

Choshu In The Meiji Restoration

The Meiji Restoration Japan in Transition Japanese Manners & Customs in the Meiji Era Japanese Culture in the Meiji Era: Legislation Japanese Thought in the Meiji Era Japanese Manners [and] Customs in the Meiji Era Outline of Japanese History in the Meiji Era Japanese Culture in the Meiji Era: Outline of Japanese history Japanese Religion in the Meiji Era Japanese Thought in the Meiji Era Choshu in the Meiji Restoration Proliferating Talent Patriots and Redeemers in Japan The Role of Foreign Employees in the Meiji Era in Japan Japanese Culture in the Meiji Era: Society Toward the Meiji Revolution Japanese Culture in the Meiji Era: Manners and customs Outline of Japanese History in the Meiji Era Japanese Legislation in the Meiji Era Revisiting Japan's Restoration W. Beasley Hilary Conroy Kunio Yanagida (ed.) Kaikoku Hyakunen Kinen Bunka Jigyūkai Masaaki Kōsaka Yanagida Yanagita Jintarō Fujii Kaikoku Hyakunen Kinen Bunka Jigyūkai Hideo Kishimoto Masaaki Kōsaka Albert M. Craig Motoyama Yukihiro George M. Wilson Noboru Umetani Kaikoku Hyakunen Kinen Bunka Jigyūkai Tadashi Karube Kaikoku Hyakunen Kinen Bunka Jigyūkai Jintarō Fujii Ryūsuke Ishii Timothy Amos The Meiji Restoration Japan in Transition Japanese Manners & Customs in the Meiji Era Japanese Culture in the Meiji Era: Legislation Japanese Thought in the Meiji Era Japanese Manners [and] Customs in the Meiji Era Outline of Japanese History in the Meiji Era Japanese Culture in the Meiji Era: Outline of Japanese history Japanese Religion in the Meiji Era Japanese Thought in the Meiji Era Choshu in the Meiji Restoration Proliferating Talent Patriots and Redeemers in Japan The Role of Foreign Employees in the Meiji Era in Japan Japanese Culture in the Meiji Era: Society Toward the Meiji Revolution Japanese Culture in the Meiji Era: Manners and customs Outline of Japanese History in the Meiji Era Japanese Legislation in the Meiji Era Revisiting Japan's Restoration W. Beasley Hilary Conroy Kunio Yanagida (ed.) Kaikoku Hyakunen Kinen Bunka Jigyūkai Masaaki Kōsaka Yanagida Yanagita Jintarō Fujii Kaikoku Hyakunen Kinen Bunka Jigyūkai Hideo Kishimoto Masaaki Kōsaka Albert M. Craig Motoyama Yukihiro George M. Wilson Noboru Umetani Kaikoku Hyakunen Kinen Bunka Jigyūkai Tadashi Karube Kaikoku Hyakunen Kinen Bunka Jigyūkai Jintarō Fujii Ryūsuke Ishii Timothy Amos

first there are questions concerning the role and relative importance of internal and external factors in the pattern of events did the

activities of the western powers prompt changes in japan that would not otherwise have taken place or did they merely hasten a process that had already begun similarly did western civilization give a new direction to japanese development or do no more than provide the outward forms through which indigenous change could manifest itself was it a matrix or only a shopping list second how far was the evolution of modern japan in some sense inevitable were the main features of meiji society already implicit in the tempo reforms only awaiting an appropriate trigger to bring them into being more narrowly was the character of meiji institutions determined by the social composition of the anti tokugawa movement or did it derive from a situation that took shape only after the bakufu was overthrown this is to pose the problem of the relationship between day to day politics and long term socioeconomic change one can argue paraphrasing toyama that the political controversy about foreign affairs provided the means by which basic socioeconomic factors became effective or one can say with sakata that the relevance of socioeconomic change is that it helped to decide the manner in which the fundamentally political ramifications of the foreign question were worked out the difference of emphasis is significant finally have recent historians in their preoccupation with other issues lost sight of something important in their relative neglect of ideas qua ideas ought we perhaps to stop treating loyalty to the emperor as simply a manifestation of something else after all the men whose actions are the object of our study took that loyalty seriously enough certainly as an instrument of politics if not as an article of faith

this collection of essays by distinguished scholars takes us into a critical and exceptionally interesting period in japanese history the fourteen essays explore the evolution of social and political thought and practice during this crucial period the question of women s rights the conflict between modernizers and zealots japan s political military and diplomatic relations with other countries and other topics

when commodore perry arrived in japan to open the country to western trade in 1853 he found a medieval amalgam of sword bearing samurai castle towns confucian academies peasant villages rice paddies upstart merchants bath houses and kabuki fifteen years later japan was on its way to becoming the only non western nation in the nineteenth century with a modern centralized bureaucratic state and industrial economy this book is a study of the meiji restoration that changed the face of japan prominent historian albert m craig tells its story through that of the domain of choshu whose role in the formation of modern japan was not unlike that of prussia in germany during the fifteen crucial years between 1853 and 1868 whereas previous studies have stressed the role of discontented lower samurai and frustrated rich merchants and peasants in this transition claiming that they provided the motive power behind the political movements of the restoration period this work sharply challenges these earlier interpretations craig instead emphasizes the vitality of traditional values

in japan s early reaction to the west and foregrounds the critical contribution of the old society to the formation of the new meiji state choshu in the meiji restoration is a seminal work for scholars and students of japanese history

detailed and diverse proliferating talent challenges us to rethink a crucial period in japanese history the eight essays translated here broadly cover the eventful half century that witnessed the collapse of the tokugawa shogunate and the rise of the modern japanese state to the position of an international power edited by j s a elisonas and richard rubinger professors of east asian languages and cultures at indiana university proliferating talent is full of nuances and carefully textured readings in which local developments are carefully balanced against major national events

like the french revolution the meiji restoration transformed a whole society japan was never the same after 1868 the meaning of the events that led to the restoration has therefore profoundly concerned historians but most western accounts probe only the dimension of political leadership largely ignoring the common people in this book george wilson argues that the restoration was a total national event a revolution to redeem the whole realm of japan accomplished by samurai and commoners alike this study foregrounds the classic contest of agency versus structure focusing on the actors in meiji restoration history rather than the institutions through which they acted wilson argues that the samurai who triumphed sought not only the patriotic goal of defending the realm against the external threat of western imperialism but also the redemptive goal of rescuing the realm from the bakufu s failures the common people no less than the samurai elite wanted to save japan in its time of troubles according to wilson redemption complemented patriotism as a motive for both the elite and the general public contributing a double force to japan s rising nationalism

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 thought and 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 ogyū sorai yamagata bantō motoori norinaga rai san yō fukuzawa yukichi takekoshi yosaburō 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

this volume presents the reader with thirty one short chapters that capture an exciting new moment in the study of the meiji restoration the chapters offer a kaleidoscope of approaches and interpretations of the restoration that showcase the strengths of the most recent interpretative trends in history writing on japan while simultaneously offering new research pathways on a scale probably never before seen in the study of the restoration outside japan the short chapters in this volume reveal unique aspects of the transformative event and process not previously explored in previous research they do this in three core ways through selecting and deploying different time frames in their historical analysis by creative experimentation with different spatial units through which to ascertain historical experience and by innovative selection of unique and highly original topics for analysis the volume offers students and teachers of japanese history modern history and east asian studies an important resource for coming to grips with the multifaceted nature of japan s nineteenth century transformation the volume will also have broader appeal to scholars working in fields such as early modern modern world history global history asian modernities gender studies economic history and postcolonial studies

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Introduction

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