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# **Hot List**

**Non-Fiction**

**KODANSHA LTD.**

# The Origins of the Universe and Matter: Understanding the “Invisible World”



By the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization, Institute of Particle and Nuclear Studies



Published March 2024  
Pages: 320  
ISBN:9784065351918



**Edited by the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization, Institute of Particle and Nuclear Studies**

Commonly known as KEK, this research institute explores the origins of the universe, matter, and life by utilizing a device called a particle accelerator that can be used to search microscopic worlds. As an inter-university research institute corporation, it provides a platform for researchers from both Japan and abroad to collaborate. Also, as a foundational institution of the Graduate University for Advanced Studies, it trains personnel to become pioneers in advanced research fields. The Institute of Particle and Nuclear Studies (IPNS) is a research institute that develops physical theories that govern the world from the smallest matter (elementary particles) to the largest matter (the universe), and confirms them through cutting-edge experiments. Their main research centers in the country are the Tsukuba Campus, Tokai Campus, and Wako Nuclear Science Center (WNSC). Produced alongside a braille version, this book was written by researchers from the “Braille Book Project Team” led by director of IPNS, Naoto Saito.

**Co-written by prominent Japanese researchers, tackling the mysteries of the universe!**  
**From basic to cutting-edge cosmology, this book has got you covered!**

This book breaks down the fundamental question of “Why do we exist?” in an easy-to-understand way, based on the latest theories.

13.8 billion years ago, the universe was born from an extremely tiny bundle of energy that was not even the size of a dot. Out of that energy, matter, Earth, and life emerged, and it took a series of chance events for us humans to come into being. How has humanity unraveled the origins of the universe that no one witnessed? There are also the mysteries of antimatter, dark matter, and the multiverse. To what extent have these mysteries been revealed? Written by researchers from the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization Institute of Particle and Nuclear Studies (KEK IPNS), this introductory book carefully examines each mystery.

## Recommendations

**Recommended by the winner of the Nobel Prize for Physics, Makoto Kobayashi!**

“The physicists’ endless search for knowledge sheds light on the origins of the universe.”

**Recommended by Hitoshi Murayama, MacAdams Professor at the University of California, Berkeley/Vice Chair of the Division of Particles and Fields (DPF) under the American Physical Society!**

“Dracula who does not appear in mirrors, ballet dancers standing on their toes, not enough gold, and an unstable universe. This book is a thrilling exploration of our origins!”

## Table of Contents (excerpts)

Chapter 1: What Is the Universe Made Of?  
Chapter 2: The Beginning of the Standard Model of Particle Physics  
Chapter 3: The Origins of Elements  
Chapter 4: The Origins of Mass  
Chapter 5: The Origins of Forces  
Chapter 6: The Origins of an Asymmetric Universe: Matter and Antimatter  
Chapter 7: The Origins of Cosmic Inflation: The Big Bang and Inflation  
Chapter 8: The Origins of the Large-Scale Structure of the Universe: Dark Matter and Dark Energy  
Chapter 9: The Origins of the Evolution of the Universe  
Chapter 10: Is the Universe Stable?

● Fully translated manuscript  
(in English)  
● Illustration data  
(Copyright clearance obtained)  
Both available immediately!

# Management's the Stuff the World Is Made Of



A best-seller in Japan with over 150,000 copies sold!

Published January 2024  
Pages: 224  
ISBN: 9784065346440



## Discover your best IKIGAI by managing your life!

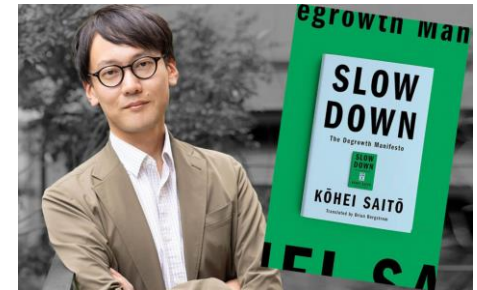
For everyone who wants to take full advantage of their life comes the new generation's eye-opening philosophy of happiness.

The true nature of management lies in value creation (which means simultaneously making yourself and others happy). With value creation as the ultimate goal, management helps people reevaluate milestones and the fundamentals, effectiveness, and purpose of their methods, along with overcoming any obstacles standing in the way of achieving the ultimate goal—creating a happier community. This best-seller mixes humor with deep insights into romantic relationships, work, job hunting, health, and many other topics through the lens of management and will help people take control and manage their lives!

### Recommendations

Recommended by the author of *Slow Down: The Degrowth Manifesto* and *Karl Marx's Ecosocialism*, Kohei Saito!

"Is saying that life is made up of management the height of Neo-Liberalism? No! This book is filled with exhilarating essays on how to find joy in work and value creation in a capitalistic world."



### The Tenets of this Book

- What are common traits of people who fail in life after retirement?
  - Why do talented subordinates become inept bosses?
  - Why is it that the harder you try, the further away success gets?
  - Are husbands who leave drinks half-drunk bad at management?
  - Why does having more safety signs actually cause more accidents?
  - The difference between humans and monkeys lies in management?
1. The truth is that everyone is managing their lives, but few are aware of it.
  2. False concepts of management bring irrationality and illogicality into our lives.
  3. No one can bring abundance into their lives or society unless they return to the original concepts of management.

### Table of Contents (excerpts)

Foreword: Management's the Stuff Daily Life Is Made Of  
1: Management's the Stuff Poverty Is Made Of  
2: Management's the Stuff Family Is Made Of  
3: Management's the Stuff Romantic Relationships Are Made Of  
4: Management's the Stuff Studying Is Made Of  
5: Management's the Stuff Vanity Is Made Of  
6: Management's the Stuff Anxieties Are Made Of  
7: Management's the Stuff Job Hunting Is Made Of  
8: Management's the Stuff Work Is Made Of  
9: Management's the Stuff Wrath Is Made Of  
10: Management's the Stuff Health Is Made Of  
11: Management's the Stuff Loneliness Is Made Of  
12: Management's the Stuff Life After Retirement Is Made Of  
13: Management's the Stuff Art Is Made Of  
14: Management's the Stuff Science Is Made Of  
15: Management's the Stuff History Is Made Of  
Afterword: Management's the Stuff Life Is Made Of  
Acknowledgements: Help From Others' the Stuff the Book Is Made Of  
Parody's the Stuff the Title Is Made Of



