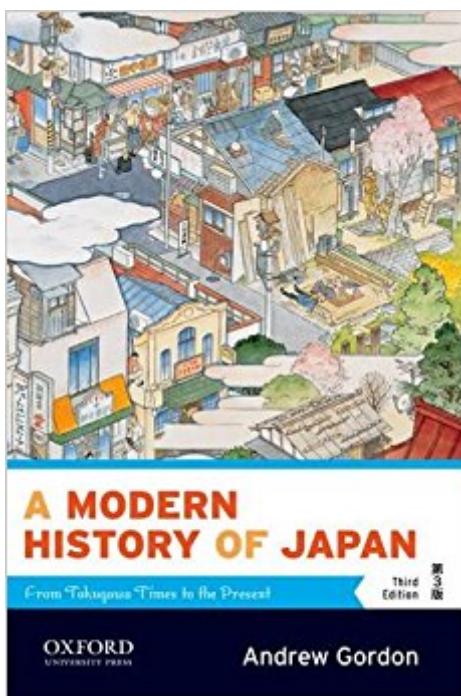


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A Modern History Of Japan: From Tokugawa Times To The Present



Synopsis

A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present, Third Edition, paints a richly nuanced and strikingly original portrait of the last two centuries of Japanese history. It takes students from the days of the shogunate--the feudal overlordship of the Tokugawa family--through the modernizing revolution launched by midlevel samurai in the late nineteenth century; the adoption of Western hairstyles, clothing, and military organization; and the nation's first experiments with mass democracy after World War I. Author Andrew Gordon offers the finest synthesis to date of Japan's passage through militarism, World War II, the American occupation, and the subsequent economic rollercoaster. New to the Third Edition* The previous edition's final chapter has been extensively revised for the third edition. Retitled "Japan's 'Lost Decades'", it now covers the timespan from 1989 through 2008.* An entirely new final chapter examines Japan's tumultuous recent history in a global context. Beginning with the financial crisis of 2008, it takes readers up to the traumatic events of 3/11/11, and through the aftermath of this disaster. The chapter includes a color insert with maps and photographs that document the cataclysm.* More "voices" of ordinary people integrated into the narrative* Increased coverage of cultural history topics, such as anime and manga

Book Information

Paperback: 432 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 3 edition (March 26, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0199930155

ISBN-13: 978-0199930159

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 0.9 x 6.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 30 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #15,693 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Asia #12 in Books > History > Asia > Japan #57 in Books > History > World > Jewish

Customer Reviews

"Gordon is able to tell a story of modern Japan without reducing the history to stereotypes or platitudes, and leaving enough room for other tellings of Japan's history. It is not dogmatic or locked down. This is the best survey on Modern Japanese history available."--Lori Watt, Washington

University in St. Louis "A Modern History of Japan is the best textbook available for courses on Modern Japan and Imperial Japan. As a leading scholar on Japanese labor history, Gordon provides insightful details from the perspective of ordinary Japanese, particularly the hardships, opportunities and resistance from workers and other non-elites during Japan's industrial revolution and beyond."--George Kallander, Syracuse University "Beautifully written and argued by one of the eminent minds and stylists in the field. Gordon convincingly situates Japan on the stage of international history as a nation whose past must be understood to comprehend the history of the modern world."--Noell Wilson, University of Mississippi "A Modern History of Japan remains the best text for an introductory course on modern Japanese history. It has the perfect combination of top-rate scholarship, readability, and length. The new final chapter is just as well-written and engaging as the rest of the book. And it greatly adds to the strength of the book to bring the history as closely up to the present as possible, as well as to point to what may lie ahead in the future."--Sean Kim, University of Massachusetts, Boston

Andrew Gordon is the Lee and Juliet Folger Fund Professor of History and Director of the Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard University.

One of the most direct and succinct textbooks I have used, Gordon streamlines the presentation of history in the interest of keeping his discussion of the material on track, and the reader engaged and focused. Though some may object to Gordon's lower use of illustrating examples and less in depth discussion of particular topics, the end result of creating a less dense textbook that is more pleasant to read and more engaging is ultimately worth it. Instructors using this as assigned reading should be sure to spend time on presenting material of focus in more depth, while students should realize that this textbook will likely not cover everything they will need to know in full depth.

Love the chronological order of this book. Took my first Asian History class with this textbook, and found it very interesting and engaging. Recommend this to anyone who wants to learn about Japanese history.

A fascinating account of Japanese history, linking facts and events, causes and effects, to show a comprehensive picture of the nation's past. Much as it is informative and extensive, it still makes a good read.

I had to get this text for a class, but unlike most required reading, this was actually enjoyable and entertaining. Also, the book is conveniently divided into rather short sections, making it easy to read a section or two between classes.

Very enjoyable to read compared to other history "textbooks" I've read on Japan

This textbook is very enlightening and is easy to understand.

A brilliantly written masterpiece of Japanese history since the modern era. Best for college students and interested scholars.

Received it. 2 days early and am very excited to start learning some Japanese history ^^

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