

Recent Books on Japan – June 2024

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History

Reorienting The Pure Land : Nisei Buddhism In The Transwar Years, 1943-1965 / Michael K. Masatsugu
Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2023

xiv, 256p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9780824895532

1. Shin (Sect) – United States-History-20th Century.
2. Shin Buddhists-United States-History-20th century.
3. Japanese Americans-Religion.
4. Buddhism and culture-United States.

\$ 28.00 / PB

395gm.

Post–World War II historical developments, including Japanese American resettlement, the US occupation of Japan, the Cold War, and decolonization in an emerging “Third World,” created both a climate of uncertainty and possibility for the future of Japanese American Buddhism in the United States. As both a racial minority and as adherents of a non-Christian religious tradition with roots in Asia, Nikkei Buddhists faced distinct challenges in asserting their religion as part of their ethnic heritage.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=875976>

Literature

Reading The Kimono In Twentieth-Century Japanese Literature And Film / Michiko Suzuki

Honolulu: University Of Hawai'i Press, 2023

xiv, 312p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9780824892951

1. Kimonos in literature.
2. Kimonos in motion pictures.
3. Japanese fiction-20th century-History and Criticism.
4. Motion pictures-Japan-20th century.

\$ 28.00 / PB

520gm.

Often considered an exotic garment of “traditional Japan,” the kimono is in fact a vibrant part of Japanese modernity, playing an integral role in literature and film throughout the twentieth century. Reading the

Kimono in Twentieth-Century Japanese Literature and Film is the first extended study to offer new ways of interpreting textual and visual narratives through “kimono language”—what these garments communicate within their literary, historical, and cultural contexts. Kimonos on the page and screen do much more than create verisimilitude or function as one-dimensional symbols.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=875977>

Religion-Buddhism

Engaged Buddhism In Japan : An Engaged Buddhist History Of Japan From The Ancient To The Modern / Jonathan S. Watts

Volume 1

Bangkok: International Network Of Engaged Buddhists (INEB), 2023

336p.

Includes Index

9786168209554

\$ 35.00 / PB

555gm.

Volume 1 provides an essential presentation of historical themes that make Japanese Buddhism so unique and hard to understand for even other Buddhists in asia. Volume 1 also provides a critical and comprehensive survey of Socially Engaged Buddhism in the modern era, which for the postwar period has never been fully documented.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=875979>

Engaged Buddhism In Japan A New Socially Engaged Buddhism in 21st Century Japan : From Intimate Care To Social Ethics / Jonathan S. Watts

Volume 2

Bangkok: International Network Of Engaged Buddhists (INEB), 2023

364p.

9786168209578

\$ 32.00 / PB

615gm.

Volume 2 presents the new Socially Engaged Buddhist activities of 21st century Japan, a dynamic movement arising out of the social crisis of Japan’s “disconnected society” (mu-en shakai). It focuses on five sub-movements in end-of-life care, suicide prevention, disaster relief and Buddhist chaplaincy, poverty and homelessness, and anti nuclear activism and holistic development. An afterword ponders possibility of a new movement for gender justice.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=875981>
