



Japan's Past and Present

In Japan nihonjinron – "the study of the Japanese" – became popular after World War II, in an attempt to explain the uniqueness of Japanese culture and mentality. Today Japan is one of the world's largest economies, but it is facing enormous challenges on a social, cultural, financial and political level. These challenges are highlighted and analysed in this book through a wide range of themes and topics from Japanese history: identity, architecture and design, religion manga, Christianity in Japan, the Samurais, and many other.

What did the Christian century mean to the Japanese, and what was the fate of the Kakure Kirishitan, the "secret Christians"? How has samurai culture influenced modern Japan? How was Japan's success in modernisation possible? How was the country able to adopt Western political, social, and economic institutions in such a short time?

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