



Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 (Modern Library Chronicles)

By Ian Buruma

Download now

Read Online ➔

Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 (Modern Library Chronicles) By Ian Buruma

In a single short book as elegant as it is wise, Ian Buruma makes sense of the most fateful span of Japan's history, the period that saw as dramatic a transformation as any country has ever known. In the course of little more than a hundred years from the day Commodore Matthew Perry arrived in his black ships, this insular, preindustrial realm mutated into an expansive military dictatorship that essentially supplanted the British, French, Dutch, and American empires in Asia before plunging to utter ruin, eventually emerging under American tutelage as a pseudo-Western-style democracy and economic dynamo.

What explains the seismic changes that thrust this small island nation so violently onto the world stage? In part, Ian Buruma argues, the story is one of a newly united nation that felt it must play catch-up to the established Western powers, just as Germany and Italy did, a process that involved, in addition to outward colonial expansion, internal cultural consolidation and the manufacturing of a shared heritage. But Japan has always been both particularly open to the importation of good ideas and particularly prickly about keeping their influence quarantined, a bipolar disorder that would have dramatic consequences and that continues to this day. If one book is to be read in order to understand why the Japanese seem so impossibly strange to many Americans, *Inventing Japan* is surely it.

From the Hardcover edition.

↓ [Download Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 \(Modern Library Chronic ...pdf](#)

📄 [Read Online Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 \(Modern Library Chron ...pdf](#)

Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 (Modern Library Chronicles)

By Ian Buruma

Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 (Modern Library Chronicles) By Ian Buruma

In a single short book as elegant as it is wise, Ian Buruma makes sense of the most fateful span of Japan's history, the period that saw as dramatic a transformation as any country has ever known. In the course of little more than a hundred years from the day Commodore Matthew Perry arrived in his black ships, this insular, preindustrial realm mutated into an expansive military dictatorship that essentially supplanted the British, French, Dutch, and American empires in Asia before plunging to utter ruin, eventually emerging under American tutelage as a pseudo-Western-style democracy and economic dynamo.

What explains the seismic changes that thrust this small island nation so violently onto the world stage? In part, Ian Buruma argues, the story is one of a newly united nation that felt it must play catch-up to the established Western powers, just as Germany and Italy did, a process that involved, in addition to outward colonial expansion, internal cultural consolidation and the manufacturing of a shared heritage. But Japan has always been both particularly open to the importation of good ideas and particularly prickly about keeping their influence quarantined, a bipolar disorder that would have dramatic consequences and that continues to this day. If one book is to be read in order to understand why the Japanese seem so impossibly strange to many Americans, *Inventing Japan* is surely it.

From the Hardcover edition.

Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 (Modern Library Chronicles) By Ian Buruma Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #66778 in Books
- Brand: Buruma, Ian
- Published on: 2004-11-09
- Released on: 2004-11-09
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .60" w x 5.20" l, .35 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 208 pages

 [Download Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 \(Modern Library Chronic ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 \(Modern Library Chron ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online **Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 (Modern Library Chronicles)** By Ian Buruma

Editorial Review

From Library Journal

A respected journalist adds this overview to the "Modern Library Chronicles" series.

Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

Compressing a century of complex history into one short but taut narrative, Buruma traces the remarkable metamorphosis that transformed an isolated island shogunate into an expansive military empire and then into a pacified and prosperous democracy. Predictably enough, Buruma begins with the oft-told story of Commodore Perry's 1853 naval mission to open Japan to American traders. But he invests this event with a new and darker meaning as he relates how this pivotal visit helped catalyze a firestorm of civil war, toppling the shogunate and ushering in the Meiji Restoration. The architects of that restoration Buruma depicts as tragically myopic, their nationalistic and religious authoritarianism dooming democracy to stillbirth and converting commercial wealth into imperial armaments. Just as impressive as Buruma's probing account of this cultural tragedy is his lucid analysis of Douglas MacArthur's remarkable--but finally flawed--achievement in guiding Japan toward the exemplary democracy that showcased its astonishing development in the 1964 Olympics, which Buruma takes as his end point. An excellent introductory study, complete with a helpful bibliography for those seeking more rigorous analyses. *Bryce Christensen*

Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Review

"Stylish and illuminating, **Inventing Japan** has the added virtue of being admirably concise. Students and general readers alike will find this grand overview of modern Japan's many identities engaging and provocative." —**John W. Dower**, author of **Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II**, winner of the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize

"In his characteristically penetrating manner, Ian Buruma delves into why modern Japan—for all its intellectual and artistic vitality—has not developed a more open, democratic, and cosmopolitan political order." —**Sheldon Garon**, professor of history and East Asian studies, Princeton University

"Those familiar with Ian Buruma's impressive body of work on Japan will not be disappointed by **Inventing Japan**. This compelling narrative captures the excitement, triumph, and failure of the century in which Japan abandoned its traditional ways and entered into the modern world. Iconoclastic as always, Buruma offers fascinating insights into the nature of Japan's uneasy experiment with constitutional government, the impact of bureaucratic planning on economic growth, and the ties that closely bind the present with the past. Equally intriguing are his comparisons of Japan's development with those of China, Japan's ancient cultural mentor, and with Germany, its modern cultural mentor and another late-developing nation." —**James L. McClain**, professor of history, Brown University; author of **Japan: A Modern History**

"A witty and illuminating romp through a hundred years of Japanese history, written with Mr. Buruma's usual style and insight. I cannot think of a wiser or clearer introduction to the subject for the general reader, and even the well informed will find something of interest." —**Ronald Spector**, professor of history and international relations, George Washington University; author of **At War at Sea** and **Eagle Against the Sun**

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Brenda Gregg:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be change about what going on or data even knowledge to make these keep up with the era and that is always change and move forward. Some of you maybe may update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what kind you should start with. This *Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 (Modern Library Chronicles)* is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Betty Bowers:

Reading a book being new life style in this season; every people loves to go through a book. When you examine a book you can get a lots of benefit. When you read textbooks, you can improve your knowledge, since book has a lot of information into it. The information that you will get depend on what types of book that you have read. If you wish to get information about your research, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself you are able to a fiction books, such us novel, comics, and soon. The *Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 (Modern Library Chronicles)* offer you a new experience in reading through a book.

Anthony Jones:

That reserve can make you to feel relax. This book *Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 (Modern Library Chronicles)* was bright colored and of course has pictures on the website. As we know that book *Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 (Modern Library Chronicles)* has many kinds or style. Start from kids until teens. For example *Naruto* or *Investigator Conan* you can read and believe you are the character on there. So , not at all of book are generally make you bored, any it can make you feel happy, fun and unwind. Try to choose the best book to suit your needs and try to like reading which.

Donna Willeford:

Reading a publication make you to get more knowledge as a result. You can take knowledge and information coming from a book. Book is composed or printed or illustrated from each source in which filled update of news. On this modern era like right now, many ways to get information are available for an individual. From media social just like newspaper, magazines, science reserve, encyclopedia, reference book, book and comic. You can add your understanding by that book. Do you want to spend your spare time to spread out your book? Or just searching for the *Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 (Modern Library Chronicles)* when you desired it?

Download and Read Online Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 (Modern Library Chronicles) By Ian Buruma #DZBKRFVMTJ3

Read Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 (Modern Library Chronicles) By Ian Buruma for online ebook

Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 (Modern Library Chronicles) By Ian Buruma 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 Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 (Modern Library Chronicles) By Ian Buruma books to read online.

Online Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 (Modern Library Chronicles) By Ian Buruma ebook PDF download

Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 (Modern Library Chronicles) By Ian Buruma Doc

Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 (Modern Library Chronicles) By Ian Buruma Mobipocket

Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 (Modern Library Chronicles) By Ian Buruma EPub