Reconfiguring Modernity
Julia Adeney Thomas 2002-01-08 Julia Adeney Thomas turns the concept of nature into a powerful analytical lens through which to view Japanese modernity, bringing the study of both Japanese history and political modernity to a new level of clarity. She shows that nature necessarily functions as a political concept and that changing ideas of nature’s political authority were central during Japan’s transformation from a feudal semifeudal world to an industrializing colonial empire. In political documents from the nineteenth to the early twentieth century, nature was redefined, moving from the universal, spatial concept of the Tokugawa period, through temporal, social Darwinian ideas of inevitable progress and competitive struggle, to a celebration of Japan as a nation uniquely in harmony with nature. The so-called traditional “Japanese love of nature” masks modern state power. Thomas’s theoretically sophisticated study rejects the supposition that modernity is the ideological antithesis of nature, overcoming the determinism of the physical environment through technology and liberating denaturalized subjects from the chains of biology and tradition. In making “nature” available as a critical term for political analysis, this book yields new insights into prewar Japan’s failure to achieve liberal democracy, as well as an alternative means of understanding modernity and the position of non-Western nations within it.

Parties and Politics in Contemporary Japan
Junnosuke Masumi

History Of Law In Japan Since 1868
Wilhelm Röhl 2005 A careful analysis of Japan’s dealings with its legal system through a time of unprecedented change (1868-1960). A must for scholars of Japanese studies, historians and jurists alike.

Liberalism in Modern Japan
Sharon H. Nolte 1987-01-01

The Constitutional Case Law of Japan
Hiroshi Ish 2017-05-01 The Constitutional Case Law of Japan, 1970 through 1990, contains translations of 47 Japanese judicial decisions, selected after consultation with leading Japanese constitutional lawyers and judges. Landmark decisions, cases considered legally, socially, or politically important, and cases of special interest to the foreign scholar are included. Major areas covered are the renunciation of war, equality of rights, economic freedoms, rights related to the quality of life, rights of participation in election politics, procedural rights, and rights and freedoms of the spirit. A substantial introduction gives an overview of Japan’s constitutionalism since 1945, and concisely explains the constitutional system and the courts and their roles. Brief summaries of the cases translated and cases not translated are provided.

Japan’s Imperial House in the Postwar Era, 1945–2019
Kenneth J. Ruoff 2021-02-01 “With the ascension of a new emperor and the dawn of the Reiwa Era, Kenneth J. Ruoff has expanded upon and updated The People’s Emperor, his study of the monarchy’s role as a political, societal, and cultural institution in contemporary Japan. Many Japanese continue to define the nation’s identity through the imperial house, making it a window into Japan’s postwar history.Ruoff begins by examining the reform of the monarchy during the U.S. occupation and then turns to its evolution since the Japanese regained the power to shape it. To understand the monarchy’s function in contemporary Japan, the author analyzes issues such as the role of individual emperors in shaping the institution, the intersection of the monarchy with politics, the emperor’s and the nation’s responsibility for the war, nationalist movements in support of the monarchy, and the remaking of the once-sacrosanct throne into a “people’s imperial house” embedded in the postwar culture of democracy. Finally, Ruoff examines recent developments, including the abdication of Emperor Akihito and the heir crisis, which have brought to the forefront the fragility of the imperial line under the current legal system, leading to calls for reform.”

The People’s Emperor
Kenneth J. Ruoff 2020-03-23 Few institutions are as well suited as the monarchy to provide a window on postwar Japan. The monarchy, which is also a family, has been significant both as a political and as a cultural institution. This comprehensive study analyzes numerous issues, including the role of individual emperors in shaping the institution, the manner in which the emperor’s constitutional position as symbol has been interpreted, the emperor’s interaction with politics through ministerial briefings, memories of Hirohito’s wartime role, nationalist movements in support of Foundation Day and the reign-name system, and the remaking of the once sacrosanct throne into a “monarchy of the masses” embedded in the postwar culture of democracy. The author stresses the monarchy’s “postwarness,” rather than its traditionalism.