#### SHUNPEI IWAO

Associate professor at Keio University Faculty of Business and Commerce. Born in 1989 in Arita town, Saga prefecture. He received his doctorate in business administration from the University of Tokyo and has received many awards such as the 73rd Keio Prize, the 36th Takamiya Publication Award and the 37th Takamiya Book Award from the Academic Association for Organizational Science (AAOS), the 22nd Book Award from the Japan Society for Production Management (JSPM), and the 4th Hyogensha Award. He has also sat on the board for AAOS and held the role of director at JSPM. His written works include, *Why Are Japanese Companies Abandoning Their "Strengths"?* (Kobunsha Shinsho), *The After-school Company: Management Text for Teens* (KADOKAWA), *Toward the Renaissance of Japanese Management* (Nikkei Business Publications), *The KAIZEN Activities Revisited* (Yuhikaku).

# Management's the Stuff the World Is Made Of

By SHUNPEI IWAO



**Everyone is the manager of their own life!**

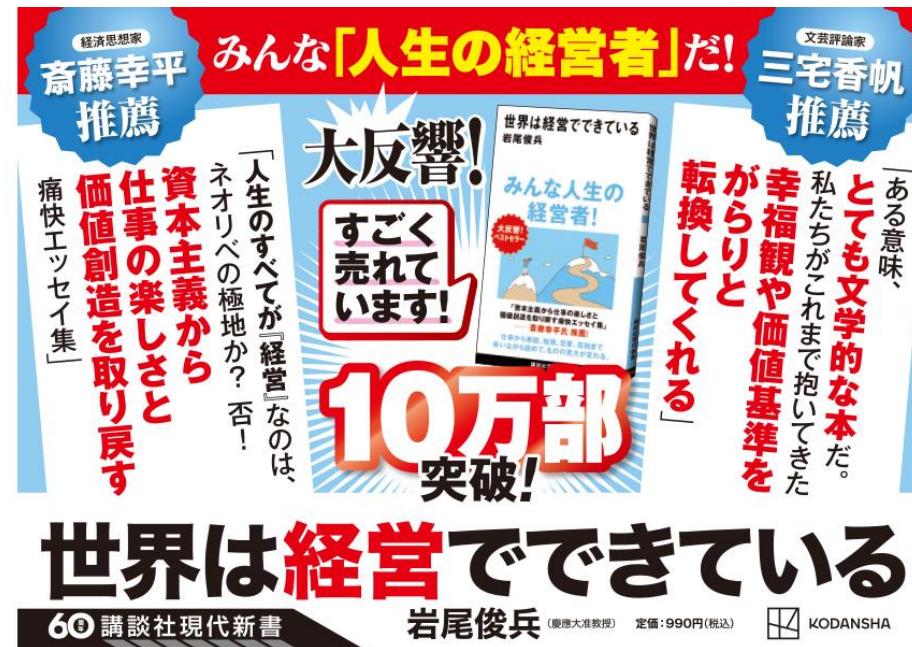
**Rave reviews!**

**Flying off the shelves!**

**Over 100,000 copies sold!**

Recommended by  
Philosopher Kohei Saito

**“Is saying that life is made up of management the height of Neo-Liberalism? No! This book is filled with exhilarating essays on how to find joy in work and value creation in a capitalistic world.”**



Recommended by literary  
critic Kaho Miyake

**“In a way, it’s a very literary book. It will radically change your views on happiness and your basis of value.”**

## *Management's the Stuff the World is Made Of*

Shunpei Iwao (Associate Professor, Keio University)

Kodansha Gendai Shinsho



# The History of China

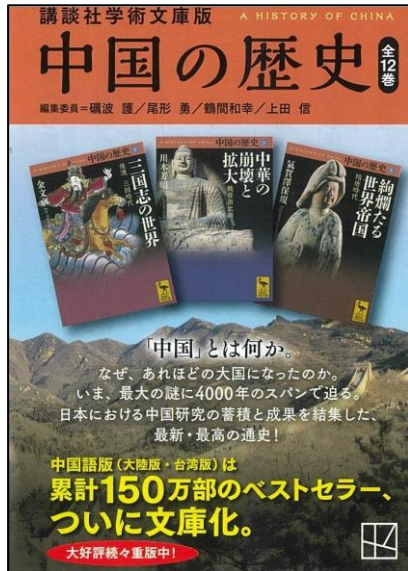
Edited By KAZUYUKI TSURUMA, MAKOTO UEDA et al.

【Bibliographic Information】

<https://www.kodansha.co.jp/titles/1000037989#publications>



Over 1.77 million copies sold worldwide!



**The highest standard of Chinese history.**

**A mega best-selling series with over 1.77 million copies sold worldwide!**

From history and archeology to politics, literature, and philosophy. Everything you need to know about China is right here!

Understanding a country like China's history—a country that has led world history since ancient times, with a landmass twice the size of the EU, and a population of over 1.4 billion—is no easy feat. But by taking it apart piece by piece, we begin to see its beginnings in a much smaller China that engulfed a countless number of diverse cultures, shaping its history and becoming the great country of China we know today. We hope that readers will gleam wisdom that will prove useful to navigate the ever-approaching future world through studying the history of China.

## 12 volumes total

1. From Myth to History: The Mythical Period—The Xia Dynasty
2. From City-State to China: The Shang Dynasty, Zhou Dynasty, Spring and Autumn Period, and Zanghuo Period
3. The Legacy of the First Emperor: The Qin and Han Dynasties
4. The World of the Records of the Three Kingdoms: The Later Han Dynasty and the Three Kingdoms
5. The Collapse and Expansion of China: The Wei Dynasty, Jin Dynasty, and the Northern and Southern Dynasties
6. The Magnificent World Empire: The Sui and Tang Dynasties
7. Chinese Thought and the Flood of Religion: The Song Dynasty
8. The Dashing Conqueror of the Grasslands: The Liao, Western Xia, Jin, and Yuan Dynasties
9. The Empire and the Sea: The Ming and Qing Dynasties
10. The Last Emperor and Modern China: The Late Qing Dynasty and the Republic of China
11. The Stirring of the Great Dragon: Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping
12. What is China to Japan?

