short and transient—Japanese people call this sentiment mujô-kan. However, what if we could sweep away the “despair” looming over the present age by proactively accepting this mujô (transience)? Perusing the thought of mujô from the perspectives of philosophy, literature, art, and religion, Takeuchi delves into the view of life and death unique to the Japanese people, who have shared “grief” and “pain” with each other, as well as into the very core of their underlying spirit. This book presents a full record of his “valedictory lecture” in commemoration of his retirement from the University of Tokyo.

“Intellectuals in modern Japan, including Fukuzawa, Nakae, and Shiga, often hold a view of life and death in which “we become mu (nullity) when we die.” Seen in the light of our present context, however, mu is far from being nothing; rather it means that we go back again to the Vast Nature or the Great Universe from which we came. This is why a kind of peace of mind or solace can occur when one says, “We become mu when we die.””

(Excerpt from Chapter 1)
Nakano Kōji (1925–2004), born in Chiba, studied German literature at the University of Tokyo. In 1966, he went to Western Europe as an overseas research scholar from Kokugakuin University. On his return to Japan, he immersed himself in Japanese medieval literature and began writing literary criticism, novels, and essays including *Seihin no shisō* (The Concept of Honest Poverty).

Nakano Kōji opens the door to the treasury of Japanese classics by introducing six writers who are his personal favorites. The writers under his lens span seven centuries, ranging from the twelfth century to the nineteenth. Three are poets; three wrote timeless prose. The hermit-monk Ryōkan, a poet who loved nothing more than bouncing balls with neighborhood children or just sitting sprawled in his hut, listening to the sound of rain, teaches the value of living with a spirit of play. Kenkō offers trenchant comments on the aesthetics of life, grounded in an appreciation of the immediacy of death. Kamo no Chômei, a journalist par excellence, found happiness late in life by flouting convention and “rejoicing in the absence of grief.” Dōgen, the founder of Sôtó Zen in Japan, takes us on a mind-bending trip to the Dharma—ultimate truth—that involves revolutionary ways of conceiving of time, life, and death. Saigyō, the beloved itinerant monk-poet, continually explores his own wayward heart and its vast, incorrigible love of beauty. Buson the haiku poet uses his painter’s eye to capture cosmic vistas as well as moments of poignancy in poems of seventeen syllables.
In addition to the titles listed here, there are many other titles planned for translation into English. All JAPAN LIBRARY titles are specially hand-picked by a committee of experts. Upon selection and subsequent translation, many titles are updated to reflect current research and findings, often receiving supplementary text, images, footnotes, updated graphs, and charts, etc.

### UPCOMING TITLES

**Title:** Ōmi shōnin gaku nyūmon: CSR no genryū [sanpō yoshi] kaiteiban  
**Author:** Suenaga Kunitoshi  
**Keywords:** corporate social responsibility, Edo period, Ōmi merchants, Nakasendō highway

**Title:** Yukishiyo no omokage  
**Author:** Watanabe Kyōji  
**Keywords:** Meiji period, Edo period, foreign views on Japan, Japanese history

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