Reasonable Men, Powerful Words
Laura Hein 2004 “This is a splendid book, and the research–unusually challenging in both its nature and its scope–is strong. Laura Hein introduces us to the lives and work of an influential group of mid-20th century Japanese economists and to the rise of social science thinking in modern Japan. She conveys in vivid detail a number of developments that highlight the complex nature of the country’s modernity.”—John Dower, Massachusetts Institute of Technology “Laura Hein has given us a very valuable contribution to the history of social sciences in Japan, especially the history of economics as a social science, and most of all as a demonstration of the salience of Marxism in economic thought on the left across decades from the late 1920s through the 1970s. . . . She writes invitingly and engagingly.”—Andrew E. Barsbay, University of California, Berkeley

Network Power
Peter J. Katzenstein 2018-09-05 This book examines regional dynamics in contemporary east and southeast Asia, scrutinizing the effects of Japanese dominance on the politics, economics, and cultures of the area. The contributors ask whether Japan has now attained, through sheer economic power and its political and cultural consequences, the predominance it once sought by overtly military means. The discussion is framed by the profound changes of the past decade. Since the end of the Cold War and the breakup of the Soviet Union, regional dynamics is increasingly shaping state and national developments. This volume places Japan’s role in regional rethinking in a broader comparative perspective with European regionalism and the role Germany plays. It assesses the competitive logics of continental and coastal primacy in China. In starkest form, the question addressed is whether Chinese or Japanese domination of the Asian region is more likely. Between a neo-mercantilist emphasis on the world’s movement toward relatively closed regional blocs and an opposing liberal view that global markets are creating convergent pressures across all national boundaries and regional divides, this book takes a middle position. Asian regionalism is identified by two intersecting developments: Japanese economic penetration of Asian supplier networks through a system of production alliances, and the emergence of a pan-Pacific trading region that includes both Asia and North America. The contributors emphasizes that creating an Asia marked by multiple centers of influence, including China and the United States.

Neighborhood and Nation in Tokyo, 1905-1937
Sally Ann Hastings 1995-07-15 In this pre-World War II analysis of working-class areas of Tokyo, primarily its Honjo ward, Hastings shows that bureaucrats, particularly in the Home Ministry, were concerned with the needs of their citizens and took significant steps to protect the city’s working families and the poor. She also demonstrates that the public participated broadly in politics, through organizations such as resettlement groups, national youth leagues, neighborhood organizations, as well as growing suffrage and workplace organizations.

Farm and Nation in Modern Japan
Thomas R.H. Havens 2015-03-08 A study of agrarian thought in prewar Japan, this book concentrates on the developing fissure between official and rural conceptions of nationalism in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Professor Havens analyzes the response of Japanese farmers and their spokesmen to the pursuit of modernization during the Meiji and Taisho periods. Through a critical examination of writings and speeches of major farm ideologues, including Goishi Seiyo, Tachihara Kizaburo, and Katro Kanji, the author examines the ways in which agrarianist theories shaped modern Japanese nationalism and the extent to which rural ideologies triggered political violence in the turbulent 1930s. He then focuses on the romantic rural communalism of the 1920s and 1930s as an example of antigovernment nationalism designed to rescue the Japanese people at large from bureaucracy, capitalism, and urbanization. Based on extensive research in modern Japanese ideological, political, and economic materials, the study offers new insight into the early twentieth century revolution in nationality sentiments and provides fresh grounds for doubting the state’s monopoly on public loyalties during the years immediately preceding Pearl Harbor. Originally published in 1974, the Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.
The Japanese Police State—Elise K. Tipton 2013-12-17 This is a specialized study of the organization, ideology and activities of the Japanese Special Highpolice, the Tokkô, notorious in pre-war and wartime years for its harassment of opponents of the government. Within a comparative framework, this book explores the elements of Tokkô brutality and abuses of authority, analyses police traditions and looks at the Tokkô’s interactions with other Japanese institutions and the broader sociopolitical climate. Sources include confidential Tokkô documents and interviews with former Tokkô officials. First published in 1996, this title is part of the Bloomsbury Academic Collections series.

Japan’s Orient—Stefan Tanaka 1995-02-08 Stefan Tanaka examines how late nineteenth and early twentieth century Japanese historians created the equivalent of an “Orient” for their new nation state. He argues that the Japanese attempted to use a variety of pasts—Chinese, Indian, and proto-historical Japanese—to construct an identity that was both modern and Asian.