## Recommendations

**Recommended by one of the most popular historical novel-writer in Japan, Kenzo Kitakata!**  
“Everything about human nature is encompassed here.”

**Recommended by President of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Haruaki Deguchi!**  
“A series packed with classics.”

### KAZUYUKI TSURUMA

Born in 1950. A professor at Gakushuin University and author of *Shikoutei no Chikateikoku* (The Underground Empire of the First Emperor of Qin) and *Ningen: Shikoutei* (Qin Shi Huang: The Man) among others. He also worked as a historical supervisor for the movie adaptation of *Kingdom*.

### MAKOTO UEDA

Born in 1957. A professor at Rikkyo University and author of *Shinakaiiki Oukoku no Koubou* (The China Sea: The Rise and Fall of a Kingdom), *Shitai wa Darenomonoka* (To Whom Do the Corpses Belong?), and *Jinkou no Chugokushi* (The Chinese History of Population) among others.

# The World History of the Rise and Ruin of Civilizations

Edited By MASANORI AOYAGI, MASAACKI SUGIYAMA, NORIHIKO FUKUI, HIDENOBU JINNAI



Over 410,000 copies sold worldwide!



**See how civilizations rose, and how they fell.**

**A collection of knowledge that breaks new ground in the field of human history!**

A new take on world history and human history from a modern standpoint by the fields' leading academics!

All over the globe, there remain monuments and cities that tell the history of their makers. While representing the history of the glory of their rulers, they also reflect the wisdom, skill, and sensibilities of their people. Cultures have been propagated by things, people, and technical skills, moving from place to place through wars and the intersection of different peoples. When viewing human history through this lens, we transcend concepts such as tribes, ethnicities, regions, nations, religions, and civilizations to finally see the foundation of knowledge all humans share. A grand dialogue between past and present is brought to life by leading academics in their fields!

## Recommendations

Recommended by professor at Kyoto University, Takumi Sato!

"Every first-class text on history has a hint of the literary about it. This series is without exception."

## 20 volumes total

- Volume 00: The Dawn and Dusk of Human Civilization
- Volume 01: The Conquests and Myth of Alexander the Great
- Volume 02: The Scythians and the Xiongnu: Nomadic Civilizations
- Volume 03: The Trade Nation of Carthage
- Volume 04: The Mediterranean World and the Roman Empire
- Volume 05: The Silkroad and the Tang Dynasty
- Volume 06: The Jihad of the Islamic Empire
- Volume 07: The Waterways of the Celts
- Volume 08: The Spirit of Italy's Maritime Cities
- Volume 09: The Mongolian Empire and Its Long Thereafter
- Volume 10: The Ottoman Empire: 500 Years of Peace
- Volume 11: Southeast Asia: The Discovery of a World with a Myriad of Civilizations
- Volume 12: The Incas and Spain: The Intersection of Empires
- Volume 13: The Hegemony of Modern Europe
- Volume 14: The Land of the Russian Romanov Dynasty
- Volume 15: The East India Company and the Asian Seas
- Volume 16: The British Empire Experience
- Volume 17: The Turmoil of the Great Qing Dynasty and China
- Volume 18: The Legacy of The Empire of Japan and the Empire of Manchuria
- Volume 19: The Empire of the Skies: America in the 20th Century
- Volume 20: What's Ahead for Humankind?

### MASANORI AOYAGI

Born in 1944. Formerly a professor at the University of Tokyo, he is currently the director of the National Museum of Western Art. He specializes in the art and anthropology of Ancient Rome. His written works include *Kouteitachi no Miyako Roma* (The Capital of Emperors: Rome) and *Torimarukio no Kyoen* (The Banquet of Trimalchio) (Chuko Shinsho).

### MASAACKI SUGIYAMA

Born in 1952. He is a professor at Kyoto University and his written works include *Mongoruteikoku no Koubou* (The Rise and Fall of the Mongol Empire) (Vol.1&2 Kodansha Gendai Shinsho), *Yubokumin karamita Sekaishi* (World History as Seen Through the Nomadic People) (Nikke BP Bunko), *Shikkusuru Sougen no Seifukusha* (The Dashing Conqueror of the Grasslands) (Kodansha).

### NORIHIKO FUKUI

Born in 1946. He is a professor at Gakushuin University and his written works include *Jikan to Shuzoku no Shakaishi* (The Social History of Time and Customs) (Chikuma Gakugei Bunko), *Yoroppakindai no Shakaishi* (The Modern Social History of Europe) (Iwanami Shoten), and *Rekishigaku Nyumon* (Introduction to History) (Iwanami Textbook).

### HIDENOBU JINNAI

Born in 1947. He is a professor at Hosei University with a focus on architectural history and urban history. His written works include *Tokyo no Kukan Jinruigaku* (The Spatial Anthropology of Tokyo) (Chikuma Gakugei Bunko), *Buenetsia*, (Venice) and *Minami Itaria e!* (To Southern Italy!) (Kodansha Gendai Shinsho).

# The History of Japan

Edited By YOSHIHIKO AMINO, TORU OTSU, HIROSHI KITOU, EIJI SAKURAI, KOJI YAMAMOTO



Over 200,000 copies sold worldwide!



**YOSHIHIKO AMINO** (Historian)  
**TORU OTSU** (Professor at the University of Tokyo)  
**HIROSHI KITOU** (Professor at Sophia University)  
**EIJI SAKURAI** (Assistant professor at Hokkaido University)  
**KOJI YAMAMOTO** (Professor at Shizuoka University of Art and Culture)

## Recommendations

**Recommended by one of the most popular non-fiction writer in Japan, Kotaro Sawaki!**

"I feel that as I read the 26 volumes that comprise *The History of Japan* series, I'm trying to understand exactly where this country of mine, Japan, has come from and where it is headed."

**Recommended by professor emeritus of Ritsumeikan University, Shizuka Shirakawa!**

"*The History of Japan* series sheds light on the true historical trajectory of this country of ours."

## The ultimate comprehensive guide to Japanese history for the 21st century!

A new image of Japan that will subvert traditional understanding!

