

a brief history of japanese civilization

A Brief History of Japanese Civilization: A Detailed Analysis

Author: While there isn't one singular definitive "A Brief History of Japanese Civilization," many authors have contributed to the understanding of this topic. For the purpose of this analysis, we will consider the works of several prominent historians, such as Conrad Totman (author of several influential works on Japanese history, including *A History of Japan*), and Andrew Gordon (known for his expertise on modern Japanese history). Their extensive research and academic backgrounds in Japanese history lend significant credibility to their interpretations and analyses presented in various books and articles that could be considered under the umbrella of "A Brief History of Japanese Civilization." Their experience includes years spent researching primary and secondary sources, often conducting fieldwork in Japan itself, thus providing a deeper understanding than solely relying on secondary sources.

Publisher: Numerous publishers have released books focusing on "A Brief History of Japanese Civilization." These include established academic publishers like Routledge, Harvard University Press, and Oxford University Press. These publishers have a long-standing reputation for rigorous peer-review processes and for publishing scholarly works in history, ensuring the quality and accuracy of the information contained within books they release on this topic. Their authority stems from their commitment to academic standards and their publication of works by leading experts in the field.

Editor: For many academic books on Japanese history, there is often an editorial board or a single editor with significant expertise in Japanese Studies. The qualifications of such an editor would typically include a PhD in history, Japanese Studies, or a related field, extensive publication record in peer-reviewed journals, and a deep familiarity with the complexities of Japanese history and historiography. The editor's role is crucial in ensuring the accuracy, coherence, and overall quality of the final product. Their involvement adds a layer of credibility and scholarly rigor to "A Brief History of Japanese Civilization."

A Journey Through Time: Exploring "A Brief History of Japanese Civilization"

A "Brief History of Japanese Civilization," regardless of the specific author or publication, generally traces the development of Japanese society and culture from its prehistoric origins to the present day. It typically explores key themes and periods, including:

1. Prehistory and Ancient Japan (Jomon and Yayoi periods): This section focuses on the early

inhabitants of the Japanese archipelago, examining their societal structures, agricultural practices (the transition from hunting and gathering to rice cultivation during the Yayoi period), and the development of distinct cultural traits. "A Brief History of Japanese Civilization" often highlights the emergence of early forms of social organization and the influence of continental cultures.

1. The Yamato State and the Rise of Imperial Power: The formation of the Yamato state, the gradual consolidation of power under imperial rule, and the emergence of Shinto, Japan's indigenous religion, are crucial elements in "A Brief History of Japanese Civilization." This period also witnesses the introduction of Buddhism from Korea and China, profoundly impacting Japanese art, architecture, and social structures.
1. The Nara and Heian Periods: These periods are characterized by the flourishing of Japanese court culture, the development of a unique artistic style, and the creation of classical literature like The Tale of Genji. "A Brief History of Japanese Civilization" frequently analyzes the role of the imperial court, the influence of Buddhism, and the development of distinct Japanese aesthetics.
1. The Kamakura and Muromachi Periods: The rise of the samurai class, the establishment of the shogunate system, and the emergence of feudalism are central themes in this section. A "Brief History of Japanese Civilization" often explores the impact of these changes on political structures, warfare, and artistic expression, particularly the rise of Zen Buddhism and its influence on art and culture.
1. The Edo Period (Tokugawa Shogunate): This era is marked by relative peace and stability under the Tokugawa shogunate, which established a strict social hierarchy and a system of centralized control. "A Brief History of Japanese Civilization" often examines the development of a unique urban culture in Edo (present-day Tokyo), the flourishing of the arts (ukiyo-e woodblock prints, Kabuki theatre), and the increasing isolation of Japan from the outside world.
1. Meiji Restoration and Modernization: The Meiji Restoration of 1868 initiated a period of rapid modernization and westernization, leading to significant political, economic, and social

changes. "A Brief History of Japanese Civilization" usually analyzes the challenges and successes of Japan's modernization efforts, its growing military power, and its increasing involvement in international affairs.

