Mirror for Americans: Japan in the American Imaginary

In her meticulously researched and engagingly written book, *Mirror for Americans: Japan in the American Imaginary*, Laura Schenone explores the complex and evolving relationship between Japan and the United States. Schenone argues that Japan has served as a "mirror" for Americans, reflecting their own hopes, fears, and anxieties about themselves and their place in the world.

Schenone traces the history of American perceptions of Japan from the early 19th century to the present day. She shows how Japan has been alternately seen as a land of mystery and enchantment, a threat to American values, and a model for economic and technological progress.



MIRROR FOR AMERICANS -Japan- by Laura Schenone

★★★★★ 4.6 out of 5
Language : English
File size : 598 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 360 pages



Schenone's book is a valuable contribution to the study of American foreign relations and cultural diplomacy. It is also a fascinating read for anyone

interested in the history of Japan or the relationship between the two countries.

Key Themes

- The American Dream: Schenone argues that Japan has often been seen as a symbol of the American Dream. In the 19th century, Japan was seen as a land of opportunity for American missionaries and businessmen. In the 20th century, Japan was seen as a model for economic development and technological progress.
- The Yellow Peril: Schenone also explores the darker side of American perceptions of Japan. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Japan was seen as a threat to American security and values. This fear was fueled by the rise of Japanese imperialism and the growing number of Japanese immigrants in the United States.
- The Model Minority: In the aftermath of World War II, Japan's image in the United States underwent a dramatic transformation. Japan was now seen as a model for economic development and technological progress. This view was reinforced by the success of Japanese companies in the United States and the growing number of Japanese students and professionals in American universities and businesses.

Critical Reception

Mirror for Americans has been praised by critics for its scholarship, originality, and readability. Writing in the Journal of American History, one reviewer called the book "a major contribution to the study of American foreign relations and cultural diplomacy." Another reviewer, writing in the American Historical Review, said that the book "is a must-read for anyone

interested in the history of Japan or the relationship between the two countries."

Mirror for Americans is a fascinating and thought-provoking book that sheds new light on the complex and evolving relationship between Japan and the United States. Schenone's meticulous research and engaging writing style make this book a must-read for anyone interested in the history of either country or the relationship between the two.

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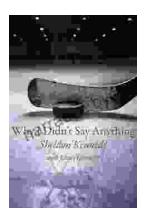
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