

# Contents

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| <i>Preface</i>      | ix   |
| <i>Introduction</i> | xiii |

## I THE EARLY YEARS I

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Geographic Setting                               | I  |
| The Mythological Origins of Japan                | 5  |
| Japanese Prehistory                              | 7  |
| Japan's Neighbor: Korea                          | II |
| Early Yamato Society: Fourth and Fifth Centuries | 13 |
| The Indigenous Cults                             | 16 |
| Social Practices and Conditions                  | 18 |
| Architecture                                     | 20 |

## 2 THE ADVENT AND ASSIMILATION OF CHINESE CIVILIZATION 27

|   |    |
|---|----|
| The Introduction of Chinese Civilization    | 27 |
| Buddhism                                    | 30 |
| Prince Shōtoku                              | 32 |
| The Taika Reforms                           | 34 |
| Culture of the Seventh and Eighth Centuries | 41 |
| Social and Economic Conditions              | 46 |
| Marriage and Gender Relations               | 51 |
| Internal and External Foes                  | 52 |



### 3 THE HEIAN PERIOD 57

|  |    |
|--|----|
| The Age of Court Aristocracy                 | 57 |
| The Central Government                       | 58 |
| Culture                                      | 61 |
| Nara-Heian Buddhism                          | 68 |
| The Rise of Shōen                            | 73 |
| The Emergence of the Warrior Class (Samurai) | 76 |
| The Triumph of the Samurai                   | 80 |
| The Rivalry of the Taira and Minamoto Clans  | 80 |

### 4 THE KAMAKURA PERIOD 87

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| The Kamakura Shogunate (1185–1333)                             | 87  |
| The Hōjō Regency   | 90  |
| Foreign Relations: The Asian Continent                         | 93  |
| The Mongol Invasions and the Decline of the<br>Kamakura Bakufu | 94  |
| The Ethos of the Samurai                                       | 96  |
| Women and Inheritance  | 101 |
| Kamakura Buddhism  | 102 |
| Culture  | 112 |

### 5 THE ASHIKAGA PERIOD AND THE EMERGENCE OF THE DAIMYŌ 119

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Political Developments                        | 119 |
| Ashikaga Rule                                 | 123 |
| The Decline of the Shōen                      | 124 |
| The Onset of the Time of Troubles             | 126 |
| The Rise of the Daimyō and the Warring States | 127 |
| The Peasantry                                 | 132 |
| Economic Growth                               | 135 |
| The Influence of Zen Buddhism on Culture      | 140 |
| Other Cultural Developments                   | 145 |



**6 THE RESTORATION OF ORDER 151**

|                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Oda Nobunaga                       | 152 |
| Toyotomi Hideyoshi                 | 154 |
| Hideyoshi's Domestic Policies      | 159 |
| The Ninja                          | 161 |
| Azuchi-Momoyama Culture            | 162 |
| Gender and Sexuality               | 164 |
| Contact with the West              | 166 |
| Christianity in Japan              | 167 |
| The Introduction of Western Things | 175 |

**7 THE EARLY TOKUGAWA PERIOD 179**

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| The Triumph of Tokugawa Ieyasu | 179 |
| The Power Structure            | 186 |
| Administrative Structure       | 190 |
| The Administration of Justice  | 191 |
| Social Structure               | 194 |
| The Samurai                    | 195 |
| The Peasants                   | 198 |
| The Townspeople                | 204 |
| Other Classes                  | 210 |
| Family Hierarchy and Women     | 211 |

**8 INTELLECTUAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS  
IN TOKUGAWA JAPAN 219**

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Neo-Confucianism               | 219 |
| The Zhu Xi School in Japan     | 221 |
| The Wang Yang-Ming School      | 226 |
| Ancient Learning               | 227 |
| National Learning              | 231 |
| Agrarian Egalitarianism        | 235 |
| The Culture of the Townspeople | 237 |
| Prose Fiction                  | 239 |
| Theater                        | 241 |



|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Woodblock Printing and Painting | 243 |
| Haiku                           | 246 |
| Education                       | 247 |
| The State of Buddhism           | 248 |

## 9 THE LATE TOKUGAWA PERIOD 253

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Political Developments                       | 253 |
| Economic Problems                            | 258 |
| The Pleasure Quarters                        | 263 |
| The Lot of the Peasants                      | 265 |
| Population Control                           | 269 |
| Peasant Uprisings                            | 271 |
| Agricultural Improvements                    | 275 |
| Forestry                                     | 277 |
| Intellectual Currents: Reformers and Critics | 279 |

## 10 THE FALL OF THE TOKUGAWA BAKUFU 289

|                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Sakoku                             | 289 |
| The Arrival of Commodore Perry     | 292 |
| The Immediate Consequences         | 297 |
| The Mentality of Sonnō Jōi         | 299 |
| The Rise of the Anti-Bakufu Forces | 302 |
| The Meiji Restoration              | 308 |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <i>Appendix A: The Internet</i>        | 315 |
| <i>Appendix B: Chronological Chart</i> | 319 |
| <i>Appendix C: List of Shōguns</i>     | 325 |
| <i>Selected Bibliography</i>           | 327 |
| <i>Index</i>                           | 379 |