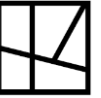
In recent years, research on Japanese history has undergone a resurgence and a new comprehensive guide has long been awaited. This new 26 volume series made for 21st century readers, *The History of Japan*, was created to meet those expectations.

## 26 volumes total

- 00: What is Japan?
- 01: Life in Jomon: From the Paleolithic Era to the Jomon Period
- 02: The Birth of Kings: From the Yayoi Period to the Kofun Period
- 03: From Kings to Emperors: From the Kofun Period to the Asuka Period
- 04: The Century of Heijo-kyo and Mokkan: The Nara Period
- 05: The Transition to the Ritsuryo System and Japan: The Late Nara Period to the Early Heian Period
- 06: Michinaga and Court Society: The Mid Heian Period
- 07: The Rise of Samurai and the Insei Government: The Late Heian Period
- 08: Considering the Ancient Imperial System: On the Topic of Ancient History
- 09: Yoritomo's Nation: The Early Kamakura Period
- 10: The Mongol Invasions of Japan and the Tokusei Edict: The Late Kamakura Period
- 11: The Age of the *Taiheiki*: The Nanboku-cho Period
- 12: The Spirit of the Muromachi People: The Muromachi Period
- 13: The Feudal Lords and the Uprising: The Late Muromachi Period to the Warring States Period
- 14: Medieval Japan as Seen from the Fringes: On the Topic of Medieval History
- 15: The Oda-Toyotomi Administration and the Edo Shogunate: The Early Edo Period
- 16: A World at Peace: The Edo Period (17th Century)
- 17: A Blossoming Edo: The Edo Period (18th Century)
- 18: The End of Japan's Isolation and the Bakumatsu Reforms: The Edo Period (19th Century)
- 19: The Edo System as a Civilization: On the Topic of Early Modern History
- 20: The Concept and Implementation of the Meiji Restoration: The Early Meiji Period
- 21: The Strength of the Meiji People: The Late Meiji Period
- 22: Party Politics and the Emperor: Taisho Period
- 23: Showa of the Empire: The Showa Period (Pre-war and Wartime)
- 24: Post-war and the End of the Japanese Miracle: The Showa and Heisei Periods (Post-war to Post-Bubble Burst)
- 25: Japan: Where to Go from Here?



# The Complete History of the Ottoman Empire: The Story of the Sublime State 1299~1922



By RYO MIYASHITA

Published March 2023

Pages: 528

ISBN:9784065391884



**The truth behind the vast empire that once shook Europe—the forgotten core of world history.**

How did the prosperity and eventual collapse of one of history's largest empires come about? A Turkish literary scholar demonstrates his talents as a storyteller through this ambitious epic spanning 600 years of the Ottoman Empire's history!

“Despite being in Western Eurasia—the birthplace of civilization where people and things from all around the globe came and went at dizzying rates—beginning its long history in between the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East where people of diverse religious backgrounds—Islamic, Orthodox, Jewish, and Catholic—coexisted, and establishing itself in a region that should have experienced unending strife, both internal and external, due to its prosperity, the world has yet to see the likeness of the Ottoman Empire in terms of longevity. This book, relying on the latest research findings, follows the history of how a seemingly ungovernable state was successfully governed by the Ottoman Empire.” (From the *Foreword*)

## RYO MIYASHITA

Born in 1981 in Tokyo. After graduating from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies he went on to complete the coursework without obtaining a degree at the University of Tokyo Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. He currently holds the position of associate professor at Osaka University Graduate School of Humanities and specializes in Turkish literature and literary history. His written works include *Monogatari Isutanburu no Rekishi: “Sekaiteito” no 1600nen* (The Tale of Istanbul's History: 1600 Years of the World Imperial Capital) (Choko Shinsho), *Mumeitei no Yoru* (The Nights of the Nameless Shop) (Kodansha), *Tagensei no Toshi Isutanburu: Kinseiosumanteito no Toshikukan to Shijin, Shomin, Ihoujin* (The Capital of Diversity, Istanbul: The Urban Spaces, Poets, Commoners, and Strangers of the Modern Ottoman Empire's Imperial City) (Osaka University Press), and has translated works such as Orhan Pamuk's *My Name Is Red*, *The Museum of Innocence*, and *Nights of Plague* and Latife Tekin's *Berci Kristin Çöp Masallari* (Berji Kristin, Tales from the Garbage Hills) among others.

## Table of Contents (excerpts)

Foreword: The Sublime State, or The World of the Ottomans  
Chapter 1: The Lord of the Outlands  
Chapter 2: The Dynasty that Spanned the Strait  
Chapter 3: The Age of the Conqueror: The Birth of a World Empire  
Chapter 4: The Empire of The Majestic King  
Chapter 5: The Flourishing Empire  
Chapter 6: The Age of Reformation  
Chapter 7: Despotism and Revolution  
Chapter 8: The Fall of the Empire  
Final Chapter: The World as Told Through Ottoman Turkish

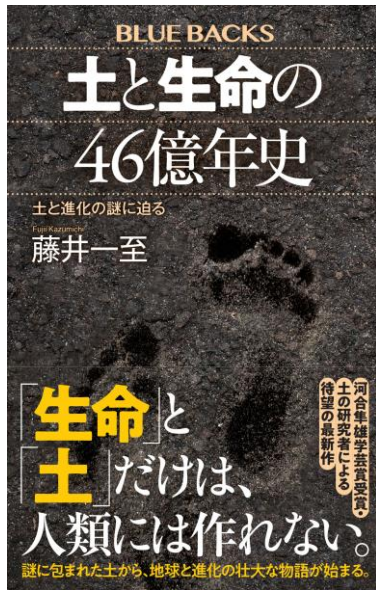




# The 4.6 Billion-Year History of Soil and Life: Uncovering the Mysteries of Soil and Evolution

By KAZUMICHI FUJII

A bestseller in Japan! Over 70,000 copies sold!



Published December 2024  
Pages: 272  
ISBN: 9784065378380

**Life and soil are the two things that cannot be created by humans.**

**The epic story of the Earth's evolution begins with the soil—an entity shrouded in mystery.**

Is it possible to prevent a catastrophic future for the global environment?

The answers become clear when you trace the history of the Earth by examining the origins of soil!