1. 20th Century Japan and Beyond: This section covers Japan's participation in World War II, its post-war reconstruction, its economic miracle, and its contemporary role as a major global power. A "Brief History of Japanese Civilization" will discuss the challenges of rebuilding after the war, the development of a democratic society, and Japan's ongoing struggle to balance its economic success with its social and environmental responsibilities.

Summary: "A Brief History of Japanese Civilization" ultimately presents a narrative of continuous change and adaptation, highlighting the interplay between indigenous traditions and external influences. It underscores the significance of key historical events, the evolution of political structures, the development of unique cultural practices, and the enduring influence of religion and philosophy on shaping Japanese identity and societal values. The narrative showcases how Japan has navigated periods of both isolation and global engagement, ultimately emerging as a technologically advanced and economically powerful nation. The various interpretations within these "brief histories" often differ in their emphasis and perspectives but collectively paint a rich picture of Japan's long and complex history.

Current Relevance of "A Brief History of Japanese Civilization"

Understanding "A Brief History of Japanese Civilization" is essential in today's interconnected world for several reasons:

Geopolitical Significance: Japan remains a major player in global politics and economics. Knowing its history provides valuable context for understanding its current foreign policy, its role in regional security, and its economic interactions with other nations.

Cultural Understanding: Japan's rich cultural heritage is a source of fascination and inspiration worldwide. Studying its history provides insights into its art, literature, music, and traditional practices, enhancing intercultural communication and appreciation.

Economic Insights: Japan's post-war economic miracle is a remarkable case study in economic development and industrialization. Understanding its history helps to analyze its economic strengths and weaknesses and to appreciate the factors that have contributed to its success.

Social Dynamics: Japan's history provides insights into its unique social structures, values, and traditions. This knowledge facilitates a deeper understanding of its social dynamics and contemporary challenges.

Conclusion

A comprehensive understanding of "A Brief History of Japanese Civilization" provides a crucial foundation for comprehending the complexities of modern Japan. By exploring its historical trajectory, we gain valuable insights into its cultural identity, geopolitical role, and economic dynamism. While different "brief histories" may emphasize certain aspects more than others, they collectively offer a multifaceted perspective on this fascinating and influential civilization.

FAQs

1. What are the major turning points in Japanese history? Major turning points include the Meiji Restoration, the introduction of Buddhism, the rise of the samurai class, and Japan's post-WWII reconstruction.
1. How did Buddhism influence Japanese culture? Buddhism profoundly shaped Japanese art, architecture, literature, and philosophy, blending with indigenous Shinto beliefs to create unique syncretic practices.
1. What is the significance of the samurai class? The samurai were a warrior class that played a pivotal role in Japanese history, shaping political structures and influencing cultural values for centuries.
1. What was the impact of World War II on Japan? WWII resulted in widespread destruction, societal upheaval, and a fundamental reshaping of Japan's political and social landscape.
1. How did Japan achieve its post-war economic miracle? Japan's economic recovery was fueled by a combination of factors, including American aid, industrial innovation, and a dedicated workforce.
1. What are some key features of Japanese culture? Key features include a strong emphasis on group harmony, respect for tradition, and a unique aesthetic sense.

1. What are some important primary sources for studying Japanese history? Primary sources include imperial chronicles, diaries, letters, and artistic creations from various historical periods.
1. How has Japan's relationship with the West evolved over time? Japan's relationship with the West has been marked by periods of both isolation and intense engagement, characterized by both conflict and cooperation.
1. What are some of the ongoing challenges facing Japan today? Contemporary challenges include an aging population, economic stagnation, and environmental concerns.

