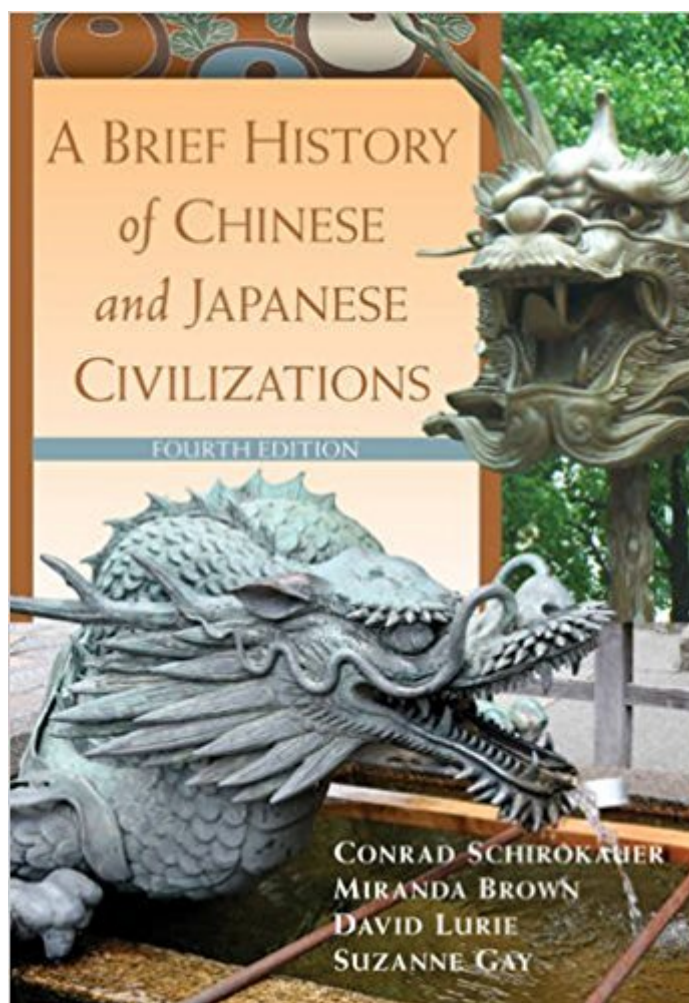


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# A Brief History Of Chinese And Japanese Civilizations



## Synopsis

This compelling text explores the development of China and Japan through their art, religion, literature, and thought as well as through their economic, political, and social history. The author team combines strong research with extensive classroom teaching experience to offer a clear, consistent, and highly readable text that is accessible to students with no previous knowledge of the history of East Asia.

## Book Information

Paperback: 736 pages

Publisher: Wadsworth Publishing; 4 edition (January 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0495913227

ISBN-13: 978-0495913221

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.2 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #259,221 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #391 in Books > History > Asia > Japan #420 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Asia #470 in Books > History > Asia > China

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Conrad Schirokauer currently serves as Senior Scholar and Adjunct Professor at Columbia University as well as Professor Emeritus at the City University of New York. In addition to A BRIEF HISTORY OF CHINESE AND JAPANESE CIVILIZATIONS (and its separate volumes on China and Japan), he has published articles on Song intellectual history and served as co-editor (with Robert Hymes) of ORDERING THE WORLD: APPROACHES TO STATE AND SOCIETY IN SUNG DYNASTY CHINA and as translator of CHINA'S EXAMINATION HELL, by Miyazaki Ichisada. Miranda Brown received her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from the Department of History, University of California, Berkeley. She is Associate Professor of Asian Languages & Cultures in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Her research and publications span the fields of early Chinese cultural and social history and the history of medicine. David Lurie received a B.A. in Literature from Harvard University and a M.A. and Ph.D. in Japanese Literature from Columbia University. He teaches Japanese history and literature in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at Columbia University. His research concerns the history of writing systems in Japan, and more broadly, in pre-modern East Asia. David Lurie also works on the cultural and intellectual history of Japan through the Heian period. He is currently completing a manuscript entitled "Realms of Literacy: Early Japan and the History of Writing" and is also working on a project analyzing the interconnections among biography, historiography, education, and the production and circulation of texts in Nara and Heian period Japan. Suzanne Gay is Professor of East Asian Studies at Oberlin College. Her research interests include the social and economic history of medieval Japan, with a particular emphasis on the role of commoners in history. Her monography, THE MONEYLENDERS OF LATE MEDIEVAL KYOTO, was published by University of Hawaii Press in 2001. She is currently working on the history of two merchant families of medieval Kyoto, and her next project will focus on commerce and pilgrimage in the Oyamazaki

area southwest of Kyoto.

This was a required textbook to read in my East Asian history class. I would say that for a class at the 200 level in undergrad, this book was definitely appropriate. The information is well organized, and the color images are crisp and a good supplement to the written content that accompanies them. Plus, after using this book for my class, I had an adequate understanding of major historical events and eras in Chinese and Japanese history, enough to be comfortable engaging in discussions with others who were interested in the subject. It's too bad that the book focuses on Japan and China for the most part, largely ignoring the other nations that were a part of East Asian history. Sure, Japan and China are integral, but let's not overlook the importance of Korea, Mongolia post-Mongol empire, and other distinctive cultural groups.

Overall, this wasn't one of my favorite reads, I have also got feedback from colleagues who feel the same.

well written

I read this whole textbook for my Far East history class in college. Though the reading wasn't particularly required I still read it cover to cover and found it interesting enough. For the length it did a good enough job explaining these two civilizations, however if it had been longer and more detail had been added I still would've found it just as wonderful. Perhaps if there had been two volumes, one focused on Japan and the other on China, students would've learned more about these ancient, culturally rich nations than what we got here, crammed into 635 pages.

I used this for a university class and really liked it as a textbook! It seemed thorough in its different topics/chapters and was easy to follow and navigate.

Informative and clear for a textbook that covers the main points of two different countries and their long history.

A very good introduction to the history and religions of Japan and China.

This is the book I needed for my course. This newer edition contains much less mistakes than the

previous edition.

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