The Politics of Oligarchy—Mark Ramseayer 1998-03-28 This book examines the failure of the Meiji oligarchy to design institutions capable of protecting their hold on power in Japan.

Enigma of the Emperors—Gen-Ami Shikony 2010-10-01 This important new and original study on the Japanese emperors focuses on the enigma of the institution itself, namely, the extraordinary continuity of the Japanese dynasty, which is unknown anywhere else in the world, yet which is now at risk on account of more recent laws of succession.

Military Intervention in Pre-War Japanese Politics—Ian Gow 2004-08-02 This is a study of the impact of inter-war naval arms control policy-making on the domestic politics of Japan, especially the areas of civil-military, inter-military (Army/Navy) and especially intra-military (Navy) relations and on the professional and political career of one leading naval figure, Admiral Kato Kanji (1873-1939). In this re-appraisal of Kato’s career, the author challenges the conventional and negative interpretation of both Kato’s role in the naval politics and factions within the Imperial Navy, utilizing Kato’s involvement in the domestic political debate as a focal device for studying two key areas of Japanese civil-military relations: civilian control and the phenomenon of mass, overt naval intervention in domestic politics.

Japan and Germany in the Modern World—Bernd Marten 2006 First study of the fascinating parallelism that characterizes developments in Japan and Germany by one of Germany’s leading Japan specialists. With the founding of their respective national states, the Meiji Empire in 1868 and the German Reich in 1871, Japan and Germany entered world politics. Since then both countries have developed in strikingly similar ways, and it is not surprising that these two became close allies during the Second World War, and in the end this proved a fatal attraction.

Planning for Empire—Jinmi Mimura 2000-05-02 Japan’s invasion of Manchuria in September of 1931 initiated a new phase of brutal occupation and warfare in Asia and the Pacific. It forwarded the project of remaking the Japanese state along technocratic and fascist lines and creating a self-sufficient Asian bloc centered on Japan and its puppet state of Manchukuo. In Planning for Empire, Jinmi Mimura traces the origins and evolution of this new order and the ideas and policies of its chief architects, the reform bureaucrats. The reform bureaucrats pursued a radical, authoritarian vision of modern Japan in which public and private spheres were fused, ownership and control of capital were separated, and society was ruled by technocrats. Mimura shifts our attention away from reactionary young officers to state planners—reform bureaucrats, total war officers, new zanbatsu leaders, economists, political scientists, engineers, and labor party leaders. She shows how empire building and war mobilization raised the stature and influence of these middle-class professionals by calling forth new government planning agencies, research bureaucracies, and think tanks to draft Five Year industrial plans, rationalize industry, mobilize the masses, streamline the bureaucracy, and manage big business. Deftly examining the political battles and compromises of Japanese technocrats in their bid for political power and Asian hegemony, Planning for Empire offers a new perspective on Japanese fascism by revealing its modern roots in the close interaction of technology and right-wing ideology.

Janus-Faced Justice—Richard H. Mitchell 1992-01-01 In his study of the treatment of political criminal suspects and prisoners from 1968 to 1945, Richard H. Mitchell makes a major contribution to our knowledge and understanding of Japan’s criminal justice system at a most critical juncture in that country’s history. Through careful research and sensitive evaluation of the source materials, Mitchell identifies two contrasting themes—a high degree of state repression and a concern for human rights—and shows how a system that clearly involved considerable brutality, torture, and illegal detention also exhibited elements of humanity and fairness. He argues that this contradiction is best understood by viewing prewar Japan as a “paternalistic police state,” in which brutality was the other side of benevolence. The scope of inquiry of this study encompasses a broad range of issues. It assesses laws for political control as well as the impact of the political criminal suspects on the conduct of Japanese criminal suspects and convicts, giving special attention to the behavior of defense lawyers. It sorts out the actors and their roles in upholding or violating individual rights and does a superb job of conveying the subtle difficulties faced by judges as well as the marked “un-American” legal context of political trials. It describes and makes critical distinctions between conditions in prisons and facilities for special detention and surveillance, and it challenges a number of common assumptions, including long-held views about the difference between the 1920s and 1930s. Numerous cases of alleged police brutality are evaluated and police actions analyzed. Tenko (conversion), a novel method of dealing with political criminal suspects and convicts, is explored together with the little-known Criminal Compensation Law. Throughout, the yardstick by which Mitchell assesses Japan’s success and accused criminals is judged is the state’s own laws and regulations. In addition to evaluation by these internal standards, Mitchell devotes his final chapter to a very useful comparison with the situation in Europe during the same period. There is no other work in English on precisely this subject and no other related work of this scope. Although Mitchell’s focus is on political offenders, there is enough material on the overall system to make this volume easily the best available resource on prewar Japanese criminal justice.