Related Articles

1. The Rise of the Samurai: Warfare and Society in Feudal Japan: Explores the military and social aspects of the samurai class, their role in shaping feudal society, and their impact on Japanese culture.
1. Buddhism in Japan: From Introduction to Syncretism: Analyzes the introduction, adaptation, and integration of Buddhism into Japanese society and its lasting impact on religious and cultural practices.
1. The Meiji Restoration: Modernization and Transformation in 19th Century Japan: Examines the significant political, economic, and social changes that occurred during the Meiji period.
1. The Pacific War: Japan's Role in World War II: Details Japan's involvement in World War II, its military strategies, and its consequences.
1. Post-War Japan: Reconstruction, Economic Miracle, and Social Change: Focuses on Japan's recovery from WWII, its remarkable economic growth, and the accompanying social transformations.

1. Shinto: The Indigenous Religion of Japan: Explores the beliefs, practices, and cultural significance of Shinto, Japan's native religion.

1. Japanese Art and Architecture: A Historical Overview: Traces the development of Japanese art and architecture across different historical periods, highlighting their unique styles and influences.

1. Japanese Literature: From Classical Tales to Modern Novels: Explores the evolution of Japanese literature, examining prominent authors and literary movements.

1. Modern Japanese Society: Challenges and Transformations in the 21st Century: Analyzes contemporary Japanese society, examining its social structures, cultural values, and ongoing challenges.

a brief history of japanese civilization: A Brief History of Japanese Civilization Conrad Schirokauer, 1989

a brief history of japanese civilization: A Brief History of Chinese and Japanese Civilizations Conrad Schirokauer, 1978

a brief history of japanese civilization: A Brief History of Japanese Civilization Conrad Schirokauer, David Lurie, Suzanne Gay, 2006 Preface. Part I: BEGINNINGS AND FOUNDATIONS. 1. Early Japan. 2. The Impact of Continental Civilization. Part II: ARISTOCRATS, MONKS, AND SAMURAI. 3. The Heian Period. 4. The Kamakura Period. 5. The Ashikaga Shogunate: Integration and Disintegration. Part III: LATE TRADITIONAL JAPAN. 6. The Formation of a New Order. 7. The Tokugawa Shogunate: The Middle Years. Part IV: JAPAN IN THE MODERN WORLD. 8. Endings and Beginnings: From Tokugawa to Meiji. 9. The Emergence of Modern Japan: 1874-1894. 10. Imperial Japan 1895-1931. 11. Militarism and War. 12. The New Japan. Afterword. Suggestions for Further Reading. Index.

a brief history of japanese civilization: A Brief History of Japanese Civilisation Conrad Schirokauer, David Lurie, Suzanne Gay, 2006-12 This compelling text explores the development of Japan through its art, religion, literature, and thought as well as through its economic, political, and social history. This author team combines strong research with extensive classroom teaching experience to offer a clear, consistent, and highly readable text that is accessible to students with no previous knowledge of the history of Japan.

a brief history of japanese civilization: Japanese Civilization S. N. Eisenstadt, 1996 One of the world's leading social theorists provides a monumental synthesis of Japanese history, religion, culture, and social organization. Equipped with a thorough command of the subject, S. N. Eisenstadt focuses on the non-ideological character of Japanese civilization as well as its infinite capacity to recreate community through an ongoing past.

a brief history of japanese civilization: An Ecological View of History Tadao Umesao, 2003
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a brief history of japanese civilization: A Concise History of Japan Brett L. Walker, 2015-02-26 To this day, Japan's modern ascendancy challenges many assumptions about world history, particularly theories regarding the rise of the west and why the modern world looks the way it does. In this engaging new history, Brett L. Walker tackles key themes regarding Japan's relationships with its minorities, state and economic development, and the uses of science and medicine. The book begins by tracing the country's early history through archaeological remains, before proceeding to explore life in the imperial court, the rise of the samurai, civil conflict, encounters with Europe, and the advent of modernity and empire. Integrating the pageantry of a unique nation's history with today's environmental concerns, Walker's vibrant and accessible new narrative then follows Japan's ascension from the ashes of World War II into the thriving nation of today. It is a history for our times, posing important questions regarding how we should situate a nation's history in an age of environmental and climatological uncertainties.

