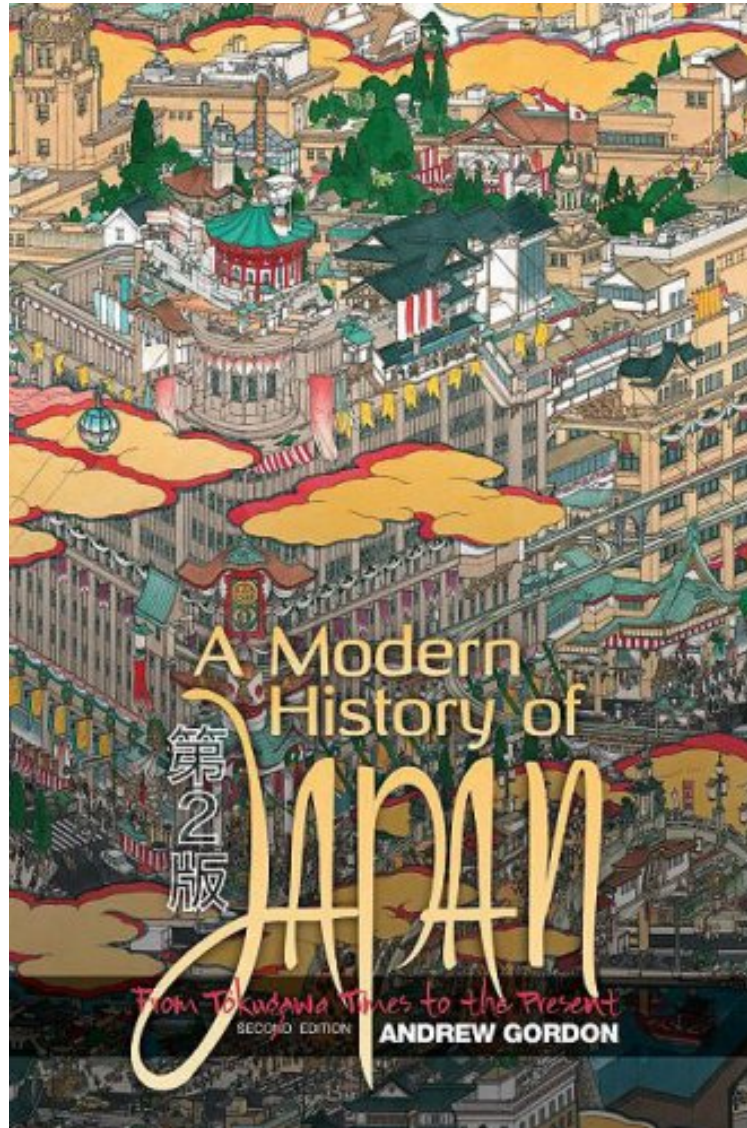


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## A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present, 2nd Edition

Andrew Gordon

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**Andrew Gordon : A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present, 2nd Edition** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present, 2nd Edition:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not good for general readers By KC The reason I picked up this book was clear. I wanted to know how Japan could be the only country that was successfully converted to the industrialized

nation among the other Asian countries in the era. Therefore, my focus was on the times around Meiji Restoration. In that perspective, I didn't feel this book answered my question satisfactorily. I hoped to learn the modernization process of Japan in relation to other neighboring countries, China and Korea, but I couldn't find much about it. It covers broad spectrum of the social/political conditions of modern Japan, but overall, the way it was written is very dry and monotonous. Like the other reviewer mentioned, this book reads like college textbook, and it will fit good for that purpose. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer A brilliantly written masterpiece of Japanese history since the modern era. Best for college students and interested scholars. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Study By sarah nail Great price on college books. They arrive in 2 days with prime.