Japan’s Holy War—Warren J. Skya 2009-03-13 Japan’s Holy War reveals how a radical religious ideology drove the Japanese to imperial expansion and global war. Bringing to light a wealth of new information, Walter A. Skya demonstrates that whatever other motives the Japanese had for waging war in Asia and the Pacific, for many war the war was the fulfillment of a religious mandate. In the early twentieth century, a fervent nationalism developed within state Shintô. This nationalism gained widespread military and public support and led to rampant terrorism, between 1921 and 1936 three serving and two former prime ministers were assassinated. Shintô ultranationalist societies fomented a discourse calling for the abolition of parliamentary government and unlimited Japanese expansion. Skya documents a transformation in the ideology of State Shintô in the late nineteenth century and the early twentieth. He shows that within the religion, support for the German-inspired theory of constitutional monarchy that had underpinned the Meiji Constitution gave way to a theory of absolute monarchy advocated by the constitutional scholar Hozumi Yatsuka in the late 1890s. That, in turn, was superseded by a totalitarian ideology centered on the emperor: an ideology advanced by the political theorists Uesugi Shinichki and Kakehi Katsuhiro in the 1910s and 1920s. Examining the connections between various forms of Shintô nationalism and the state, Skya demonstrates that where the Meiji oligarchs had constructed a quasi-religious, quasi-secular state, Hozumi Yatsuka desired a traditional theocratic state. Uesugi Shinichki and Kakehi Katsuhiro went further, encouraging radical, militant forms of extreme religious nationalism. Skya suggests that the creeping democracy and secularization of Japan’s political order in the early twentieth century were the principal causes of the terrorism of the 1930s, which ultimately led to a holy war against Western civilization.

Japan: Milton W. Meyer 2012-08-09 The emergence of Japan as a political and economic global power has been one of the most remarkable success stories of modern history. Though small in geographic area, the archipelago is the tenth most populous country, with 128 million inhabitants crowded into an area the size of Montana. Its natural resources are almost nonexistent, yet today it ranks only second after the much larger United States as the most affluent and economically productive nation in the world. Its rich cultural heritage and high-tech society are equally vibrant. For all readers wanting to better understand this dynamic country, this popular and accessible introduction offers an authoritative yet concise overview of two thousand years of Japanese history. Now fully updated to the present, this edition also includes an array of photographs and illustrations. The first half of the book explores the pre-Meiji era up to 1868. The second half traces domestic changes and relevant foreign issues in the modernizing era launched by the Meiji Restoration. Highlighting key historical events, Milton W. Meyer also includes cultural, artistic, and religious milestones. Summaries and datelines at the end of each chapter, as well as a glossary, offer additional essential reference points. With its clear explanations of Japanese traditions, religion, history, economics, politics, and relations with the West, this book provides an invaluable guide for understanding contemporary Japan.

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Machine That Would Go of Itself—Michael G. Kammen 1986

Stefan Tanaka examines how late nineteenth and early twentieth century Japanese historians created the equivalent of an “Orient” for their new nation state. He argues that the Japanese attempted to use a variety of pasts—Chinese, Indian, and proto-historical Japanese—to construct an identity that was both modern and Asian.

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Machine That Would Go of Itself—Michael G. Kammen 1986
The Judicialization of Politics in Asia

Björn Dressel 2012

Over the last two decades courts have become major players in the political landscape in Asia. This book assesses what is driving this apparent trend toward judicialization in the region. It looks at the variations within the judicialization trend, and how these variations affect political practice and policy outcomes. The book goes on to examine how this new trend is affecting aspects of the rule of law, democratic governance and state-society relations. It investigates how the experiences in Asia add to the debate on the judicialization of politics globally, in particular how judicial behaviour in Asia differs from that in the West, and the implications of the differences on the theoretical debate.

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