a brief history of japanese civilization: A History of Japan Richard Henry Pitt Mason, John Godwin Caiger, 1973

a brief history of japanese civilization: History of Japan Richard Mason, J. G. Caiger, 2011-08-30 A classic of Japanese history, this book is the preeminent work on the history of Japan. Newly revised and updated, *A History of Japan* is a single-volume, complete history of the nation of Japan. Starting in ancient Japan during its early pre-history period *A History of Japan* covers every important aspect of history and culture through feudal Japan to the post-cold War period and collapse of the Bubble Economy in the early 1990's. Recent findings shed additional light on the origins of Japanese civilization and the birth of Japanese culture. Also included is an in-depth analysis of the Japanese religion, arts, culture and people from the 6th century B.C.E. to the present. This contemporary classic, now updated and revised, continues to be an essential text in Japanese studies. Classic illustrations and unique pictures are dispersed throughout the book. *A History of Japan, Revised Edition* includes: Archaic Japan--including Yamato, the creation of a unified state, the Nana Period, and the Heian period. Medieval Japan-- including rule by the military houses, the failure of Ashikaga Rule, Buddhism, and the Kamakura and Muroachi Periods periods. Ealy Modern Japan--including Japanese feudalism, administration under the Tokugawa, and society and culture in early modern Japan. Modern Japan--including The Meiji Era and policies for modernization, from consensus to crisis (1912-1937), and solutions through force. This contemporary classic continues to be a central book in Japanese studies and is a vital addition to the collection of any student or enthusiast of Japanese history, Japanese culture, or the Japanese Language.

a brief history of japanese civilization: Ancient Japan Captivating History, 2019-12-11 Japan, the country of the rising sun, is today known as one of the most prosperous and technologically advanced nations despite not having many natural resources. This guide will lead you into that dive, showing how those characteristics synonymous with the Japanese civilization gradually appeared, formed, and transformed through time.

a brief history of japanese civilization: Brief History of Japan Jonathan Clements, 2017-08-01 This fascinating history tells the story of the people of Japan, from ancient teenage priest-queens to teeming hordes of salarymen, a nation that once sought to conquer China, yet also shut itself away for two centuries in self-imposed seclusion. First revealed to Westerners in the chronicles of Marco Polo, Japan was a legendary faraway land defended by a fearsome Kamikaze storm and ruled by a divine sovereign. It was the terminus of the Silk Road, the furthest end of the known world, a fertile source of inspiration for European artists, and an enduring symbol of the mysterious East. In recent times, it has become a powerhouse of global industry, a nexus of popular culture, and a harbinger of

post-industrial decline. With intelligence and wit, author Jonathan Clements blends documentary and storytelling styles to connect the past, present and future of Japan, and in broad yet detailed strokes reveals a country of paradoxes: a modern nation steeped in ancient traditions; a democracy with an emperor as head of state; a famously safe society built on 108 volcanoes resting on the world's most active earthquake zone; a fast-paced urban and technologically advanced country whose land consists predominantly of mountains and forests. Among the chapters in this Japanese history book are: The Way of the Gods: Prehistoric and Mythical Japan A Game of Thrones: Minamoto vs. Taira Time Warp: 200 Years of Isolation The Stench of Butter: Restoration and Modernization The New Breed: The Japanese Miracle

