One hundred and eleven annotated bibliographic citations of books, including a few journals, on Japan published between 1941 and 1971 comprise this reading guide designed to meet the needs and adaptation of smaller libraries in schools, towns, and cities. Intended for serious beginning students or casual readers, it offers a broad scope of recent information. Having more than passing value, it is for use as a selection tool by librarians. The fourteen sections are classified by subject: Reference; Geography; Social Life and Conditions; Education; Government, Politics, and Law; Economics; Religion and Thought; Language; Literature; Drama; Arts; Biography; History; and Journals; each section arranged alphabetically by author. Complete citations are included. In the selection process emphasis was placed upon accessibility of books. Listings marked with an asterisk are available in a paperback edition. (Author/SJM)
What Shall I Read on Japan

An Introductory Guide

Tenth edition

Hyman Kublin

JAPAN SOCIETY, INC., NEW YORK
The Japan Society is a membership association of Americans and Japanese who desire to deepen the relationship between the United States and Japan and to bring the peoples of the two countries closer together in their appreciation and understanding of each other through a continuing and expanding dialogue. It is an educational and cultural, nonprofit, non-political organization supported by dues, contributions, and grants from members, interested individuals, corporations, and foundations.

Inquiries should be addressed to the Executive Director, Japan Society, Inc., 333 East 47th Street, New York, New York 10017.

April, 1971
## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. REFERENCE ........................................ 6
II. GEOGRAPHY ...................................... 6
III. SOCIAL LIFE AND CONDITIONS ................. 7
IV. EDUCATION ....................................... 8
V. GOVERNMENT, POLITICS, AND LAW .............. 9
VI. ECONOMICS ...................................... 10
VII. RELIGION AND THOUGHT ....................... 10
VIII. LANGUAGE ...................................... 12
IX. LITERATURE ................................... 12
X. DRAMA .......................................... 14
XI. ARTS ........................................... 14
XII. BIOGRAPHY .................................... 16
XIII. HISTORY .................................... 16
XIV. JOURNALS ................................... 19
Introduction

Japan's record of achievement in recent years has aroused widespread admiration among the American people. There has developed, as a result, a heavy demand upon schools and libraries throughout the United States for information about Japan and the Japanese.

Prospective students, teachers, and librarians doubtless become rapidly aware that most existing bibliographies and reading lists on Japan are almost useless for the purposes of the beginner. Geared to the needs of the specialist or graduate student, listing many works that are rare or out of print, and citing articles in professional journals not carried by the average American library, most bibliographies on Japan have only a limited value for the general public. A reading guide on Japan specifically designed to meet the needs and adapted to the resources of libraries in smaller cities, towns, and schools in this country is patently called for.

What Shall I Read on Japan does not include all the best literature on Japan and the Japanese. Many excellent works, especially those of a monographic nature, have been deliberately excluded. What this reading guide does offer is a highly selected list of works that may be read with profit and enjoyment by the serious beginning student or casual reader interested in things Japanese. Save for a few indispensable titles, What Shall I Read on Japan notes books which may easily be obtained by order through bookstores, directly from the publishers, or from the many dealers in Far Eastern literature in this country.

An asterisk indicates that the work listed is a paperback original or is available in a paperback edition. Japanese names in this list are given with family names last, except in those titles in which they are given, in the publication itself, in the Japanese order of family name first. Specialists on Japan would probably agree that most of the volumes listed in this reading guide have more than passing value. It is hoped, accordingly, that librarians will be assisted in planning acquisitions of fairly permanent worth and interest.
Students with interests and libraries with resources transcending the scope of this introductory guide are advised to consult *The Bibliography of Asian Studies*. Issued by The Association for Asian Studies, it is a comprehensive annual list of books and articles on Asia arranged under area, country, and topical headings. The section on Japan is indispensable.

With the publication of this tenth edition, I wish to express my thanks to the Japan Society for its unfailing encouragement and support, and particularly to its administering officers for their advice and assistance.

