

[Library ebook] Giants of Japan (English Edition)

Giants of Japan (English Edition)

Von Mark Weston

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GIANTS OF JAPAN

The Lives of Japan's
Greatest Men and Women



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Von Mark Weston : Giants of Japan (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Giants of Japan (English Edition):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A must-have for first-time travellers to Japan! Von Ein Kunde I took this book with me on a two-week trip to Japan and it was

invaluable. Weston's book is the only one I've found which focuses on individuals, rather than on time periods spanning hundreds of years or on confusing family dynasties. Instead, the book is divided into easily digestible topics like "Industry," "Traditional Culture," and even "Modern Writers." As I travelled, I skipped around in the book, reading chapters which helped me better understand my surroundings. After seeing Tokyo's electronics district, I read about the founders of Sony, Mitsubishi and Minolta. On the train to Hiroshima, I read up on Tojo, Emperor Hirohito, and novelist Ibuse Masuji (Weston shares Masuji's vivid descriptions of the bombing). I wandered through several of Kyoto's impressive temples and shrines but had no sense of the history behind the architecture, so I looked to Weston's chapters on Oda Nobunaga, "the warrior who united half of Japan," and on Tokugawa, the founder of a three hundred year-old dynasty which produced several of Kyoto's most glorious structures. After viewing ancient woodcuts in Kyoto, I developed a real appreciation for them by reading about Hokusai, whose work virtually defines the craft. On the plane back to the US, I read Weston's chapter on the filmmaker Kurosawa and decided which movies to rent back home! Weston's book is packed with interesting details, yet does not overwhelm the initiate. If you're travelling in Japan and plan to get by on the information in the front of your guidebook, forget it! You'll be missing out on the most fascinating aspects of everything you see. Stick Weston's paperback in your suitcase and refer to it whenever you wonder things like, "Wow, where did Haiku poetry come from?" "How did Japan's industrial base become so strong?" "How are women treated in modern Japan?" "What's going on in the tea ceremony?" "What was it like here during the post WWII American occupation?" and of course... "Which Japanese samurai films are must-sees?"

0 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An informative, eminently readable book
Von Ein Kunde
As one largely unacquainted with Japanese history and culture who had a need to learn more about the country, I found "Giants of Japan" a helpful, accessible, and even fun-to-read overview. Weston's format of "bite-sized" profiles makes the book easy to put down and pick up repeatedly without losing continuity.
0 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. great, easy to read book about important Japanese
Von Ein Kunde
It's very helpful to have biographies of industrial, cultural and historical figures all in one book. They are well-written and researched, and a pleasure to read.

Kurzbeschreibung
Giants of Japan brings to life fifteen centuries of Japanese history through lively biographical sketches of the great men and women who have shaped this fascinating and complex country. Covering industry, the arts, religion, and politics, the book includes business titans such as Morita Akio, founder of Sony, and Toyoda Eiji, the man behind Toyota's incredible success; creative giants such as writer Mishima Yukio and film director Kurosawa Akira; and historical icons such as Shotoku, the prince who helped bring Buddhism to Japan, and Izumo no Okuni, the actress and dancer who created kabuki theater. The economies and futures of the West and Japan are now more interdependent than ever, yet Japan remains very much a mystery to many Westerners. The more than forty profiles in this entertaining and enlightening book are essential knowledge about a nation that is a key player on the world stage.

Praise for "Giants of Japan"
"A superb new book." - Los Angeles Times
"A successful attempt to personalize history." - The Washington Post
"Vivid... An excellent introduction to Japanese history." - Foreign Affairs
"Enjoyable, informative and well-written." - Arthur Golden, author of "Memoirs of a Geisha"
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