a brief history of japanese civilization: *Globalizing the Prehistory of Japan* Ann Kumar, 2008-11-24 This iconoclastic work on the prehistory of Japan and of South East Asia challenges entrenched views on the origins of Japanese society and identity. The social changes that took place in Japan in the time-period when the Jomon culture was replaced by the Yayoi culture were of exceptional magnitude, going far beyond those of the so-called Neolithic Revolution in other parts of the world. They included not only a new way of life based on wet-rice agriculture but also the introduction of metalworking in both bronze and iron, and furthermore a new architecture functionally and ritually linked to rice cultivation, a new religion, and a hierarchical society characterized by a belief in the divinity of the ruler. Because of its immense and enduring impact the Yayoi period has generally been seen as the very foundation of Japanese civilization and identity. In contrast to the common assumption that all the Yayoi innovations came from China and Korea, this work combines exciting new scientific evidence from such different fields as rice genetics, DNA and historical linguistics to show that the major elements of Yayoi civilization actually came, not from the north, but from the south.

a brief history of japanese civilization: *An Introduction To the History of Japan* Katsuro Hara, 2020-07-20 Reproduction of the original: *An Introduction To the History of Japan* by Katsuro Hara

a brief history of japanese civilization: *The Economic Aspects of the History of the Civilization of Japan* Yosaburo Takekoshi, 2016-04-01 Originally published by Allen & Unwin in 1930 this 3-volume collection brings together writings on the economic aspects of Japan's history. Covering the period from the 1600s until the 1920s this work offers the reader, not only an economic history of the Japanese, but also a social and political history. By explaining the realities of daily life during the periods covered, this collection allows the economic aspects to be fully appreciated.

a brief history of japanese civilization: *Japan Before Perry* Conrad Totman, 2008-01-14 By 1853 Japan had been transformed from a sparsely populated land of nonliterate tribal peoples into an elaborately structured commercial society sustaining massive cities and a varied array of sophisticated cultural production. In this authoritative survey, Conrad Totman examines the origins of Japanese civilization and explores in detail the classical, medieval, and early-modern epochs, weaving interpretations of the major themes in Japan's cultural and political development into a rich historical narrative.

a brief history of japanese civilization: *China and Japan* Ezra F. Vogel, 2019-07-30 A Financial Times "Summer Books" Selection "Will become required reading." —Times Literary Supplement "Elegantly written...with a confidence that comes from decades of deep research on the topic, illustrating how influence and power have waxed and waned between the two countries." —Rana Mitter, Financial Times China and Japan have cultural and political connections that stretch back fifteen hundred years, but today their relationship is strained. China's military buildup deeply worries Japan, while Japan's brutal occupation of China in World War II remains an open wound. In recent years both countries have insisted that the other side must openly address the flashpoints of the past before relations can improve. Boldly tackling the most contentious chapters in this long and tangled relationship, Ezra Vogel uses the tools of a master historian to examine key turning points in Sino-Japanese history. Gracefully pivoting from past to present, he argues that for the sake of a stable world order, these two Asian giants must reset their relationship. "A sweeping, often

fascinating, account...Impressively researched and smoothly written." —Japan Times "Vogel uses the powerful lens of the past to frame contemporary Chinese-Japanese relations...[He] suggests that over the centuries—across both the imperial and the modern eras—friction has always dominated their relations." —Sheila A. Smith, Foreign Affairs

a brief history of japanese civilization: *Borders of Chinese Civilization* Douglas Howland, 1996-04-25 D. R. Howland explores China's representations of Japan in the changing world of the late nineteenth century and, in so doing, examines the cultural and social borders between the two neighbors. Looking at Chinese accounts of Japan written during the 1870s and 1880s, he undertakes an unprecedented analysis of the main genres the Chinese used to portray Japan—the travel diary, poetry, and the geographical treatise. In his discussion of the practice of "brushtalk," in which Chinese scholars communicated with the Japanese by exchanging ideographs, Howland further shows how the Chinese viewed the communication of their language and its dominant modes—history and poetry—as the textual and cultural basis of a shared civilization between the two societies. With Japan's decision in the 1870s to modernize and westernize, China's relationship with Japan underwent a crucial change—one that resulted in its decisive separation from Chinese civilization and, according to Howland, a destabilization of China's worldview. His examination of the ways in which Chinese perceptions of Japan altered in the 1880s reveals the crucial choice faced by the Chinese of whether to interact with Japan as "kin," based on geographical proximity and the existence of common cultural threads, or as a "barbarian," an alien force molded by European influence. By probing China's poetic and expository modes of portraying Japan, *Borders of Chinese Civilization* exposes the changing world of the nineteenth century and China's comprehension of it. This broadly appealing work will engage scholars in the fields of Asian studies, Chinese literature, history, and geography, as well as those interested in theoretical reflections on travel or modernism.

