

Review of:

Japanese Philosophy: A Sourcebook, ed. by James W. Heisig, Thomas P. Kasulis, and John C. Maraldo. University of Hawai'i Press, 2011. 1341 pages. ISBN 9780824836184 (pbk), \$35.00

Reviewed by:

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Weighing in at over 1300 pages, with 230 entries on more than 100 figures, this massive tome will stand for the foreseeable future as the gold standard for comprehensive treatment of all matters of Japanese philosophy. The three editors, all significant names within this small but growing subfield, have brought together an impressive assemblage of scholars, both established and up-and-coming, to translate and provide introductions to each and every entry, resulting in a readable sourcebook remarkable in both its scope and the acuity of analysis. Particularly useful is the volume's introduction, "Framework," which raises and deals admirably with the complex issue of defining "Japanese philosophy." To their credit, the editors take a expansive view of what can be included in this term, and thus give space to ancient texts such as Shotoku Taishi's *Seventeen-Article Constitution*, as well as the writings of the great Buddhist sect founders: Kūkai, Nichiren, Shinran and Dōgen, early modern neo-Confucians such as Hayashi Razan and Yamazaki Ansai, and Shinto nativists like Motoori Norinaga. Having said that, the bulk of the book covers the modern (post-1868) period, with a particular focus on the figures associated with the Kyoto School, Japan's most significant indigenous philosophical movement. The final section includes an extensive glossary, bibliography, chronology and thematic index, which make this work an extremely useful tool for further scholarship. On a purely aesthetic level (and this being a work on Japanese thought, aesthetics must have its place), the book is strikingly attractive, from its classic cover to its fine paper and the simple line portraits that grace many individual entries. Although the primary texts are often difficult, the book could certainly be used for upper-level undergraduate courses in Japanese (or Asian/East Asian) philosophy, as well as graduate seminars.