

Natsume Soseki

The Civilization of Modern-Day Japan

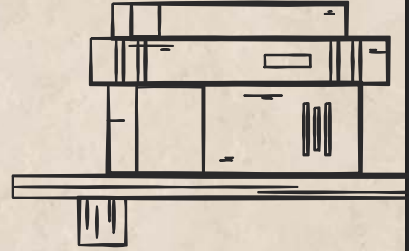
Alena Huynh



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The Meiji Restoration

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The Meiji Restoration

1868 to 1912

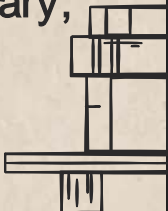


Begins with the overthrow of the Tokugawa Shogunate and restoration of power to Emperor Meiji (pictured left)

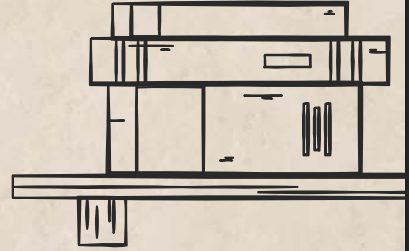
Defined by the government making several major reforms to Japanese society, economy, and culture

Mass assimilation of Western culture, coinciding with the continuation of traditional Japanese values

Prompted the emergence of a new artistic, literary, philosophical campaigns inspired by Western thought



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Who is Natsume Soseki?

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Natsume Soseki (1867- 1916)

Regarded as one of Japan's greatest authors and important figures in Japanese literature

Known for works such as "I am a Cat" (1905), "Botchan" (1906), and "Kokoro" (1914)

Literature defined by modern, complex, psychological themes

Studied in the United Kingdom, and the influence of the West can be seen throughout his work





II

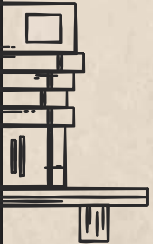
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Quotes

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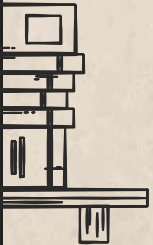
“Simply stated, Western civilization is intrinsically motivated, whereas Japan’s civilization is externally motivated.”



Quotes

II

“... we have these two intertwining processes, one involving inventions and mechanisms that spring from the desire to conserve our labor as much as possible, and the other involving amusements that spring from the wish to consume our energies as freely as possible”



Japan in Modern Times

Evolution of society has disregarded women's rights

Women did not gain the right to vote until 1945

Lack of protection for women against sexual assault

Traditional value of women as housewives is still emphasized despite rise of women in the workforce



Japan in Modern Times

Work culture is internationally known as brutal and toxic

High suicide rates in Japan can be rooted in said work culture

“Hikikomori” : a form of severe social withdrawal, studies have shown in some cases that it is rooted in societal pressures and economic insecurity



Resources

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