a brief history of japanese civilization: The Heritage of Japanese Civilization Albert M. Craig, 2003 This short survey of the rich and long history of Japan provides an overall framework from its origins to today. It presents traditions in every field of the arts and literature, political changes, economic advancements, and developments in society, commerce, and culture. Five chapters cover distinct eras: Japan's origins to the twelfth century; medieval Japan, Tokugawa Rule, modern Japan: 1853-1945, and from war's end to the new millenium. For anyone interested in the civilization of Asia and Japan.

a brief history of japanese civilization: History of Japan Captivating History, 2019-11-24 Japan is one of the most adaptable countries in the world. It is capable of very rapid change, even after crises that would halt the progress of other nations.

a brief history of japanese civilization: *Japan* David John Lu, 1997 Covering the full spectrum of political, economic, diplomatic as well as cultural and intellectual history, this classroom resource offers insight not only into the past but also into Japan's contemporary civilization. This volume (the second of two) covers from the late 18th century up to 1995.

a brief history of japanese civilization: A History of East Asia Charles Holcombe, 2017-01-11 The second edition of Charles Holcombe's acclaimed introduction to East Asian history from the dawn of history to the twenty-first century.

a brief history of japanese civilization: A History of Japan Kenneth Henshall, 2012-04-17 Japan's impact on the modern world has been enormous. It occupies just one 300th of the planet's land area, yet came to wield one sixth of the world's economic power. Just 150 years ago it was an obscure land of paddy fields and feudal despots. Within 50 years it became a major imperial power - it's so-called 'First Miracle'. After defeat in the Second World War, when Japan came close to annihilation, within 25 years it recovered remarkably to become the world's third biggest economy - it's 'Second Miracle'. It is now not only an economic superpower, but also a technological and cultural superpower. True miracles have no explanation: Japan's 'miracles' do. The nation's success lies in deeply ingrained historical values, such as a pragmatic determination to succeed. The world can learn much from Japan, and its story is told in these pages. Covering the full sweep of Japanese history, from ancient to contemporary, this book explores Japan's enormous impact on the modern

world, and how vital it is to examine the past and culture of the country in order to full understand its achievements and responses. Now in its third edition, this book is usefully updated and revised.

a brief history of japanese civilization: A History of Japan, 1582-1941 L. M. Cullen, 2003-05-15 This 2003 book offers a distinctive overview of the internal and external pressures responsible for the emergence of modern Japan.

a brief history of japanese civilization: The Invention of Religion in Japan Jason Ānanda Josephson, Jason Ananda Josephson Storm, 2012-10-03 Throughout its long history, Japan had no concept of what we call "religion." There was no corresponding Japanese word, nor anything close to its meaning. But when American warships appeared off the coast of Japan in 1853 and forced the Japanese government to sign treaties demanding, among other things, freedom of religion, the country had to contend with this Western idea. In this book, Jason Ananda Josephson reveals how Japanese officials invented religion in Japan and traces the sweeping intellectual, legal, and cultural changes that followed. More than a tale of oppression or hegemony, Josephson's account demonstrates that the process of articulating religion offered the Japanese state a valuable opportunity. In addition to carving out space for belief in Christianity and certain forms of Buddhism, Japanese officials excluded Shinto from the category. Instead, they enshrined it as a national ideology while relegating the popular practices of indigenous shamans and female mediums to the category of "superstitions"—and thus beyond the sphere of tolerance. Josephson argues that the invention of religion in Japan was a politically charged, boundary-drawing exercise that not only extensively reclassified the inherited materials of Buddhism, Confucianism, and Shinto to lasting effect, but also reshaped, in subtle but significant ways, our own formulation of the concept of religion today. This ambitious and wide-ranging book contributes an important perspective to broader debates on the nature of religion, the secular, science, and superstition.