There are two things that cannot be created even with modern science and technology: life and soil. In fact, it is entirely possible that life as we know it might not have emerged without soil. Soil has played a crucial role in the evolution and extinction of plants and animals, the prosperity of humankind, and the rise and fall of civilizations. Yet we know almost nothing about soil. It is because of that ignorance that humanity is faced with both the prospect of prosperity and the risk of ruin.

What exactly is soil? How is soil created? Is a catastrophic future preventable?

The answers to these questions become clear when you trace the history of the Earth by examining the origins of soil!

## Table of Contents (excerpts)

- Chapter 1: It All Begins with Clay
- Chapter 2: The Birth of Life and Clay
- Chapter 3: The Evolution of Plants That Cultivated the Soil
- Chapter 4: The Evolution of Soil and the Emergence of Animals
- Chapter 5: Soil Shaped the Evolution of Humankind
- Chapter 6: Soil That Determines the Rise and Fall of Civilizations
- Chapter 7: Is It Possible to Create Soil?

### KAZUMICHI FUJII

A soil researcher. Unit Leader of the Soil Homeostasis Research Unit at Fukushima Institute for Research, Education and Innovation (F-REI). Born in Toyama Prefecture in 1981. Completed his studies at the Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University with a PhD in Agriculture. After serving as chief researcher at the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI), he took his current position in March 2025.

With a trowel in hand, he travels around the world, from the arctic permafrost of northern Canada to the tropical rainforests of Indonesia, as well as various places in Japan. Winner of the 7th Kawai Hayao Prize for social sciences and humanities for *Tuchi: Chikyusaigo no Nazo (Soil: The Last Mystery of Earth)* (Kobunsha Shinsho). In addition, he has received numerous awards including the 1st Young Scholar Award of the Ecological Society of Japan, the 33rd Japanese Society of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition Award, the 15th Japan Prize in Agricultural Sciences, Achievement Award for Young Scientist, the 39th Toyama Award, the 27th Miyadi Award of the Ecological Society of Japan, and the 9th World OMOSIROI Award. His other works include *Daichi no Gookunen (Five Hundred Million Years of the Earth)* (Yamakei Bunko). He has appeared in numerous TV shows, including *Ichikunin no Daisitsumon!?* *Warattekorae!* (*One Hundred Million People's Big Question!?* *No Laughing Allowed!*) (Nippon Television) and *Crazy Journey* (TBS).



# Makoto Aida's Scrapbook

By MAKOTO AIDA



Published June 2, 2025

Pages: 240

ISBN-10:4065396646

ISBN-13:978-4065396643

## MAKOTO AIDA

An artist. Born in Niigata Prefecture in 1965. Completed his studies at the Graduate School of Fine Arts, Tokyo University of the Arts (Oil Painting Technique and Material Studio) in 1991. He made his debut at Röntgen Kunstinstitut's exhibition "Fortunes" in 1993. As one of Japan's leading contemporary artists, his paintings, photographs, videos, sculptures, performances, installation artworks, novels, and manga have caused a sensation both at home and abroad for his genre-defying artistic expression.

With his sharp, critical mind toward social issues, Aida tackles various subjects, from beautiful young girls to war paintings, office workers, and city planning.

His recent overseas solo exhibitions include "The Non-Thinker" (Château des ducs de Bretagne, Nantes, France, 2014).

**The maverick genius, Makoto Aida! He is truly a reflection of 21st century Japan!**

**This book includes 750 illustrations, 65,000 Japanese characters worth of original commentary, and 880 tweets.**

**Edited by one of Japan's leading contemporary artists himself, this is the definitive edition of his scrapbook.**

Makoto Aida, a "full-body artist" who has grappled with a variety of social issues in modern society, causing quite a stir across various fields.

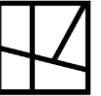
This book is the most comprehensive edition of his scrapbook, in which the artist explains in his own words and from his own perspective his diverse works, including paintings, sculptures, photographs, videos, installation artworks, and city planning proposals, all of which were created after 2000.

In addition to 750 incredible illustrations and 65,000 characters of commentary by the artist himself, the book also includes 880 carefully selected tweets posted in the past on Twitter (now X) that could be described as a "collection of Aida quotes" in the era of social media.

In this definitive collection of his works, Aida narrates his own journey of confronting modern society head-on using humor in art as a weapon, along with the behind-the-scenes stories.

## Selling points

- 750 illustrations! A visual record of his major works since 2000.
- 65,000 characters of commentary by the artist himself, providing deep insights into the background and intentions behind each work.
- 880 tweets specially included as a reflective journal in the era of social media.
- From beautiful young girls to war paintings, office workers, and city planning, the artist carefully explains in his own words his scathing criticism of society.
- A scrapbook to look at, read, and feel.









# Ukiyo-e BOX: Understanding Ukiyo-e Through a Collection of Representative Artworks



By Ota Memorial Museum of Art



Release Date: November 20, 2024

Pages: 192

ISBN-10:4065374081

ISBN-13:978-4065374085

## Ota Memorial Museum of Art

A museum specializing in ukiyo-e that opened in Harajuku in 1980.

Established based on the ukiyo-e collection of about 12,000 pieces by Seizo Ota V (1893-1977), who was serving as the president of Toho Mutual Life Insurance Company. The museum holds the comprehensive collection and exhibits it to the public, showcasing the history of ukiyo-e from the Edo period to the Meiji and Taisho periods.

Known as a popular spot for ukiyo-e fans from both Japan and abroad, it continues to spread the charms of ukiyo-e through permanent and special exhibitions.

**This comprehensive book features 55 ukiyo-e artists who have left their marks on Japanese history, along with 115 of their major works. From Hokusai, Utamaro, Sharaku to Hasui, this book serves as an easy-to-understand encyclopedia of ukiyo-e, which has transcended time and been beloved across generations.**

Ukiyo-e is a traditional Japanese art form that emerged during the Edo period (1603 to 1868) and is still beloved across the globe to this day. This book carefully examines its multifaceted appeal through its masterpieces.

The book includes 115 representative works by 55 renowned ukiyo-e artists, from *bijin-ga* (portraits of beautiful women) by Harunobu and Utamaro, *yakusha-e* (actor prints) by Sharaku, landscape paintings by Hokusai and Hiroshige, *giga* (satirical prints) by Kuniyoshi, to *shin hanga* (new prints) by Hasui.

