This Companion provides a comprehensive overview of the influences that have shaped modern-day Japan. Covering topics such as technology, food, nationalism and the rise of anime and manga in the visual arts, this book traces the cultural transformation that took place over the course of the 20th century, and paints a picture of a nation rich in cultural diversity. With contributions from some of the most prominent scholars in the field, *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Japanese Culture* is an authoritative introduction to this subject.

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Acknowledgements

I would like to express my gratitude to all the contributors for their cooperation throughout the project in response to my persistent suggestions and queries. My foremost thanks are due to Helena Bond and Miriam Riley who assisted me at different stages in editing the volume – a multicultural work that involved eighteen authors from five countries with different language backgrounds. Without their thorough, intelligent and perceptive work in text editing, we would not have been able to bring the book to the present level.

Yoshio Sugimoto

October 2008
Chronology

1868 Meiji Restoration, the collapse of the feudal system and the establishment of the imperial system.
1870 The government allows commoners to assume surnames.
1871 The Ministry of Education is established.
1872 The Solar calendar system is adopted.
1874–90 Movements for civil rights and freedom gather strength in opposition to the Meiji regime.
1877 Tokyo Imperial University is established.
1879 The Asahi Shimbun starts publication in Osaka.
1879 The Okinawa Kingdom is incorporated as Japan’s Okinawa prefecture.
1889 The Imperial Constitution is promulgated.
1895 Colonisation of Taiwan. The Government-General of Taiwan is established.
1899 The Law to Protect the Former Savage in Hokkaidō is promulgated to deal with the Ainu.
1902 The Anglo-Japanese Alliance Agreement is concluded.
1903 The system of government-approved school textbooks begins.
1904–05 The Russo-Japanese War.
1910–45 Annexation of Korea.
1915 The first national middle-school baseball championship is held.
1918 Rice riots spread throughout the nation.
1925 Public radio broadcasting commences in Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>The Mukden incident marks the beginning of Japan’s invasion of Manchuria and the start of the Fifteen Year War, which ends in 1945.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>The state of Manchukuo is established in Manchuria under Japan’s puppet government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>The Japan Professional Baseball League is established.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>The Japanese military occupies the Chinese city of Nanking and carries out the Nanking massacre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>The Imperial Rule Association is established to organise the entire nation to support the government’s war policies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>Japan attacks Pearl Harbor. The Pacific War begins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>The Occupation by the Allied Forces. Labour, land and educational reforms are implemented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>The first national elections held with universal suffrage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946–48</td>
<td>The Tokyo War Tribunal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>Japan’s new Constitution is promulgated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>The new compulsory education system is introduced, with six years at primary school and three at middle school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Professor Hideki Yukawa of Kyoto University is awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics and becomes Japan’s first Nobel Laureate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Commercial radio stations start broadcasting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>The Peace Treaty comes into effect. Japan regains independence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952–68</td>
<td>Osamu Tezuka’s <em>Tetsuwan Atomu</em> (Astro Boy) is published as a serial in the magazine <em>Shônen</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Public and commercial TV networks commence transmission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>Social movements against the ratification of the US-Japan Security Treaty sweep the nation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>The Mitsui Coal miners’ strike in Kyushu, the largest industrial action in postwar Japan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>The Tokyo Olympics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>The Shinkansen Bullet Train system starts operation between Tokyo and Osaka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Ratification of the Basic Treaty between Japan and South Korea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968–70</td>
<td>New Left student movements spread on university campuses.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1970s The heyday of *Nihonjinron* (theories on the Japanese) and the rise of cultural nationalism.
1972 The US returns Okinawa to Japan, which becomes the nation’s 47th prefecture.
1978 Narita International Airport opens.
1980s The decade of the so-called ‘bubble economy’. The peak of the postwar economic boom.
1985 The Equal Opportunity Law comes into effect.
1990s The so-called ‘lost decade’. The Japanese economy enters into stagnation and recession.
1991 *Zainichi* Korean residents given special permanent residency status.
1993 The Liberal Democratic Party loses government after four decades of uninterrupted reign. The coalition government of opposition parties gains power.
1994 The first Ainu parliamentarian attends the House of Councillors.
1996 The Liberal Democratic Party regains power.
2000s The intensification of the campaign to establish Japan as a ‘soft power’ nation based on the export of manga and animation.
2001 Prime Minister Junichirō Koizumi commences large-scale deregulation and privatisation programs.
2002 Hayao Miyazaki’s animation *Spirited Away* wins the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature.