



The book was found

Japanese Philosophy



Synopsis

An overview of Japanese philosophy from the seventh century to the present. Japanese Philosophy is the first book to assert the existence of a Japanese philosophy prior to Nishida Kitaro in the early twentieth century. Because of Western military and economic dominance since the seventeenth century, the cross-cultural comparison of non-Western philosophy has generally gone in one direction--comparing Chinese, Indian, and other thought systems with Western philosophy. For various reasons, Japanese scholars did not follow the Chinese lead after 1920 in acknowledging that some of their own literary tradition should be classified as "philosophy." In spite of this, the authors argue that it is useful to compare cultures, and that one way of comparing cultures is to compare their philosophies--and therefore that it is worth treating certain parts of Japanese literature as philosophy, especially those parts that are similar to what has long been classified and treated as philosophy in India and China. By doing so, and by providing an overview of Japanese philosophy from the seventh century to the present, the authors contribute to a greater cross-cultural understanding between East and West."a skillful interweaving of a large number of strands in the history of ideas. Countless distortions and roadblocks bedevil Western scholars trying to understand Asian texts and cultures, and only recently have we begun to get glimpses of the actual history of Asian thought. This is a welcome contribution to this important work of cross-cultural understanding, and provides a well-informed Western look at the influence of Chinese and Western philosophy on Japan." -- Richard T. Garner, coeditor of *Society and the Individual: Readings in Political and Social Philosophy*"The book's intellectual freshness comes from presenting Japanese philosophy as structured by the concerns of mainline Western philosophy. Because of this it will be one of those books that you can give to your friends in the philosophy department when they ask, as they always do, whether there is any 'real' philosophy in East Asia. It is an engaging work." -- John H. Berthrong, author of *Concerning Creativity: A Comparison of Chu Hsi, Whitehead, and Neville*

Book Information

Paperback: 222 pages

Publisher: State University of New York Press (July 19, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0791450201

ISBN-13: 978-0791450208

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,180,090 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #409 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Religious Studies > Buddhism](#) #4593 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Eastern Religions & Sacred Texts](#) #9153 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Eastern > Buddhism](#)

Customer Reviews

a skillful interweaving of a large number of strands in the history of ideas. Countless distortions and roadblocks bedevil Western scholars trying to understand Asian texts and cultures, and only recently have we begun to get glimpses of the actual history of Asian thought. This is a welcome contribution to this important work of cross-cultural understanding, and provides a well-informed Western look at the influence of Chinese and Western philosophy on Japan. Richard T. Garner, coeditor of *Society and the Individual: Readings in Political and Social Philosophy* The book's intellectual freshness comes from presenting Japanese philosophy as structured by the concerns of mainline Western philosophy. Because of this it will be one of those books that you can give to your friends in the philosophy department when they ask, as they always do, whether there is any real philosophy in East Asia. It is an engaging work. John H. Berthrong, author of *Concerning Creativity: A Comparison of Chu Hsi, Whitehead, and Neville* ".a skillful interweaving of a large number of strands in the history of ideas. Countless distortions and roadblocks bedevil Western scholars trying to understand Asian texts and cultures, and only recently have we begun to get glimpses of the actual history of Asian thought. This is a welcome contribution to this important work of cross-cultural understanding, and provides a well-informed Western look at the influence of Chinese and Western philosophy on Japan." -- Richard T. Garner, coeditor of *Society and the Individual: Readings in Political and Social Philosophy* "The book's intellectual freshness comes from presenting Japanese philosophy as structured by the concerns of mainline Western philosophy. Because of this it will be one of those books that you can give to your friends in the philosophy department when they ask, as they always do, whether there is any 'real' philosophy in East Asia. It is an engaging work." -- John H. Berthrong, author of *Concerning Creativity: A Comparison of Chu Hsi, Whitehead, and Neville*

Japanese Philosophy is the first book to assert the existence of a Japanese philosophy prior to Nishida Kitaro in the early twentieth century. Because of Western military and economic dominance since the seventeenth century, the cross-cultural comparison of non-Western philosophy has

generally gone in one direction-comparing Chinese, Indian, and other thought systems with Western philosophy. For various reasons, Japanese scholars did not follow the Chinese lead after 1920 in acknowledging that some of their own literary tradition should be classified as "philosophy." In spite of this, the authors argue that it is useful to compare cultures, and that one way of comparing cultures is to compare their philosophies-and therefore that it is worth treating certain parts of Japanese literature as philosophy, especially those parts that are similar to what has long been classified and treated as philosophy in India and China. By doing so, and by providing an overview of Japanese philosophy from the seventh century to the present, the authors contribute to a greater cross-cultural understanding between East and West.

