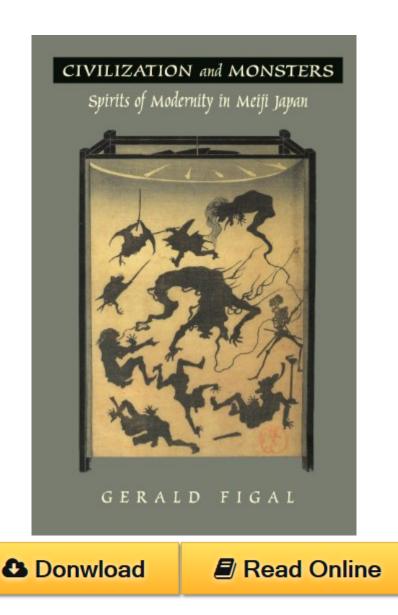
Civilization and Monsters: Spirits of Modernity in Meiji Japan (Asia-Pacific) PDF



Civilization and Monsters: Spirits of Modernity in Meiji Japan (Asia-Pacific) by Gerald Figal ISBN B00HXCHAQU

Monsters, ghosts, the supernatural, the fantastic, the mysterious. These are not usually considered the "stuff" of modernism. More often they are regarded as inconsequential to the study of the modern, or, at best, seen as representative of traditional beliefs that are overcome and left behind in the transformation toward modernity. In *Civilization and Monsters* Gerald Figal asserts that discourse on the fantastic was at the heart of the historical configuration of Japanese modernity—that the representation of the magical and mysterious played an integral part in the production of modernity beginning in Meiji Japan (1868–1912).

After discussing the role of the fantastic in everyday Japan at the eve of the Meiji period, Figal draws new connections between folklorists, writers, educators, state ideologues, and policymakers,

all of whom crossed paths in a contest over supernatural terrain. He shows the ways in which a determined Meiji state was engaged in a battle to suppress, denigrate, manipulate, or reincorporate folk belief as part of an effort toward the consolidation of a modern national culture. Modern medicine and education, functioning as a means for the state to exercise its power, redefined folk practices as a source of evil. Diverse local spirits were supplanted by a new Japanese Spirit, embodied by the newly constituted emperor, the supernatural source of the nation's strength. The monsters of folklore were identified, catalogued, and characterized according to a new regime of modern reason. But whether engaged to support state power and forge a national citizenry or to critique the arbitrary nature of that power, the fantastic, as Figal maintains, is the constant condition of Japanese modernity in all its contradictions. Furthermore, he argues, modernity in general is born of fantasy in ways that have scarcely been recognized. Bringing unexplored and provocative new ideas to the Japan specialist, *Civilization and Monsters* will also appeal to readers concerned with issues of modernity in general.

Civilization and Monsters: Spirits of Modernity in Meiji Japan (Asia-Pacific) Review

This Civilization and Monsters: Spirits of Modernity in Meiji Japan (Asia-Pacific) book is not really ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is actually information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. This kind of Civilization and Monsters: Spirits of Modernity in Meiji Japan (Asia-Pacific) without we recognize teach the one who looking at it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't be worry Civilization and Monsters: Spirits of Modernity in Meiji Japan (Asia-Pacific) can bring any time you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even cell phone. This Civilization and Monsters: Spirits of Modernity in Meiji Japan (Asia-Pacific) having great arrangement in word and layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.