HYMAN KUBLIN

Professor of History
Brooklyn College
I. REFERENCE

   A listing, alphabetically arranged, of Japanese historical data. Entries are simply but amply explained.

   A collection of essays surveying the land, people, history, culture, society, and other major aspects of Japan. Basic information for the beginning student.

   In addition to furnishing sketches of Japanese history, culture, and life, presents a broad variety of information useful for all travellers in the Japanese archipelago. Excellent maps.

4. JAPAN TRAVEL BUREAU. Japan Tourist Library. Tokyo.
   A series of booklets on the culture of Japan. Simply written and copiously illustrated, this inexpensive set is a mine of information. Especially handy for small libraries unable to maintain extensive reference materials. For titles available and to be published, consult list of the Japan National Tourist Organization, 45 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10020.

   A useful handbook for the student and librarian. Furnishes a broad variety of basic information and bibliographical data.

   An outline guide for the study of Japanese history and culture. Related bibliography. Useful for advanced undergraduate courses.

II. GEOGRAPHY

   A well rounded survey of the physical, social, and economic geography of Japan. Numerous maps, charts, tables, and photographs.

A standard text on the geography of Japan. Especially useful for information on regional subdivisions. Excellent illustrative materials.

III. SOCIAL LIFE AND CONDITIONS


A brilliant analysis of the personality and behavior of the Japanese people. Though it is not always accurate and convincing, it is, nevertheless, suggestive.


A study of the evolution of the industrial laborer in modern Japan. Fertile comparisons with experiences of factory workers in other societies.


Scholarly essays on the evolution and present conditions and problems of Japan’s two million “outcasts.” Required for any serious study of the subject.


A convenient survey of the status of women in postwar urban and rural Japan.


Vivid sketches of life, manners, religion, and culture at the imperial court one thousand years ago. A companion volume to The Tale of Genji (see no. 59).


Absorbing case studies of the shifting patterns of the use of time by the Japanese for purposes of leisure and recreation.


A fictionalized account of an old and famous hostel on the Tokaido (highway) near Mt. Fuji. Felicitously written, it is extremely useful for its glimpses of the social history of eighteenth and nineteenth century Japan.

A careful study of the values and behavior of the salaried worker in Japan in recent years. Underscores changes in this socio-economic group occurring in the past decade or two.


An intensive study of the growth and development of the Japanese city from early to modern times.

IV. EDUCATION


The most useful survey of the evolution of the Japanese educational system during the past century. Charts, tables, and bibliography.


A sound and solid study of the school system and its place in the life of late feudal Japan. Vital for an understanding of Japan's transition to a modern state and society.


A detailed report illustrating the part played by education in the social and economic growth of modern Japan. Particularly useful for information on technical and vocational developments.


An interpretive appraisal of Japanese education from late feudal times to the present. Contains a well rounded selection of readings on the history and philosophy of Japanese education.

V. GOVERNMENT, POLITICS, AND LAW


A rich collection of essays dealing with Japan's postwar constitutional developments and problems. Especially useful for students of comparative government.


Presents a sober and hard-headed interpretation of the American occupation of Japan. Relates occupation problems and achievements to prewar traditions and trends.


A well argued interpretation of the successes and failures of Japan's postwar experiment with democracy. Recommended for students of comparative government.


A careful analysis of the political ideas and ideological currents underlying the late nineteenth-century movement to establish a modern state and constitutional policy.


An incisive analysis of Japanese politics and political ideologies in modern times, focusing upon the reasons for the failure of democratic movements before World War II.


An analysis of the organization, structure, and operations of Japan's major political party since 1955.


A lucid and informative introduction to Japanese political organization, characteristics, and behavior. Well suited for the needs of college and high school students.


Reveals how organized big business in Japan has been involved in the political process. Also demonstrates the nature of the Japanese bureaucracy's relationship to the world of big business.
VI. ECONOMICS

A revised edition of a brief, well rounded survey of the growth of Japan's modern economy between 1867 and 1937. Recent economic developments are covered in a supplementary chapter.