A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present, Second 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. The true ingenuity and value of Gordon's approach lies in his close attention to the non-elite layers of society. Here students will see the influence of outside ideas, products, and culture on home life, labor unions, political parties, gender relations, and popular entertainment. The book examines Japan's struggles to define the meaning of its modernization, from villages and urban neighborhoods, to factory floors and middle managers' offices, to the imperial court. Most importantly, it illuminates the interconnectedness of Japanese developments with world history, demonstrating how Japan's historical passage represents a variation of a process experienced by many nations and showing how the Japanese narrative forms one part of the interwoven fabric of modern history. This second edition incorporates increased coverage of both Japan's role within East Asia--particularly with China, Korea, and Manchuria--as well as expanded discussions of cultural and intellectual history. With a sustained focus on setting modern Japan in a comparative and global context, A Modern History of Japan, Second Edition, is ideal for undergraduate courses in modern Japanese history, Japanese politics, Japanese society, or Japanese culture.

From Library Journal A Chinese saying has it that "each step changes the mountain." Likewise, each major turn in history changes how we understand what went before: as Japan now continues in an economic funk that followed but did not wipe out the "economic miracle" of the postwar period, we need to rethink our histories once again to explain the origins of prosperity, the evolution of what it means to be Japanese, and the roots of obstinacy. Gordon's clearheaded, readable, and inquisitive narrative, aimed at students and serious general readers, accomplishes this task *molto con brio*. Head of Harvard's Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Gordon tells a sweeping and provocative story of Japan's political, economic, social, and cultural inventions of its modernity in evolving international contexts, incorporating inside viewpoints and debates. Beyond identifying the national stages (feudalism, militarism, democracy), the author innovatively emphasizes how labor unions, cultural figures, and groups in society (especially women) have been affected over time and have responded. Recommended both for general libraries and for specialist collections. Charles W. Hayford, Northwestern Univ., Evanston, IL Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Industrialization and democratization in Japan have been tempestuous, and as explored in Gordon's history, their causes and effects can make for a contentious discussion among the Japanese themselves. But to grasp the historical issues, outsiders need a reliable interpretive narrator such as Gordon, a Harvard University history professor. Opening with the decline of the shogunate in the 1800s, he delicately untwines the internal and foreign pressures that culminated in civil war and the "restoration" of the emperor in 1868. The restorers who held the power feared European colonization, and their industrial and constitutional reforms to resist such a prospect upset Japanese society at its roots--Gordon's work is replete with turmoil on farm and in factory. The response to change, by intellectuals and the populace, is one theme that Gordon tracks through the present; another is nationalism. Its predatory expression in World War II, disturbingly enough, still has its Japanese apologists. After the war, however, most Japanese were more concerned with postwar reconstruction than with history, creating Japan's economic ascent up to 1990. A judicious comprehension of two centuries of Japanese history. Gilbert Taylor Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Written by one of the leading historians in the field, this remarkable volume allows us to see that the history of Japan over the last two centuries has been both distinctive and yet fully a part of the global history of modernity. Sweeping in its scope, learned, and engagingly written, this fresh interpretation will be of use not only for undergraduate teaching and the general reader. It will also provoke those who consider themselves to be specialists to rethink many well-worn assumptions about the modern past in Japan and beyond."--Takashi Fujitani, University of California, San Diego, and author of *Splendid Monarchy: Power and Pageantry in Modern Japan* A masterful synthesis. From the grand sweep of geopolitics to the intimacies of the home and workplace, Andrew Gordon offers a comprehensive introduction to Japanese history and historiography alike. The people occupy center stage in this national narrative; women and workers, mass culture and popular imperialism are revealed throughout as

integral to the shaping of modern Japan. At the same time, Gordon's nuanced prose conveys the continuing debates in the field, while his vivid illustrations not only document daily life but consistently invite the reader to contemplate the power and politics of imagery in a modern society. A tremendous resource." --Karen Wigen, Stanford University, and author of *The Making of a Japanese Periphery, 1750-1920*" Andrew Gordon's subject in *A Modern History of Japan* is nothing less than the promise and trauma of modernity itself, in all its turbulence, diversity, and global interconnectedness. The dire costs and revolutionary accomplishments of this ongoing struggle at all levels of Japanese society emerge dramatically in this grand--and vividly illustrated--new overview."--John W. Dower, MIT, and author of *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II*