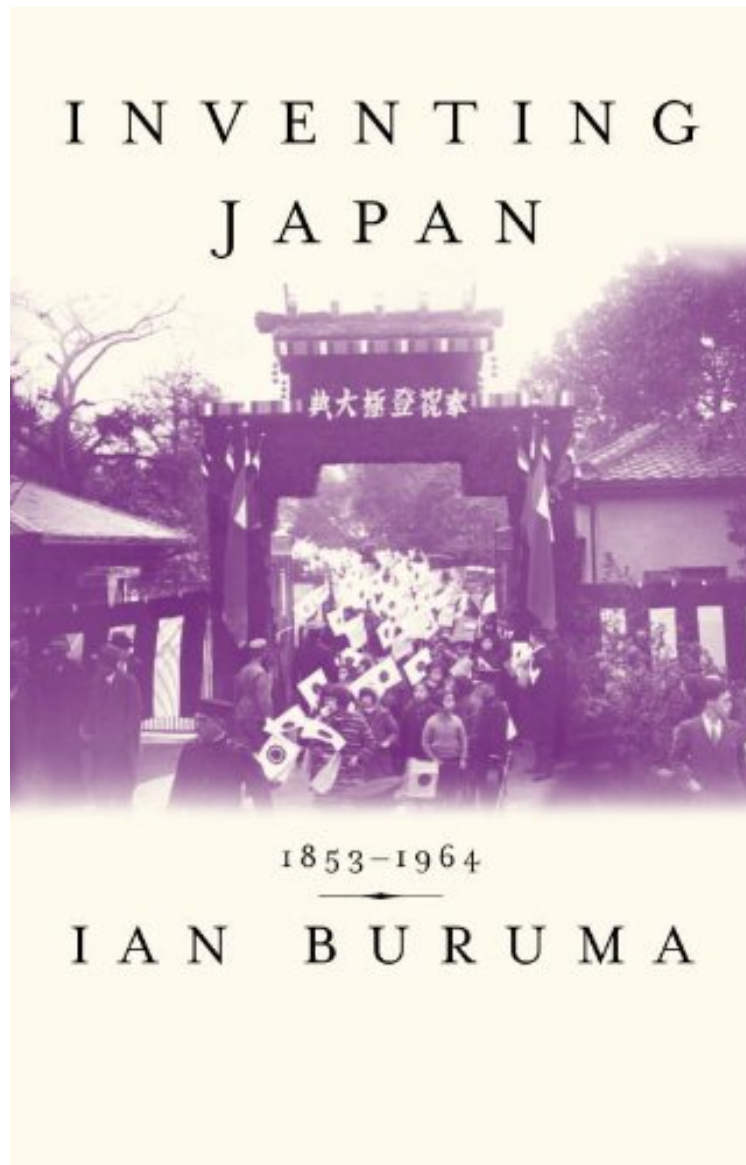


(Free pdf) *Inventing Japan: 1853-1964* (Modern Library Chronicles Series)

Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 (Modern Library Chronicles Series)

Von Ian Buruma

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Von Ian Buruma : Inventing Japan: 1853-1964 (Modern Library Chronicles Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Inventing Japan: 1853-1964* (Modern Library Chronicles Series):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Amazing readVon LauraThis is an amazing book that offers a glimpse of the transition from traditional to modern

Japan. Ian Buruma is a gifted storyteller. One particularly refreshing characteristic of his storytelling is how he weaves the narrative of a country's history around important personalities who shaped the Japanese mind. From devoted samurai to corrupt politicians, each person whose influence has marked contemporary thinking progressively makes their way to the stage of this story, to illustrate a particular perspective that shaped the thinking of their time. These personas embody the spirit of Japan, a metaphor of change towards the fascinating nation that has crystallized into what we today know as Japan. Another superb aspect of this book is Ian Buruma's subtle mix of colloquial and formal language, which translates into a very unique, exquisite style that is easy to read and intriguing at the same time. A must-read for anyone interested in Japan and in modern world history.

0 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. kurz, buendig, fesselnd

Von Benjamin Hentschel

Ian Burumas Buch gibt einen guten Ueberblick ueber das Japan vom Beginn der Meiji-Zeit, zu der das Land nach ueber 200 Jahren Abschottung (Sakoku) das erste mal wieder mit auslaendischen Maechten konfrontiert war: Zu dieser Zeit in Form der "Schwarzen Schiffe" von Admiral Perry, einem Amerikaner. Nachdem die Niederlaender lange Zeit die einzigen waren, denen Handel mit Japan erlaubt war schaffte es Amerika, die Grenzen des sich selbst abgeschotteten Land zu oeffnen und ein gewaltiger Prozess der Reformierung, Umwaelzung und Wandel in der Gesellschaft vollzieht sich. Obwohl das Buch mit knapp 180 Seiten ein wenig kurz ist, schafft Buruma es, die meisten Facetten der jeweiligen Epochen dem Leser naeher zu bringen. Aufgelockert mit einem sehr gut lesbarem Schreibstil lege ich dieses Buch jedem ans Herz, der sich mit der Thematik befassen will, jedoch ohne dicke, trocken geschriebene Waelzer zu durchforsten.

Kurzbeschreibung

In a single short book as elegant as it is wise, Ian Buruma makes sense of the most fateful span of Japans 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.

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

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From *Library Journal*

A respected journalist adds this overview to the "Modern Library Chronicles" series. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.