Seeks to define the attitude of the Japanese businessman towards the foreign businessman in Japan. A wealth of information on business customs and practices.

An inclusive evaluation of Japan's economic achievements in the post-World War II era and an estimate of the national and international implications in the future.

A study of the problems and achievements of the economic architects of modern Japan. Throws much light upon the history of modern Japan's industrial, banking, and trading system.

An exciting prognosis of Japanese economic prospects by an eminent "futurologist."

The "how" and "why" of Japan's extraordinary economic development of the past century are discussed by sixteen leading scholars in a selection of papers.

A well written monograph illuminating an important aspect of Japanese social and economic history during the long era of national isolation.

VII. RELIGION AND THOUGHT

An unpretentious and intelligible survey. Traces the develop-
ment of Zen in its historical context. Recommended for beginners as well as advanced students. Illustrated.

   A new impression of a standard study of the state cult of Shinto and its relationship to nationalism and other religions in modern Japan. Invaluable for the understanding of official philosophical trends in the prewar era.

   A basic study of state Shinto and its principal sects in modern times. Originally published in 1938.

   An innovative study concerned with the interplay of the beliefs and practices of formal religion and primitive faith on the folk level.

   Traces the course of Japanese religious history from early times to the present and relates the "new religions" of the postwar era to the older faiths.

   Clearly the most lucid and dispassionate survey of modern Japan's thinkers and their ideas available in an English-language work. In a class by itself.

   A look at the activities and ideas of Shinto in an attempt to discover what they have meant to the Japanese. Illustrated.

   Translations from major works on Japanese religion and thought. With its concise and informative introductory texts, this volume is an outstanding achievement by American scholars of Japan. Has a permanent place in every library.

A critical appraisal of the nature of the membership and ideology of one of Japan's major "new religions."

VIII. LANGUAGE

   A handy and uncluttered introduction to the spoken language. Contains a well selected basic vocabulary and useful grammatical tables. Accompanying records are optional.

   A standard volume. More suitable for the needs of the advanced student than of the beginner.

   The standard dictionary of its type. The extensive and discriminating use of English idiomatic expressions has won thousands of enthusiasts among American students.

   A lucid and systematic introduction to modern written Japanese. Offers a judiciously selected vocabulary. The Japanese texts in Part Two are carefully correlated with the graded lessons and reading notes.

   Unexcelled as a dictionary of basic Sino-Japanese characters; extremely easy to use. Includes numerous compounds and valuable information on modern written Japanese.

IX. LITERATURE

    An outstanding anthology of Japanese poetry from ancient to modern times. Discriminating selections and polished translations.

    A delightful survey of Japan's most popular poetic medium.
Containing several hundred translations, the anthology is enriched by biographical sketches and instructive notes.


Volume One contains selections from the best in pre-modern Japanese literature, masterfully translated and furnished with brief explanatory notes. Volume Two presents selections from modern prose, poetry, and drama.


The first volume of a tetralogy, The Sea of Fertility, completed by modern Japan's foremost writer on the day of his death.


A reprint of translations of selections from Japan's most famous anthology of poetry compiled in the mid-eighth century. Basic for every collection.


An introduction to Nagai Kafu, one of Japan's most important modern authors, through an examination of his life and a selection of his writings.


A peerless translation of Japan's most famous novel, a classic of world literature. Unrivaled for its depiction of aristocratic life in Japan a thousand years ago.
X. DRAMA

   A standard work especially useful for understanding the evolution of the kabuki theater.

   A basic study, the value of which is enhanced by suggestive references to the western theater.

   A survey of the history, masters, and repertoire of the Japanese puppet theater. Also discusses the anatomy of the puppet and the features of the puppet stage.

   A reprint of a standard collection. The peerless translations are characteristic of Waley.

