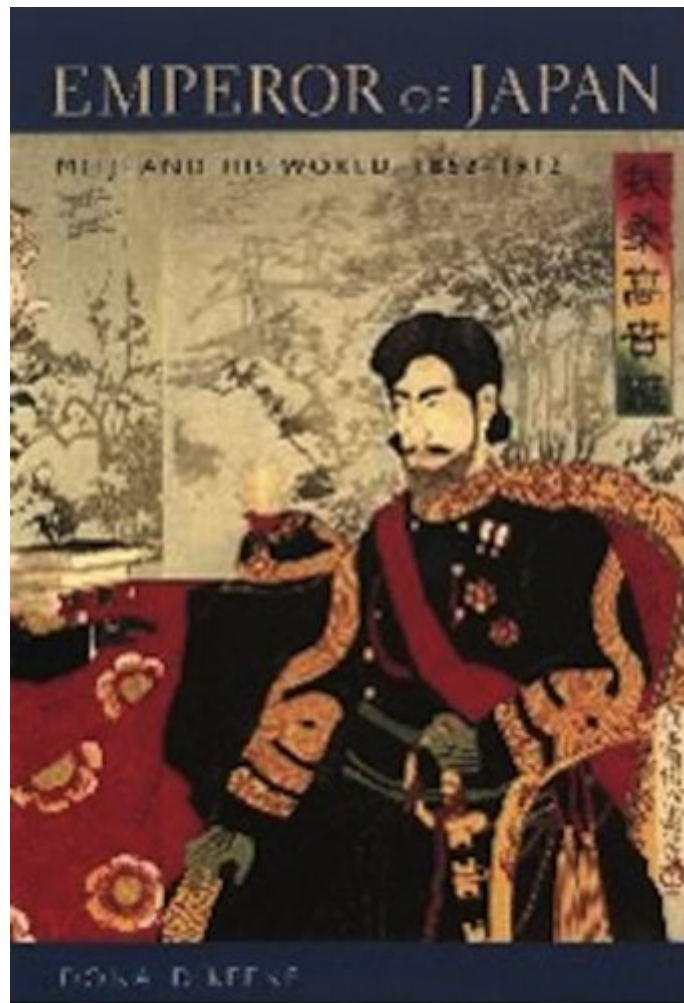


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# Emperor Of Japan: Meiji And His World, 1852-1912



## Synopsis

This is the extraordinary story of how Japan was dramatically transformed during the long reign of Emperor Meiji, from an isolated island nation to one of the five great powers of the world, poised as a rival in Asia to Russia and the European colonial powers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In writing this book, Keene undoubtedly has taken on an enormous task in chronicling the entire Meiji era, but perhaps that task was too great to take on. In giving mostly clear accounts of the reasoning behind support or opposition to certain policies, events, etc., not just the emperor's but also the opinions of everyone involved, Keene sacrifices a certain amount of organization and coherence. Although the text is presented in essentially chronological order, certain trackings of the history of different policies leads to jumping between years, although not far, that might serve to confuse readers on what year is being discussed in a chapter. The chapters themselves are not titled or even labeled at the top of the pages, and with over 60 of them it is harder than usual to check which chapter one is reading to browse the mostly unenlightening notes in the back of the book. Although I praise the amount of detail Keene puts into explaining occurrences in not just the

Meiji period, but the period of Meiji's father Emperor Komei as well, the detail given for certain things is just a little too much at times, mostly when dealing with non-policy related issues, such as for example a very long description of the Prince Nicholas of Russia's visit to Japan, minutely described long before his attempted assassination by a disgruntled police officer. In another instance of extraneous detail, in the middle of describing the first elections in Japan and the eventual convening of the Diet and Parliament, Keene dedicates a strange paragraph to the Imperial Household's growing amount of owned land, which in no way related to the topics at hand, and was not further discussed, at least in that section of the book.

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