a brief history of japanese civilization: Kingdom of the Sick Susan L. Burns, 2019-05-31 In this groundbreaking work, Susan L. Burns examines the history of leprosy in Japan from medieval times until the present. At the center of Kingdom of the Sick is the rise of Japan's system of national leprosy sanatoria, which today continue to house more than 1,500 former patients, many of whom have spent five or more decades within them. Burns argues that long before the modern Japanese government began to define a policy toward leprosy, the disease was already profoundly marked by ethical and political concerns and associated with sin, pollution, heredity, and outcast status. Beginning in the 1870s, new anxieties about race and civilization that emanated from a variety of civic actors, including journalists, doctors, patent medicine producers, and Christian missionaries transformed leprosy into a national issue. After 1900, a clamor of voices called for the quarantine of all sufferers of the disease, and in the decades that followed bureaucrats, politicians, physicians, journalists, local communities, and leprosy sufferers themselves grappled with the place of the biologically vulnerable within the body politic. At stake in this "citizenship project" were still evolving conceptions of individual rights, government responsibility for social welfare, and the delicate balance between care and control. Refusing to treat leprosy patients as simply victims of state power, Burns recovers their voices in the debates that surrounded the most controversial aspects of sanitarium policy, including the use of sterilization, segregation, and the continuation of confinement long after leprosy had become a curable disease. Richly documented with both visual and textual sources and interweaving medical, political, social, and cultural history, Kingdom of the Sick tells an important story for readers interested in Japan, the history of medicine and public health, social welfare, gender and sexuality, and human rights.

a brief history of japanese civilization: Civilization and Empire Shogo Suzuki, 2009-02-02 This book critically examines the influence of International Society on East Asia, and how its attempts to introduce 'civilization' to 'barbarous' polities contributed to conflict between China and Japan. Challenging existing works that have presented the expansion of (European) International Society as a progressive, linear process, this book contends that imperialism - along with an ideology premised on 'civilising' 'barbarous' peoples - played a central role in its historic development. Considering how these elements of International Society affected China and Japan's

entry into it, Shogo Suzuki contends that such states envisaged a Janus-faced International Society, which simultaneously aimed for cooperative relations among its 'civilized' members and for the introduction of 'civilization' towards non-European polities, often by coercive means. By examining the complex process by which China and Japan engaged with this dualism, this book highlights a darker side of China and Japan's socialization into International Society which previous studies have failed to acknowledge. Drawing on Chinese and Japanese primary sources seldom utilized in International Relations, this book makes a compelling case for revising our understandings of International Society and its expansion. This book will be of strong interest to students and researcher of international relations, international history, European studies and Asian Studies.

a brief history of japanese civilization: Antiquity and Anachronism in Japanese History

Jeffrey P. Mass, 1992 This collection of essays is built around a major but previously unstudied theme in Japanese history - the extent to which the exaggeration of antiquity has distorted historical understanding.

a brief history of japanese civilization: Evolution of the Japanese Sidney Lewis Gulick,

1903

a brief history of japanese civilization: A History of Japanese Theatre Jonah Salz, 2016-07-14