XI. ARTS

   An incisive study of Japanese gardens of the past and present, noting their principal features and recent changes. Photographs of unusually high quality.

   A sensitive and imaginative appraisal of the Japanese folding screen as an art form. The plates in color and black and white are breathtaking.

   An unusually rich collection of woodblock prints of the Tokugawa era. Reproductions in color and in black and white. Contains also an intelligent and brief introductory essay.

   Views of the principal non-religious architectural forms of fifteenth and sixteenth-century Japan. Lucid text and numerous pleasing plates. Highly recommended.
   A superb introduction to the various media and techniques of modern Japanese art. Intelligent discussion relating to painting, sculpture, and calligraphy. Exquisitely illustrated.

   A thoroughly enjoyable exploration of the influence of Japanese aesthetic ideas 
   and practices upon American artistic and literary expression during the past century. Line drawings and photographs.

   Doubtless the most rounded appraisal in English of Japanese music — history and instruments as well as folk, religious, court, and theatrical forms.

   A collection of unusually beautiful photographs in color and black and white, illustrating the evolution of Japanese ceramic ware from the earliest times to the modern period. The lengthy introductory text is clear and uncomplicated.

   A richly rounded study of netsuke, excellent for both reading and reference purposes. Exquisite photographs by Margaret Dhaemers.

   An easily handled introduction to the basic concepts and styles. Delightful line drawings and superb illustrations in color.

   A fascinating commentary and interpretation of the work of one of the masters of scroll painting. Numerous brush drawings.

   A presentation of the work and ideas of Kenzo Tange, one of the outstanding architects of the modern world. Richly illustrated.

76. **Langdon Warner. The Enduring Art of Japan.** Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1952. (Grove Press Evergreen E-97)
   An acute and sympathetic appraisal of the art of Japan from ancient until medieval times. Of value both to the layman and to
the serious student. The relationship of artistic trends to social and religious developments is excellently presented.

XII. BIOGRAPHY


This fascinating autobiography of a great pioneer in the introduction of things western into Japan is indispensable for an appreciation of Japan's transition to a modern state.


A study of the life and times of one of the major architects of the modern Japanese state.


A stimulating interpretation of the passing of the Tokugawa feudal order in the mid-nineteenth century traced through the career of a warrior-statesman. An important study.


A biographical study of modern Japan's most famous revolutionary. Traces his career as a teacher of Confucian classics, a founder of the trade-union and socialist movements, and as a top-ranking member of the Communist International.


A solid study of the life and thought of a famed eighteenth century scholar who contributed greatly to the revival of Shinto.

XIII. HISTORY


A hard-headed reappraisal of the history of constitution-making in early modern Japan. Indispensable for the study of the history of the period.


A reprint of a volume originally published in 1903. Basic for an understanding of the introduction of Chinese culture into Japan and the construction of the early Japanese imperial state.
   A highly readable and well balanced view of Japanese history of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Recommended for general reading and college classroom purposes.

   A detailed history of Japan since 1850. Well organized and extremely readable, it is suitable for the needs of the intelligent layman and the advanced college student.

   An unsurpassed examination of the Western religious and commercial impact upon Japan during the initial stage of European expansion into the Far East. Originally published in 1950.

   A careful and thoughtful study of the role of a major barony in the overthrow of the Tokugawa feudal order in the mid-nineteenth century.

   A first-rate study re-examining the premises and purposes of Japanese foreign policy and its makers during a crucial period. Boldly challenges conventional interpretations.

   The most careful study of the political and military background of the decision to use the atomic bomb against Japan. Required reading for all students of the history of World War II and of modern Japan.

   An excellent survey of Japanese history, particularly useful for its coverage of the premodern era.

   An introduction to the history, culture, and life of Japan and the nations and peoples of Southeast Asia. Designed for high school students. Excellent maps, charts, and illustrations.
An introduction to Japanese history and culture geared to the
needs of high school students. See also the companion volume:

93. DONALD MACINTYRE. The Battle for the Pacific. New York, Norton,
1966.
An exciting review of the major naval-air battles between the
United States and Japan during the Second World War. Unex-
celled as a single-volume study of the subject.