As an expat who lives in Tokyo, I have done a tremendous amount of reading on Japan. That said, I found this slim but dense volume to be, in a word, OUTSTANDING - it is by far the best introduction to Japan's rich philosophical tradition. The first question Blocker and Starling address is simple: is there philosophy in Japan? Even the great Meiji Era intellectual Nakae Chomin once lamented that "...from antiquity to the present day, there has never been any philosophy in Japan." The authors set out to demonstrate why this statement is fallacious. The task facing Blocker and Starling, then, is twofold: first, to extricate elements of Chinese thought from indigenous traditions; and second, to show how borrowings from foreign cultures have in fact influenced the development of Japanese philosophy. And, for my money, they succeed in both projects without being dry or boring. Logistically, this book is divided to chapters on Buddhism, Confucianism, modernity, and beyond modernity. While each chapter could stand on its own, what I like most about this book is its clarity and concise way of articulating each philosophical impulse. I honestly think EVERYONE will find something of value here, from those just beginning their study of Japan as well as those with copious knowledge on the subject - it is THAT GOOD! But, for me, the best chapter is "Beyond Modernity." Here, the authors really shine - they KNOW their subject and, though easy to understand, it is a high level discussion without being didactic. They introduce such postmodern thinkers as Yoshimoto Takaaki (yes, Banana's father!) and Karatani Kojin. Their descriptions were so inspirational that I have since read everything Karatani has written. This is considered a general introduction, but I think it goes much, much deeper than most primers. It is a pathbreaking work in the sense that it is bringing into general discourse the idea that, yes, there is a unique and original philosophy in Japan completely its own, and not just borrowed from other cultures. A delightful read!

This review is written from the perspective of someone who knows next-to-nothing about Japanese

Philosophy, and indeed had not really considered the two words in combination before. In short, it is a masterly introduction to this intriguing and little-known topic. The authors show tremendous erudition and ambition in covering the whole sweep of Japanese philosophy from the seventh century to the present day, and making the comparisons where appropriate with Chinese, Indian and Western philosophy. Buddhism, Tokugawa Confucianism, Modernity: it is all here. Get your copy now ! Ian Ruxton, editor of *Â Sir Ernest Satow's Private Letters to W.G. Aston and F.V. Dickins: The Correspondence of a Pioneer Japanologist from 1870 to 1918 (Paperback)*, also available on .

[Download to continue reading...](#)

I Love My Dad (japanese kids books, japanese children books): kids books in japanese, japanese baby books, children japanese books (Japanese Bedtime Collection) (Japanese Edition) Japanese Gardens: An Introduction to Japanese Gardens and Their Design Principles (Japanese Gardens, Japanese Garden Designs, DIY Japanese Gardening, Japanese ... Japanese Landscape Design Book 1) I Love My Mom (japanese kids books, japanese children stories, bilingual japanese books): japanese for kids (English Japanese Bilingual Collection) (Japanese Edition) Children's book: Where is Santa. Santaha dokoda: Children's English-Japanese Picture Book (Bilingual Edition), Japanese kids book, Japanese Baby book, Japanese ... Japanese English books for children 1) Manifesto for Philosophy: Followed by Two Essays: "the (Re)Turn of Philosophy Itself" and "Definition of Philosophy" (Suny Series, Intersections, Philosophy and Critical Theory) Living Language Japanese Complete Course, Revised & Updated (40 Lessons on 3 Compact Discs * Coursebook * Japanese-English/English-Japanese Dictionary) (English and Japanese Edition) Yokai Museum: The Art of Japanese Supernatural Beings from YUMOTO Koichi Collection (Japanese, Japanese and Japanese Edition) Peekaboo baby. Japanese Baby Book: Children's Picture Book English-Japanese (Bilingual Edition) Bilingual Picture book in English and Japanese ... for children) (Volume 1) (Japanese Edition) I Love to Tell the Truth: english japanese children's books, japanese baby books, japanese kids books (English Japanese Bilingual Collection) My Daddy is the best!: (Bilingual Edition) English Japanese Children's Picture Book Bilingual Picture book in English and Japanese, Japanese kids book ... for children) (Volume 7) (Japanese Edition) Welcome to Japanese Food World: Unlock EVERY Secret of Cooking Through 500 AMAZING Japanese Recipes (Japanese Cookbook, Japanese Cuisine, Asian Cookbook, Asian Cuisine) (Unlock Cooking, Cookbook [#7]) Japanese Short Stories for Beginners: 8 Thrilling and Captivating Japanese Stories to Expand Your Vocabulary and Learn Japanese While Having Fun Japanese Edition 4 books in 1 - English to Japanese Kids Flash Card Book: Black and White Edition: Learn Japanese Vocabulary

for Children (Japanese Bilingual Flashcards) I Love to Eat Fruits and Vegetables: English Japanese Bilingual Edition (English Japanese Bilingual Collection) (Japanese Edition) Donguri Korokoro: A Japanese Song in Japanese, Romaji and English with Vocabulary Guide (Easy Japanese) Basic Japanese Through Comics Part 1: Compilation Of The First 24 Basic Japanese Columns From Mangajin Magazine (English and Japanese Edition) I Love to Go to Daycare: English Japanese Bilingual Children's Books (English Japanese Bilingual Collection) (Japanese Edition) Hippocrene Children's Illustrated Japanese Dictionary: English-Japanese/Japanese-English (Hippocrene Children's Illustrated Foreign Language Dictionaries) I Love to Share: Japanese English Bilingual Edition (Japanese English Bilingual Collection) (Japanese Edition) Childrens Japanese book: Lilly's Surprise. Ririi no bikkuri shii: Children's English-Japanese Picture Book (Bilingual Edition) (Japanese ... picture books for children) (Volume 10)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)