Japan boasts one of the world's oldest, most vibrant and most influential performance traditions. This accessible and complete history provides a comprehensive overview of Japanese theatre and its continuing global influence. Written by eminent international scholars, it spans the full range of dance-theatre genres over the past fifteen hundred years, including noh theatre, bunraku puppet theatre, kabuki theatre, shingeki modern theatre, rakugo storytelling, vanguard butoh dance and media experimentation. The first part addresses traditional genres, their historical trajectories and performance conventions. Part II covers the spectrum of new genres since Meiji (1868-), and Parts III to VI provide discussions of playwriting, architecture, Shakespeare, and interculturalism, situating Japanese elements within their global theatrical context. Beautifully illustrated with photographs and prints, this history features interviews with key modern directors, an overview of historical scholarship in English and Japanese, and a timeline. A further reading list covers a range of multimedia resources to encourage further explorations.

a brief history of japanese civilization: Musui's Story Katsu Kokichi, 2023-02-21

A series of picaresque adventures set against the backdrop of a Japan still closed off from the rest of the world, *Musui's Story* recounts the escapades of samurai Katsu Kokichi. As it depicts Katsu stealing, brawling, indulging in the pleasure quarters, and getting the better of authorities, it also provides a refreshing perspective on Japanese society, customs, economy, and human relationships. From childhood, Katsu was given to mischief. He ran away from home, once at thirteen, making his way as a beggar on the great trunk road between Edo and Kyoto, and again at twenty, posing as the emissary of a feudal lord. He eventually married and had children but never obtained official preferment and was forced to supplement a meager stipend by dealing in swords, selling protection to shopkeepers, and generally using his muscle and wits. Katsu's descriptions of loyalty and kindness, greed and deception, vanity and superstition offer an intimate view of daily life in nineteenth-century Japan unavailable in standard history books. *Musui's Story* will delight not only students of Japan's past but also general readers who will be entranced by Katsu's candor and boundless zest for life.

a brief history of japanese civilization: A History of Japan: 1615-1867 Sir George Bailey

Sansom, 1958 This is the concluding volume of a three-volume work that culminates the life study of the West's most distinguished scholar of Japanese history. A straightforward narrative of the development of Japanese civilization to 1867, the three volumes constitute the first large-scale comprehensive history of Japan. Unlike the renowned *Short Cultural History*, it is concerned mainly with political and social phenomena and only incidentally touches on religion, literature, and the arts. The treatment is primarily descriptive and factual, but the author offers some pragmatic interpretations and suggests comparisons with the history of other peoples. *A History of Japan: 1615-1867* describes the political and social development of Japan during the two and half centuries

of rule by the Tokugawa Shoguns, a period of remarkable development in almost every aspect of the national life. Under Ieyasu, the first Tokugawa Shogun, a system of checks and balances to keep the great feudatories in order began to be devised. His successors continued this policy, and indeed the essential features of government by the Tokugawa Shoguns was a determination to keep the peace. Freed from civil war, the energies of the nation were devoted to increasing production of goods in agriculture, manufacturing, and mining. Breaches in the traditional policy of isolation began to occur with the arrival of foreign ships in Japanese waters, the first intruders being the Russians in the 1790s. Thereafter, the government struggled to keep foreign ships away from Japanese ports, but before long the pressure of the Western powers, strengthened by the arrival of warships under the command of Commodore Perry in 1853, forced Japan to take part in international affairs.

a brief history of japanese civilization: Kokoro Lafcadio Hearn, 1896

a brief history of japanese civilization: *Japan's Medieval Population* William Wayne Farris, 2006-01-01 Japan's Medieval Population will be required reading for specialists in pre-modern Japanese history, who will appreciate it not only for its thought-provoking arguments, but also for its methodology and use of sources. It will be of interest as well to modern Japan historians and scholars and students of comparative social and economic development.--BOOK JACKET.

a brief history of japanese civilization: Samurai Michael Wert, 2019 Chapter One: Becoming Those Who Served -- Chapter Two: Early Warrior Authority -- Chapter Three: War and Culture -- Chapter Four: Warriors in an Age of Peace -- Chapter Five: Samurai Invention and Decline -- Notes -- Further Reading -- Index.

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