Each work is accompanied by a detailed explanation of the historical background, techniques, and the meaning behind its motif.

The book is structured in a way that readers will naturally learn about the personalities of the artists and the history of ukiyo-e through their masterpieces, making it perfect both as an introductory guide to art appreciation and as an informational nonfiction book.

Whether using it as an illustrated book to read or an encyclopedia to look over, this definitive edition of introduction to the world of ukiyo-e is recommended for both beginners and enthusiasts.

## Table of Contents (excerpts)

- Representative works of the artists featured in the book
- Hishikawa Moronobu: *Beauty Looking Back*
- Hishikawa Moronobu: *Behind the Standing Screen*
- Okumura Masanobu: *Tabi Strings*
- Suzuki Harunobu: *Plum Blossoms at Night*
- Kitagawa Utamaro: *Wistful Love, from the Anthology of Poems: The Love Section*
- Katsushika Hokusai: *The Great Wave off Kanagawa, from the series Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*
- Utawaga Hiroshige: *Plum Garden at Kameido, from the series One Hundred Famous Views of Edo*
- Utawaga Kuniyoshi: *Girl playing with a Cat: Fan Print Nishiki-e*
- Tsukioka Yoshitoshi: *Emperor Jimmu from the series Mirror of Famous Generals*
- Kawase Hasui: *By the Sumida River, Komagata, from the series Twelve Scenes of Tokyo*

## Selling points

### ●Compiling 115 representative works from 55 famous ukiyo-e artists into one book.

Comprehensive in both the number of works and artists, allowing readers to grasp the overall picture of ukiyo-e.

### ●Focus on visuals + Easy-to-understand explanations, making it ideal for beginners.

It can serve both as a guide to art appreciation and an introductory book.

### ●Covering most famous artists like Hokusai, Sharaku, and Utamaro, as well as *shin hanga* (new prints) artists like Hasui.

It also covers a variety of genres, including *bijin-ga* (portraits of beautiful women), *yakusha-e* (actor prints), landscape paintings, and *giga* (satirical prints).

# Ukiyo-e BOX: Understanding Ukiyo-e Through a Collection of Representative Artworks



By Ota Memorial Museum of Art

The shock of *yakusha okubi-e* (large-headed portraits of actors) with black mica backgrounds, arranged by Tsutaya

**Toshusai Sharaku**

Date of birth and death unknown

Between May of 1794 and the New Year of the following year, ukiyo-e artist Sharaku left more than 140 artworks through the publisher Tsutaya Juzaburo. His works can be divided into four periods, and particularly in the first period, all prints were in large format with black mica printing for the backgrounds—28 *yakusha okubi-e* (large-headed portraits of actors) in total—published all at once. It was an unprecedented innovative project by Tsutaya. The second period was made up of only full-body portraits, while from the third period onward, most of the prints were small-format *yakusha-e* (actor prints), marking a significant change in publishing format and style. While his artistic style was based on the traditional *yakusha-e* painting techniques of the Katsukawa school, he had his own painting style. It is believed that his portrayal of faces was influenced by Kamigata artist Ryukosai Jokei and his portrayal of bodies by Torii Kiyonaga. There are many theories surrounding Sharaku's true identity, but in recent years, the theory that he was actually Saito Jurobei, a Noh actor from Awa Province, has gained traction.

Sharaku's unforgettable masterpiece

Against the dark background of black mica, the characteristic facial features of Ichikawa Ebizo I stand out. Together with his easygoing expression, the painting leaves a strong impression. It took inspiration from the materials gathered in May of 1794 from the play *Koi Nyobo Somewake Tazuna* performed at the Kowarazaki theater. The former name of Ichikawa Ebizo I was Ichikawa Danjuro V. Since taking on the name Danjuro in November of 1770, he led the Kabuki scene in Edo and was depicted in numerous *yakusha-e* as one of the most prominent actors of the day. He played the role of Takemura Sadanoshin, a Noh actor working for the Yurugi family



寫眞が手掛けた、黒雲母摺役者大首絵の衝撃

東洲斎写楽

とうしゅうさい・しゃらく

生没年未詳

寛政6年(1794)5月から翌年の正月にかけて版元蔭屋重三郎から140点以上の作品を残した浮世絵師。作画期は4期に分けられ、特に第1期にはすべて大判、背景が黒雲母摺という28枚もの役者大首絵が一挙に出版されており、寫眞が仕掛けた従来になかった斬新な企画であった。第2期はすべてが全身像、第3期以降は細判の役者絵が大部分を占めるなど、その出版形態や様式は大きく変化していく。作風は従来の勝川派の役者絵の伝統を踏まえつつも、独自の個性を持つもので、相貌には上方の流気(りゅうき)な、身体描写には島居清長の影響も指摘されている。その正体については諸説あるが、近年では阿波侯の側役者、斎藤十郎兵衛説が有力。

幸四郎の特な芸風を描き出す

四代目松本幸四郎は人品と男ぶり、口跡がよい立役だったという。本図のように袂にあらふれた男伊達(おだて)の得意とする配役で、写楽は手ぬぐいを巻き、煙管を手にした役者の特な雰囲気(きふき)をうまくとらえている。寛政6年5月綱座「蔵計兼合帳」に取材した一図で、父の蔵計(くらづか)を望む宮城野(みやぎの)しのぶ姉妹に、遊興(うきぐさ)している敵の志賀大七(しげだいしち)の存在を伝える。

**35 Matsumoto Koshiro IV as the Fish Peddler Gorobei**

Large-format Nishiki-e, May 1794, Tokyo National Museum

**Portraying the stylish performance of Koshiro**

Matsumoto Koshiro IV is said to have been a handsome actor with good character and eloquence. Manly characters, such as the one depicted in this illustration, are roles that Koshiro excelled at. Sharaku masterfully captures the stylish aura of the actor, who is holding a pipe with a handkerchief wrapped around his head. This illustration was based on the materials Sharaku gathered in May of 1794 from the play *Katakiuchi noriyaibanashi* performed at the Kiriza theater. Koshiro's character informs the sisters Miyagino and Shinobu, who wish to avenge their father, about the existence of their enemy, Shiga Daishichi, who is engaged in merrymaking.

