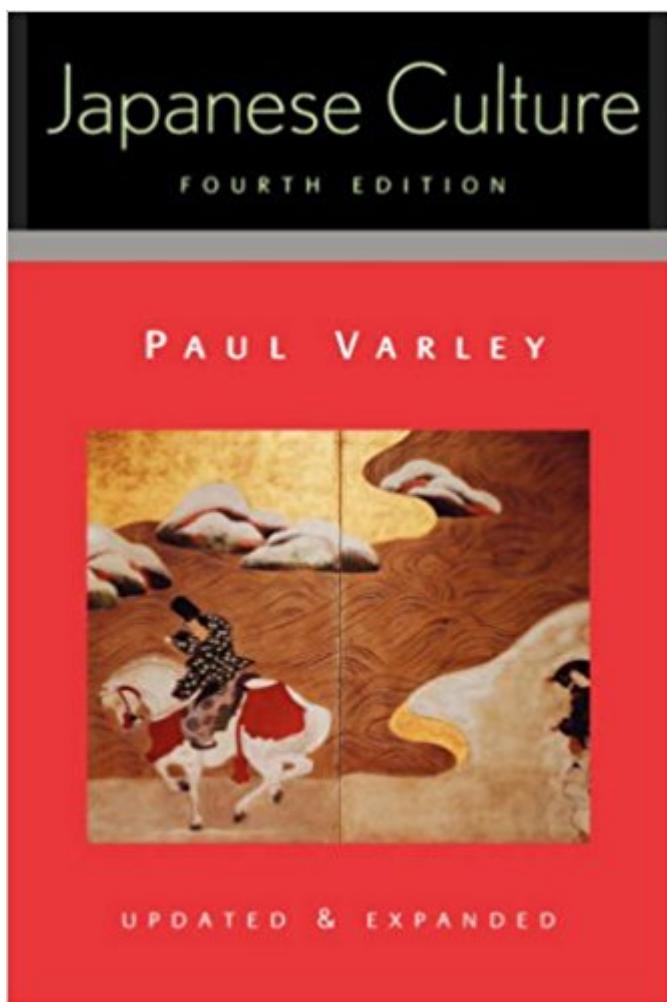


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Japanese Culture (Studies Of The Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia Un)



Synopsis

For nearly three decades Japanese Culture has garnered high praise as an accurate and well-written introduction to Japanese history and culture. This widely used undergraduate text is now available in a new edition. Thoroughly updated, the fourth edition includes expanded sections on numerous topics, among which are samurai values, Zen Buddhism, the tea ceremony, Confucianism in the Tokugawa period, the story of the forty-seven ronin, Mito scholarship in the early nineteenth century, and mass culture and comics in contemporary times.

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Customer Reviews

Though many books on Japanese culture have appeared in recent years, none has yet matched Varley's for the combined breadth and depth of detail and for his skill at conjuring up the zeitgeist of each period of Japanese history.-- "New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies" This is a masterpiece of much in little space. It neatly surveys over 2,000 years of the arts, religion, and cultural peculiarities (e.g., the tea ceremony) of one of the most cultivated of nations. It leaves virtually no major individual, religious sect, genre and style of visual art, form of literary expression, variety of theater, or influence of extra-Japanese origin unconsidered. It nonetheless admirably retains its focus, ignoring the temptation to relate history that doesn't impinge on cultural developments. What's more, Varley writes superbly lucid prose. . . . A superior one-volume introduction to Japanese culture.-- "Booklist"

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Too wordy

I've read several of Paul Varley's books on Japanese culture and consider them to be invaluable reference books to my understanding of Japan's history and culture. This interesting book had much added information especially of Japan's modern period.

Certain chapters bored me to death because I wasn't interested in the topic while other chapters I literally devoured. I think you have to have a real love of Japan to get through this book because it can be rather "dry" to read. It's got good information, I just wish the writing itself had more life to it and less of the "dry, dull textbook" flavor.

I received the book in excellent condition. The seller was very punctual about getting the book to me in a timely manner. In terms of the book, the chapters are very long, but it is very thorough and has a lot of excellent information for those who are truly interested in and enjoy an overview of Japanese culture and its artworks. The explanations given can even help a novice understand the difference between the art styles within different cultural periods

Excellent foundation text.

I got this book for a class and it has been interesting to read. I probably wouldn't have gotten this book if it weren't required for my class, but I'm glad I had the opportunity to read it.

By far the best overall coverage of Japanese cultural history-- cogent, intelligent, readable, for the rank novice thru the specialist's reference shelf-- that I have found in 30 years of studying & teaching the subject. On second thought, not only the best but in fact the Only. Lovely illustrations too.

Interesting, informative, but not a quick read.

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