The Japanese Mind Understanding Contemporary Japanese Culture

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in the japanese mind roger davies offers westerners an invaluable key to the unique aspects of japanese culture readers of this book will gain a clear understanding of what makes the japanese and their society tick among the topics explored aimai ambiguity amae dependence upon others benevolence amakudari the nation s descent from heaven chinmoku silence in communication gambari perseverance giri social obligation haragei literally belly art implicit unspoken communication kenkyo the appearance of modesty sempai kohai seniority wabi sabi simplicity and elegance and zoto gift giving as well as discussions of child rearing personal space and the roles of women in japanese society it includes discussion topics and questions after each chapter all in all this book is an easy to use introduction to the distinguishing characteristics of japanese society an invaluable resource for anyone business people travelers or students perfect for course adoption but also for anyone interested in japanese culture next in this series now available separately japanese culture the religious and philosophical foundations is a fascinating journey through japan s rich cultural history

this encyclopedia covers culture from the end of the imperialist period in 1945 right up to date to reflect the vibrant nature of contemporary japanese society and culture

brings together new wave essays written from the 1990s onwards together with the several articles written in earlier decades in order to build up a nuanced portrait of modern japanese culture and society this work looks at the macro level of politics and the economy it also addresses religion and the diversity of contemporary japanese society

dolores martinez heads an international team of scholars in this lively discussion of japanese popular culture the book s contributors include japanese as well as british icelandic and north american writers offering a diversity of views of what japanese popular culture is and how it is best approached and understood they bring an anthropological perspective to a broad range of topics including sumo karaoke manga vampires women s magazines soccer and morning television through these topics many of which have never previously been addressed by scholars the contributors also explore several deeper themes the construction of gender in japan the impact of globalisation and modern consumerism and the rapidly shifting boundaries of japanese culture and identity this innovative study will appeal to those interested in japanese culture sociology and cultural anthropology

the question of postmodernity that has swept western academic and intellectual circles raises critical comparative questions do societies that have not experienced the same historical development as the west pass inevitably through modernity into postmodernity or can they skip such stages altogether japan the only non western society to develop independently a fully fledged capitalist industrialist economy poses such fundamental questions to social theory is japan in fact unique and as such is it a society which escapes the net of conventional sociological abstractions the book questions how special japanese society really is the limitations of western social theory in grasping the fullness of this dynamic and a complex asian society and inquires as to how japan in turn may speak to social theory and deepen and broaden the principles on which social theory attempts to explore and categorize the social and cultural worlds

illuminates the debate about japan s uniqueness looking at modern agents of cultural nationalism and going on to test general theories of ethnicity with japan as a case study focuses on the new role of the japanese business community

detailed comprehensive and critical overview of modern japanese culture the book provides readers with important insights into various dimensions of modern japanese culture focusing specifically upon a number of contemporary japanese thinkers

the japanese family is at a crossroads of demographic change and altered cultural values while the population of children has been shrinking and that of elders rising attitudes about rights and responsibilities within the family have changed significantly the realities of life in postmodern society have shaped both the imagined family of popular culture and the lived experience of japanese family members imagined families lived families takes an interdisciplinary approach toward these dramatic changes by looking at the japanese family from a variety of perspectives including media studies anthropology sociology literature and popular culture the contributors look at representations of family in manga and anime outsider families and families that must contend with state prosecution of political activists the stereotype of the absolute japanese father and old age and end of life decisions in a rapidly aging society with changing family configurations

this collection brings together fifteen chapters written by scholars specializing in disciplines ranging from anthropology and sociology to literature film and performance studies these scholars analyze complex questions about how the body is lived and imagined as a locus

of meaning making in contemporary japan exploring such topics as mind body dualism aging and illness spirit possession beauty performance and gender this collection addresses the wide array of socio cultural and literary contexts in which the body is interpreted in japanese culture and thought

for the first time using an interdisciplinary theoretical and ethnographic approach the editors have brought together a rich collection of current research on contemporary japanese performance practices topics covered include theatre music art fashion and technology media architecture and tourism well illustrated performing japan will provide added value in introductory courses on the japanese language history or culture as well as asian studies in general in addition it offers valuable comparative references in the context of theatre music and dance classes which either introduce japanese forms or focus entirely on the performing traditions of japan the fourteen contributors include joy hendry roy starrs peter eckersall kimi coaldrake henry johnson and jerry c jaffe

japanese culture the religious and philosophical foundations takes readers on a thoroughly researched and extremely readable journey through japan s cultural history this much anticipated sequel to roger davies s best selling the japanese mind provides a comprehensive overview of the religion and philosophy of japan this cultural history of japan explains the diverse cultural traditions that underlie modern japan and offers readers deep insights into japanese manners and etiquette davies begins with an investigation of the origins of the japanese followed by an analysis of the most important approaches used by scholars to describe the essential elements of japanese culture from there each chapter focuses on one of the formative elements shintoism buddhism taoism zen confucianism and western influences in the modern era each chapter is concluded with extensive endnotes along with thought provoking discussion activities making this volume ideal for individual readers and for classroom instruction anyone interested in pursuing a deeper understanding of this complex and fascinating nation will find davies s work an invaluable resource

the cultural practices and cultural meaning of health care in urban japan

brings together new wave essays written from the 1990s onwards together with the several articles written in earlier decades in order to build up a nuanced portrait of modern japanese culture and society this work looks at the macro level of politics and the

economy it also addresses religion and the diversity of contemporary japanese society

this companion provides a comprehensive overview of the influences that have shaped modern day japan spanning one and a half centuries from the meiji restoration in 1868 to the beginning of the twenty first century this volume covers topics such as technology food nationalism and rise of anime and manga in the visual arts the cambridge companion to modern japanese culture traces the cultural transformation that took place over the course of the twentieth century and paints a picture of a nation rich in cultural diversity with contributions from some of the most prominent scholars in the field the cambridge companion to modern japanese culture is an authoritative introduction to this subject

using the euro american theoretical framework of postmodernism feminism and post colonialism this book analyses the fictional and critical work of four contemporary japanese writers murakami haruki yoshimoto banana yoshimoto takaaki and karatani kojin in addition the author reconsiders this euro american theory by looking back on it from the perspective of japanese literary work presenting outstanding analysis of japanese intellectuals and writers who have received little attention in the west the book also includes an extensive and comprehensive bibliography making it essential reading for those studying japanese literature japanese studies and japanese thinkers

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