**36 Ichikawa Ebizo as Takemura Sadanoshin**

Large-format Nishiki-e, May of 1794, Tokyo National Museum

Toshusai Sharaku, Date of birth and death unknown



# Ukiyo-e BOX: Understanding Ukiyo-e Through a Collection of Representative Artworks



By Ota Memorial Museum of Art

## Waves and Mt. Fuji

### The Contrast Between Movement and Stillness

Among the 46 prints of the series Thirty-Six Views of Mount Fuji, which depicts Mount Fuji from various locations throughout Japan, this is the most recognized one in the world. It perfectly captures the moment a giant, towering wave is about to come crashing down. There is nothing those on board the ferry can do, except cling desperately to the vessel and surrender themselves to the ruthlessness of nature. Beyond the great wave stands snow-capped Mount Fuji in the distance. The stark contrast between the raging wave and the calming presence of Mount Fuji is the highlight of this masterpiece by Hokusai.

波と富士山  
動と静の対比

日本各地から富士山を眺めた「富嶽三十六景」全46点の中でも、世界的に最も知られる一枚。高くせり上がった巨大な波が今まさに崩れ落ちようとする一歩手前の瞬間。押送船に乗る者たちに為す術はなく、ただ必死に船にしがみついて大自然の凶暴さに身をまかせただけである。波の向こうに見えるのは雪をかぶった富士山。荒れ狂う波と鎮座する富士という、北斎が仕掛けた動と静のダイナミックな対比が、この作品の見どころである。



53 富嶽三十六景 神奈川沖浪裏 大判錦絵 文政13～天保2年(1830～31) メトロポリタン美術館

94

Katsushika Hokusai,  
1760-1849

## Scared of crossing it?! A suspension bridge in the midst of a stunning view.

Part of a collection comprised of 11 prints depicting unique bridges from all over Japan. Hietsu refers to the border between Hida (northern Gifu Prefecture) and Etchu (Toyama Prefecture). In the picture, a woodcutter couple can be seen crossing the suspension bridge without handrails, as if tightrope walking in a circus. Despite the bridge sinking under their weight, they seem quite accustomed to it. There is no sign of anxiety for their precarious footing as they walk calmly. In the distance, clouds are gathering against the backdrop of navy blue mountaintops soaring above, creating an otherworldly, stunning vista. Given the mystical nature of the scenery, it must have been inspired by Hokusai's own imagination to a degree.

渡るのが怖い？  
絶景の中の橋

日本全国の珍しい橋を集めた全11点からなる贈物。飛越とは飛騨（岐阜県北部）と越中（富山県）との国境のこと。樫の夫婦がまるでサーカスの綱渡りのように手すりのない吊り橋を渡っている。二人の体重で橋は沈み込んでいるが、すっかり慣れているのだろう。足元の不安は感じられず、淡々と歩いている。遠くには雲が薄き立ち、濃緑の峰がそびえるという幻想的な絶景となっているが、北斎の空想も少なからず盛り込まれているのだろう。



54 諸国名橋奇覧 飛越の堺つりはし 大判錦絵 天保4～5年(1833～34) 太田記念美術館

95

Katsushika Hokusai,  
1760-1849

## 53 Thirty-Six Views of Mount Fuji: The Great Wave off Kanagawa

Large-format Nishiki-e, 1830-1831, The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
Large-format Nishiki-e, May 1794, Tokyo National Museum

## 54 The Suspension Bridge on the Border of Hietsu (Hida and Etchu Provinces), from the series Remarkable Views of Bridges in Various Provinces

Large-format Nishiki-e 1833-1834, Ota Memorial Museum of Art



# Lifeless Lovers

By CHIHIRO HAMANO



Expected to be  
published in October  
2025  
Pages: 248  
ISBN:978-4-06-  
521945-4



## CHIHIRO HAMANO

A non-fiction author born in Hiroshima prefecture in 1977. After graduating from Waseda University School of Humanities and Social Sciences in 2000, she went on to become a freelance writer. Her book, *Saint Zoo*, won the Kaiko Takeshi Non-Fiction Award in 2019. In 2024, she left Kyoto University Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies without a degree after completing the required course work.

**Following her shocking debut with *Saint Zoo*, a book about intimate relationships with animals, the author's anticipated next book (coming this fall) delves into relationships with inanimate objects. What does it mean to be in love with something that isn't human?**

Is it possible for humans to love robots, dolls, and virtual beings? Artificial intelligence, life-sized sex dolls, sex robots, virtual idols... What do the partners of these inanimate objects think and how do they live?

After tackling one taboo with her book *Saint Zoo*, the author once again embarks on her quest to decode the boundaries of love. Her journey sent her to America, China, and Japan, starting in Detroit, Michigan, leading on to San Francisco, West Virginia, Georgia, Guangzhou, and finally Tokyo. She visited people who live with life-sized dolls, people who live alongside Hatsune Miku, and people who see AI relationships as the future. Keeping her ears open to their stories, she silently documented their lives.

Is this the harbinger of life in a not-so-distant future or the form that the loneliness of modern people has taken? This original work of non-fiction asked the question: What are the possibilities of human love?

## Selling points

- The author of *Saint Zoo* returns with the second installment in her series about the boundaries of love! AI robots, sex dolls, and virtual idols... A cutting-edge reportage which asks the question: **Is it really possible for humans to be in love with inanimate objects?**
- Detroit, San Francisco, Georgia, Tokyo, Guangzhou... A completely original work documenting the meetings, conversations, and lives of those with lifeless lovers across America, China, and Japan.
- Intimate love, loneliness, family, and technology... At the forefront of contemporary non-fiction, this work quietly but unmistakably shakes the foundation of what a "human" is.
- A genuine query into love with inanimate objects that is a must-read in this age of struggling human connection.



