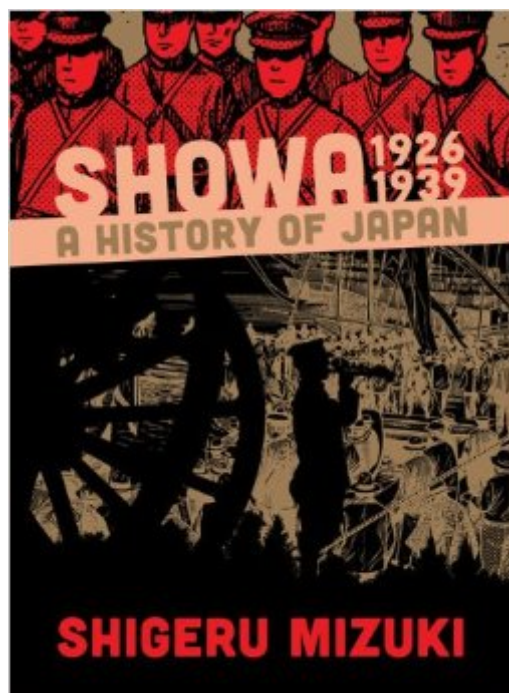


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Showa 1926-1939: A History Of Japan (Showa: A History Of Japan)



Synopsis

A fascinating period in Japanese history explored by a master of manga. Showa 1926-1939: A History of Japan is the first volume of Shigeru Mizuki's meticulously researched historical portrait of twentieth-century Japan. This volume deals with the period leading up to World War II, a time of high unemployment and other economic hardships caused by the Great Depression. Mizuki's photo-realist style effortlessly brings to life the Japan of the 1920s and 1930s, depicting bustling city streets and abandoned graveyards with equal ease. When the Showa era began, Mizuki himself was just a few years old, so his earliest memories coincide with the earliest events of the time. With his trusty narrator Rat Man, Mizuki brings history into the realm of the personal, making it palatable, and indeed compelling, for young audiences as well as more mature readers. As he describes the militarization that leads up to World War II, Mizuki's stance toward war is thoughtful and often downright critical. His portrayal of the Nanjing Massacre clearly paints the incident (a disputed topic within Japan) as an atrocity. Mizuki's Showa 1926-1939 is a beautifully told history that tracks how technological developments and the country's shifting economic stability had a role in shaping Japan's foreign policy in the early twentieth century.

Book Information

Series: Showa: A History of Japan (Book 1)

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Publishers > Drawn and Quarterly #32036 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences

Customer Reviews

Bottom Line First Showa 1926-1939: A History of Japan (Showa: A History of Japan) Paperback by Shigeru Mizuki (Author), Zack Davisson (Translator) achieves most of its purpose. Shigeru tells and illustrates his autobiography as a child of the period of Japanese history

he is also telling. The reason for this history as picture book is that Japanese students tend to receive a very sanitized version of Japan's role as aggressor in more than the 15 year period that the Imperial Japanese Army engaged in a number of incidents in neighboring Korea and China. As a graphic history, rather than a graphic novel it is a superior effort. Writer, artist Shigeru Mizuki is one of the top names in Japanese Manga. That is he is both an artist and a writer and became one year after losing his writing arm as a soldier in World War II. This is an easy recommendation for fans but a slightly less enthusiastic recommendation for a more serious minded reader. It is a fairly old story that Japan has not done a good job of teaching its 20th Century history to its students. They are aware that their country lost World War II but may have a little or no appreciation for the aggressive way their country helped to initiate the war and the often vicious method employed as warriors and conquerors. Showa is the name for the period of Japanese history corresponding to the reign of the Shōwa Emperor, Hirohito, from December 25, 1926, through January 7, 1989. Mizuki also lived through this period and his intention was to tell his life's story as context for also telling something closer to the truth about how Japan acted during this era.

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