94. IAN H. NISH. The Anglo-Japanese Alliance; the Diplomacy of Two
Island Empires, 1884-1907. London, Oxford University Press,
1966.
The definitive study of the diplomatic history of the Anglo-
Japanese Alliance for the period covered. Indispensable for the
study of the history of Japanese foreign policy during a key peri-
or of modern times.

95. SADAKO N. OGATA. Defiance in Manchuria: the Making of Japa-
nese Foreign Policy, 1931-1932. Berkeley, University of California
Traces the background and unfolding of the Japanese conquest
of Manchuria in 1931-1932. Analyzes also the struggle for political
power within Japan and the contemporary situation in East Asia.

96. LAWRENCE OLSON. Japan in Postwar Asia. New York, Frederick
An account of Japan's political and economic progress in the
post-World War II era, rounded out by an examination of her
relations with Asian states.

97. ROGER PINEAU (ed.). The Japan Expedition, 1853-1854; the Per-
sonal Journal of Commodore Matthew C. Perry. Washington, D. C.,
Smithsonian Institution, 1968.
The daily journal maintained by Commodore Perry during his
epochal mission to the Far East and Japan. Handsomely illustrated.

98. *EDWIN O. REICHAUER. The United States and Japan. 3rd ed. Cam-
bridge, Harvard University Press, 1965. (Viking)
A brilliant analysis characterized by skillful and balanced use
of the techniques of the historian and social scientist. Required
reading for understanding Japan and the Japanese.

By far the best brief survey of Japanese history in English. A
thorough rewriting of the author's earlier work, Japan: Past and
Present.
A standard history of Japan from antiquity to the modern period. A product of mature scholarship and a model of historical writing.

A rich and lively account of the early years in Japan of Townsend Harris, first Consul-General of the United States in the island kingdom.

A wide ranging study of the dominant Tokugawa family and its administrative system in Japan's late feudal age.

An informative and fast-moving account of Japan's imperialist adventures during the decade preceding its surrender to the Allied Powers in 1945.

An authoritative and meticulous study of the confrontation and clash of Russian and Japanese power in East Asia at the turn of the twentieth century.

A careful and well documented study of the immediate background of Japan's attack upon Pearl Harbor in 1941. Supersedes most earlier works on the subject.

XIV. JOURNALS

106. Japan Interpreter. Published by the Center for Japanese Social and Political Studies, 4-12-24 Higashi, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, Japan.
Translations of articles on common themes and problems in Japanese history and life, drawn from scholarly and semi-popular publications in Japan. This journal succeeds the former Journal of Social and Political Ideas in Japan.

 Publishes articles on contemporary social, economic, and political developments, history, and literary and artistic subjects. Translations of Japanese literature and excellent reviews. A journal of unusually high caliber and standards.
108. *Journal of Asian Studies*. Published by the Association for Asian Studies, 48 Lane Hall, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

The foremost scholarly journal in the field. Each issue contains a variety of articles and numerous book reviews, many of which concern Japan. Ranges over history, the social sciences, and humanities. *The Annual Bibliography* (fifth number) is unsurpassed for coverage. Basic for serious study of Japan.

109. *Monumenta Nipponica*. Published by Sophia University, 7, Kioicho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

A semi-annual learned journal devoted to Japanese historical and cultural studies. Each issue carries scholarly articles, translations, and professional book reviews.


Issued bimonthly, this information bulletin, generally devoted to contemporary life, culture, and affairs, is invaluable for keeping abreast of current developments in Japan. Copies free upon request.

111. *Literature East and West*. Published by the Oriental-Western Literary Relations Group of the Modern Language Association, Box 8107, University Station, Austin, Texas 78712.

Carries excellent book reviews and occasional essays on translations of Japanese literature past and present. Recommended for specialists, students, and librarians.