# The Work of a Toyota Chief Engineer



By NAOTO KITAGAWA



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ISBN-10:4065204151  
ISBN-13:978-4065204153

## Table of Contents (excerpts)

Chapter 1: Market to Younger Generations—The Development of the bB  
Chapter 2: The Flow of New Car Development and the Organization Structure of Development (Broad Meaning) at Toyota  
Chapter 3: The Nature of a CE  
Chapter 4: The Mechanisms of Toyota That Support the CE System  
Chapter 5: The Bookshelf of a CE

**The secrets behind the product development role that Big Tech companies used as a model for product managers! The brain behind 30 trillion-yen company Toyota's operation of "making products that sell" reveals his thought process and organizational management theory.**

Currently, the position of product manager (PM) has been gathering interest in the tech world, especially from the tech giants. This role was actually modeled after the position of chief engineer at Toyota.

This book is the amalgamation of the ideas and experiences of a veteran chief engineer for Toyota who has been involved in producing hit car after hit car and revolutionizing the development process. Toyota's FunCargo, bB, Camry, Probox, Succeed, and pod are just a few of the models he's successfully developed. With this experience as a base, he unveils the true nature of Toyota's original product development methods such as "user interactive development," "prototype-less development," and "open office development."

This position of chief engineer, which is said to have given inspiration to Big Tech companies, offers deep insights that are not limited to the automotive industry's work, disposition, or organization structure, but can give important hints to anyone involved in product development or business development. A must-read for professionals to learn the true nature of development.

## Selling points

- Explains the archetype of the product development role which originated from Toyota and is now being used by Big Tech companies.
- The man behind hits such as FunCargo, bB, Camry, and Probox takes the reader behind the scenes.
- Everything about "how to make products that sell" from drafting blueprints to structuring organization development.
- First ever release of Toyota's original methods such as "user interactive development," "prototype-less development," and "open office development."

## Also Recommended

*Nissan and I: The Light and Shadows of the Giant Automotive Industry* by Hiroto Saikawa

Former CEO of Nissan, one of Japan's most notable automobile makers, reveals the truth of the Ghosn incident! This book covers everything from the rapid economic growth, management crisis, V-shaped economic recovery, to Ghosn's arrest. What was the man at the helm of Nissan, working under Chairman Ghosn, thinking when the incident happened? This memoir holds nothing back as it delves into the truth of the matter. A must-read for any businessperson working in an ever-globalizing world.



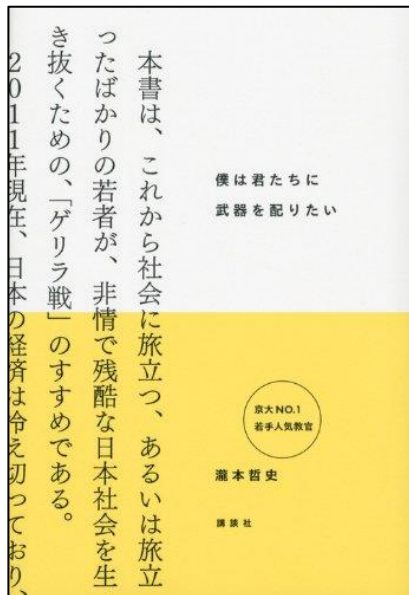
## NAOTO KITAGAWA

Born in Aichi prefecture in 1953. After graduating from Nagoya University School of Engineering's Department of Applied Physics, he joined Toyota Motor Corporation in 1976. He became chief engineer in 2000 after working in the engineering planning department and the technical management department and went on to be involved in the development of many hit models such as FunCargo, bB, Camry, Probox, Succeed, and pod. He moved on to roles such as Lexus development department manager and executive directing officer of Daihatsu Motor Co. After retiring in 2015, he currently works as a consultant for product development and development management.

# I Want to Arm You



By TESTUFUMI TAKIMOTO



Published September 22, 2011

Pages: 296

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ISBN-13:978-4062170666

## TESTUFUMI TAKIMOTO

He was a visiting associate professor at Kyoto University Office of Society Academia Collaboration for Innovation's Research Department of Innovation Management Sciences and an angel investor. After graduating from the University of Tokyo Faculty of Law and working as an assistant at the graduate school there, he went on to join McKinsey & Company. With a focus on the electronics industry, he worked on launching new businesses and investment strategies. After he started out on his own, he worked in corporate revitalization and venture investment while teaching, researching, and offering policy proposals at Kyoto University. He was very vocal about communicating to the youth until his death in 2019. He was 47 at the time of his passing.

**It is no longer about education or skills. The trick to surviving in this capitalistic society is to see through the system and make the first move. This book illuminates the true weapon needed to survive this guerrilla warfare called capitalism.**

The idea that getting into a good college and landing a job at a big company is enough to be safe doesn't apply anymore. To survive this battlefield known as capitalism, having a good education and skills doesn't cut it. What you need is the ability to see through the system and the power to take the first step.

This book is the legacy of Tetsufumi Takimoto, University of Tokyo graduate, former McKinsey consultant, educator at Kyoto University, and successful investor. Through this book, he passes on the weapon needed for the next generation to live through the coming future. In it he lists the four types of people that will succeed, the two types that will disappear, the true nature of capitalism, how to think like a marketer or investor, and guerrilla warfare-type career strategy.

Don't you want something more than keeping to the path that was set for you? This book will arm you with the weapon needed to think and act tactically in order to be a top player in this society.

## Table of Contents (excerpts)

Forward  
Chapter 1: Being Good at Studying is a Commodity  
Chapter 2: True Capitalism Has Come to Japan  
Chapter 3: The Reality of Capitalism They Won't Teach You at School  
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Chapter 7: The Leaders: They're All Crazy  
Chapter 8: The True Meaning of Living as an Investor  
Chapter 9: The Start of Guerrilla Warfare  
The Weapon You've Been Armed With

## Selling points

### ●From a life chosen for you to a life you choose.

Arm yourself with the weapon you need to survive our ever-changing world with strength and grace.

### ● What is needed in an age where education and stability can't be relied upon is the power to think and the courage to take the first step.

This book will help you become a version of yourself that can fight.

### ● For anyone who is uncertain about their career and is scared to move forward.

This is a life strategy textbook that will teach you how to work on this battlefield we call capitalism.

### ● Gain the perspective of someone who was not only a corporate elite but also worked on the ground.

To give the youth a way of thinking to take initiative rather than conform.

### ● This book is not only for the Japanese youth.

For any young person worried about the future, your Weapon Presentation Ceremony awaits.