



Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912

By Donald Keene

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912 By Donald Keene

When Emperor Meiji began his rule, in 1867, Japan was a splintered empire, dominated by the shogun and the daimyos, who ruled over the country's more than 250 decentralized domains and who were, in the main, cut off from the outside world, staunchly antiforeign, and committed to the traditions of the past. Before long, the shogun surrendered to the emperor, a new constitution was adopted, and Japan emerged as a modern, industrialized state.

Despite the length of his reign, little has been written about the strangely obscured figure of Meiji himself, the first emperor ever to meet a European. Most historians discuss the period that takes his name while barely mentioning the man, assuming that he had no real involvement in affairs of state. Even Japanese who believe Meiji to have been their nation's greatest ruler may have trouble recalling a single personal accomplishment that might account for such a glorious reputation. Renowned Japan scholar Donald Keene sifts the available evidence to present a rich portrait not only of Meiji but also of rapid and sometimes violent change during this pivotal period in Japan's history.

In this vivid and engrossing biography, we move with the emperor through his early, traditional education; join in the formal processions that acquainted the young emperor with his country and its people; observe his behavior in court, his marriage, and his relationships with various consorts; and follow his maturation into a "Confucian" sovereign dedicated to simplicity, frugality, and hard work. Later, during Japan's wars with China and Russia, we witness Meiji's struggle to reconcile his personal commitment to peace and his nation's increasingly militarized experience of modernization. Emperor of Japan conveys in sparkling prose the complexity of the man and offers an unrivaled portrait of Japan in a period of unique interest.



[Download Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912 ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912 ...pdf](#)

Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912

By Donald Keene

Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912 By Donald Keene

When Emperor Meiji began his rule, in 1867, Japan was a splintered empire, dominated by the shogun and the daimyos, who ruled over the country's more than 250 decentralized domains and who were, in the main, cut off from the outside world, staunchly antiforeign, and committed to the traditions of the past. Before long, the shogun surrendered to the emperor, a new constitution was adopted, and Japan emerged as a modern, industrialized state.

Despite the length of his reign, little has been written about the strangely obscured figure of Meiji himself, the first emperor ever to meet a European. Most historians discuss the period that takes his name while barely mentioning the man, assuming that he had no real involvement in affairs of state. Even Japanese who believe Meiji to have been their nation's greatest ruler may have trouble recalling a single personal accomplishment that might account for such a glorious reputation. Renowned Japan scholar Donald Keene sifts the available evidence to present a rich portrait not only of Meiji but also of rapid and sometimes violent change during this pivotal period in Japan's history.

In this vivid and engrossing biography, we move with the emperor through his early, traditional education; join in the formal processions that acquainted the young emperor with his country and its people; observe his behavior in court, his marriage, and his relationships with various consorts; and follow his maturation into a "Confucian" sovereign dedicated to simplicity, frugality, and hard work. Later, during Japan's wars with China and Russia, we witness Meiji's struggle to reconcile his personal commitment to peace and his nation's increasingly militarized experience of modernization. Emperor of Japan conveys in sparkling prose the complexity of the man and offers an unrivaled portrait of Japan in a period of unique interest.

Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912 By Donald Keene Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #497331 in Books
- Published on: 2005-06-14
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.94" h x 1.93" w x 6.20" l, 2.89 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 928 pages

 [Download Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912 ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912 ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912 By Donald Keene

Editorial Review

From [The New Yorker](#)

When Emperor Meiji ascended the throne, in 1867, Japan was a feudal, pre-industrial dictatorship, administered by sword-wielding samurai and closed off to foreigners. By the end of his reign, in 1912, the country had become a cosmopolitan constitutional monarchy and a military superpower, defeating Russia and China. Keene gracefully marshals evidence to illuminate this astonishing transformation by focussing on the earnest, dutiful Emperor, whose Confucian conscience obliged him to wear a patched uniform and to live in comfortless and shabby rooms. Unflinchingly describing such episodes as the Port Arthur massacre, Keene also shows how Meiji's exercises of martial strength did not preclude a sincere distaste for war.

Copyright © 2005 *The New Yorker*

Review

Few scholars are as well qualified to undertake this tremendous project.... [Keene's] special gifts are on display in *Emperor of Japan*... [which] brings us as close to the inner life of the Meiji emperor as we are ever likely to get.

(*New York Times Book Review*)

Utterly brilliant... the best history in English of the emergence of modern Japan.

(*Los Angeles Times*)

Keene gracefully marshals evidence to illuminate [an] astonishing transformation.

(*New Yorker*)

Keene does a heroic job of painting a personal picture of the Meiji Empire, which is an impossible task.

(*The New York Review of Books*)

Distinguished and massively authoritative... This book probably comes as close as we shall ever get to the man himself.

(*Times Literary Supplement (London)*)

Despite the book's massive scale, Keene's graceful writing holds the reader's interest throughout.... This should become the Meiji biography against which all others are judged.

(*Booklist*)

A fresh and fascinating portrait.

(*Choice*)

This is a monumental work, the result of years of painstaking research and meticulous scholarship, unlikely to be superseded by any book about the Emperor Meiji in this century and destined to be required reading for all foreign students of the Restoration and the growth of modern Japan.

(Hugh Cortazzi *The Japan Society*)

The first reliable and full biography of the Japanese monarch in any language.... Carefully crafted, judicious, balanced, authoritative, it is another remarkable gift from a distinguished American author.

(*Washington Post*)

One comes away from Keene's lively account with the feeling that one person made an extraordinary difference in Japan's history.

(*Foreign Affairs*)

Eminently readable... a staggering achievement.

(*Seattle Times/Post Intelligencer*)

The most complete picture possible of a sovereign who remains as distant as a proper Confucian ruler should.

(*Publishers Weekly*)

Keene... is a master narrator with an eye for fascinating details.

(*Library Journal*)

This book is as close to being a definitive biography of the Emperor Meiji as we are likely to see in Western languages. It is an important contribution to our understanding of Japan's modernizing experience.

(W. Dean Kinzley *The Historian*)

About the Author

Donald Keene is Shincho Professor of Japanese Literature and University Professor Emeritus at Columbia University. He is the author of more than thirty books, including the definitive multi-volume history of Japanese literature. He lives in Tokyo and New York City.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Thomas Woods:

What do you ponder on book? It is just for students as they are still students or the item for all people in the world, the particular best subject for that? Only you can be answered for that query above. Every person has various personality and hobby for each and every other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't would like do that. You must know how great as well as important the book Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912. All type of book is it possible to see on many solutions. You can look for the internet solutions or other social media.

James Smith:

Exactly why? Because this Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912 is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will surprise you with the secret that inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who also write the book in such awesome way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book have got such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to delay having that book? If I have been you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

Michele Brown:

Do you have something that that suits you such as book? The book lovers usually prefer to select book like comic, limited story and the biggest one is novel. Now, why not striving Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912 that give your entertainment preference will be satisfied by reading this book. Reading habit all over the world can be said as the means for people to know world considerably better then how they react towards the world. It can't be mentioned constantly that reading practice only for the geeky man or woman but for all of you who wants to possibly be success person. So , for all you who want to start looking at as your good habit, you can pick Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912 become your personal starter.

Glory Ruiz:

A lot of publication has printed but it differs. You can get it by net on social media. You can choose the most beneficial book for you, science, comedy, novel, or whatever by means of searching from it. It is known as of book Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912. You can include your knowledge by it. Without causing the printed book, it could possibly add your knowledge and make anyone happier to read. It is most essential that, you must aware about e-book. It can bring you from one spot to other place.

Download and Read Online Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912 By Donald Keene #HE62DBI93UY

Read Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912 By Donald Keene for online ebook

Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912 By Donald Keene Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912 By Donald Keene books to read online.

Online Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912 By Donald Keene ebook PDF download

Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912 By Donald Keene Doc

Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912 By Donald Keene MobiPocket

Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912 By Donald Keene EPub

HE62DBI93UY: Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912 By Donald Keene