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THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF JAPAN

General editors

JOHN W. HALL, MARIUS B. JANSEN, MADOKA KANAI,
AND DENIS TWITCHETT

Volume 3
Medieval Japan

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GENERAL EDITORS' PREFACE

Since the beginning of this century the Cambridge histories have set a pattern in the English-reading world for multivolume series containing chapters written by specialists under the guidance of volume editors. Plans for a Cambridge history of Japan were begun in the 1970s and completed in 1978. The task was not to be easy. The details of Japanese history are not matters of common knowledge among Western historians. The cultural mode of Japan differs greatly from that of the West, and above all there are the daunting problems of terminology and language. In compensation, however, foreign scholars have been assisted by the remarkable achievements of the Japanese scholars during the last century in recasting their history in modern conceptual and methodological terms.

History has played a major role in Japanese culture and thought, and the Japanese record is long and full. Japan's rulers from ancient times have found legitimacy in tradition, both mythic and historic, and Japan's thinkers have probed for a national morality and system of values in their country's past. The importance of history was also emphasized in the continental cultural influences that entered Japan from early times. Its expression changed as the Japanese consciousness turned to questions of dynastic origin, as it came to reflect Buddhist views of time and reality, and as it sought justification for rule by the samurai estate. By the eighteenth century the successive need to explain the divinity of government, justify the ruler's place through his virtue and compassion, and interpret the flux of political change had resulted in the fashioning of a highly subjective fusion of Shinto, Buddhist, and Confucian norms.

In the nineteenth century the Japanese became familiar with Western forms of historical expression and felt the need to fit their national history into patterns of a larger world history. As the modern Japanese state took its place among other nations, Japanese history faced the task of reconciling a parochial past with a more catholic present. Historians familiarized themselves with European accounts of the course of

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civilization and described Japan's nineteenth-century turn from military to civilian bureaucratic rule under monarchical guidance as part of a larger, worldwide pattern. Buckle, Guizot, Spencer, and then Marx successively provided interpretative schema.

The twentieth-century ideology of the imperial nation state, however, operated to inhibit full play of universalism in historical interpretation. The growth and ideology of the imperial realm required caution on the part of historians, particularly with reference to Japanese origins.

Japan's defeat in World War II brought release from these inhibitions and for a time replaced them with compulsive denunciation of the pretensions of the imperial state. Soon the expansion of higher education brought changes in the size and variety of the Japanese scholarly world. Historical inquiry was now free to range widely. A new opening to the West brought lively interest in historical expressions in the West, and a historical profession that had become cautiously and expertly positivist began to rethink its material in terms of larger patterns.

At just this juncture the serious study of Japanese history began in the West. Before World War II the only distinguished general survey of Japanese history in English was G. B. Sansom's *Japan: A Short Cultural History*, first published in 1931 and still in print. English and American students of Japan, many trained in wartime language programs, were soon able to travel to Japan for study and participation with Japanese scholars in cooperative projects. International conferences and symposia produced volumes of essays that served as benchmarks of intellectual focus and technical advance. Within Japan itself an outpouring of historical scholarship, popular publishing, and historical romance heightened the historical consciousness of a nation aware of the dramatic changes to which it was witness.

In 1978 plans were adopted to produce this series on Japanese history as a way of taking stock of what has been learned. The present generation of Western historians can draw upon the solid foundations of the modern Japanese historical profession. The decision to limit the enterprise to six volumes meant that topics such as the history of art and literature, aspects of economics and technology and science, and the riches of local history would have to be left out. They too have been the beneficiaries of vigorous study and publication in Japan and in the Western world.

Multivolume series have appeared many times in Japanese since the beginning of the century, but until the 1960s the number of profession-

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ally trained historians of Japan in the Western world was too small to sustain such an enterprise. Although that number has grown, the general editors have thought it best to draw on Japanese specialists for contributions in areas where they retain a clear authority. In such cases the act of translation itself involves a form of editorial cooperation that requires the skills of a trained historian whose name deserves acknowledgment.

The primary objective of the present series is to put before the English-reading audience as complete a record of Japanese history as possible. But the Japanese case attracts our attention for other reasons as well. To some it has seemed that the more we have come to know about Japan the more we are drawn to the apparent similarities with Western history. The long continuous course of Japan's historical record has tempted historians to look for resemblances between its patterns of political and social organization and those of the West. The rapid emergence of Japan's modern nation state has occupied the attention of comparative historians, both Japanese and Western. On the other hand, specialists are inclined to point out the dangers of being misled by seeming parallels.

The striking advances in our knowledge of Japan's past will continue and accelerate. Western historians of this great and complex subject will continue to grapple with it, and they must as Japan's world role becomes more prominent. The need for greater and deeper understanding of Japan will continue to be evident. Japanese history belongs to the world, not only as a right and necessity but also as a subject of compelling interest.

JOHN W. HALL
MARIUS B. JANSEN
MADOKA KANAI
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PREFACE TO VOLUME 3

Nearly eight years elapsed between the initial selection of authors and the submission of the edited manuscript to Cambridge University Press. During those eight rewarding and taxing years I learned a great deal more about the medieval history of Japan and wrote over four hundred letters. As in making good wine, the process of writing, translating, and editing can proceed only slowly. And because of the period covered, coordinating the use and translation of Japanese terms and concepts further lengthened the process.

I feel confident that the volume that emerged is worthy of the years of aging. I believe that the principal goal of producing a volume useful to a wide readership has been attained and that all the chapters in this volume can benefit both beginning and advanced students wishing to deepen and broaden their knowledge of Japan's medieval period. Above all, I believe that these chapters collectively bring Japan's medieval age as a whole into sharper focus.

Conventional romanization is used throughout this volume for Japanese and Korean terms, and the Wade–Giles system is followed for Chinese terms. Japanese and Chinese personal names follow their native form, with surname preceding given name, except in citations of Japanese authors writing English.

I express my sincere gratitude to all who played a vital part in making this volume possible. First to be thanked are the authors who patiently responded to my queries and suggestions and the translators who struggled with many thorny problems. I especially owe a great deal to two of the authors, Jeffrey Mass and Keiji Nagahara, who provided me with valuable advice on many substantive and editorial matters. My deep appreciation is due also to the General Editors, who guided me generously in every step of the long process, and to two of my graduate students, Martha Lane and Karla Pearson, who assisted me tirelessly and ably in all that had to be done to convert fourteen essays written on both sides of the Pacific

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into a volume that meets the rigorous standards of the General Editors and Cambridge University Press. Finally, I wish to thank the Japan Foundation for grants that covered manuscript fees, costs of translating chapters by Japanese contributors, and editorial expenses and meetings.

The only reward that the authors and editors of this volume seek is that its readers will find studying Japan's medieval period interesting and rewarding, as well as essential to understanding the history of Japan.

KOZO YAMAMURA

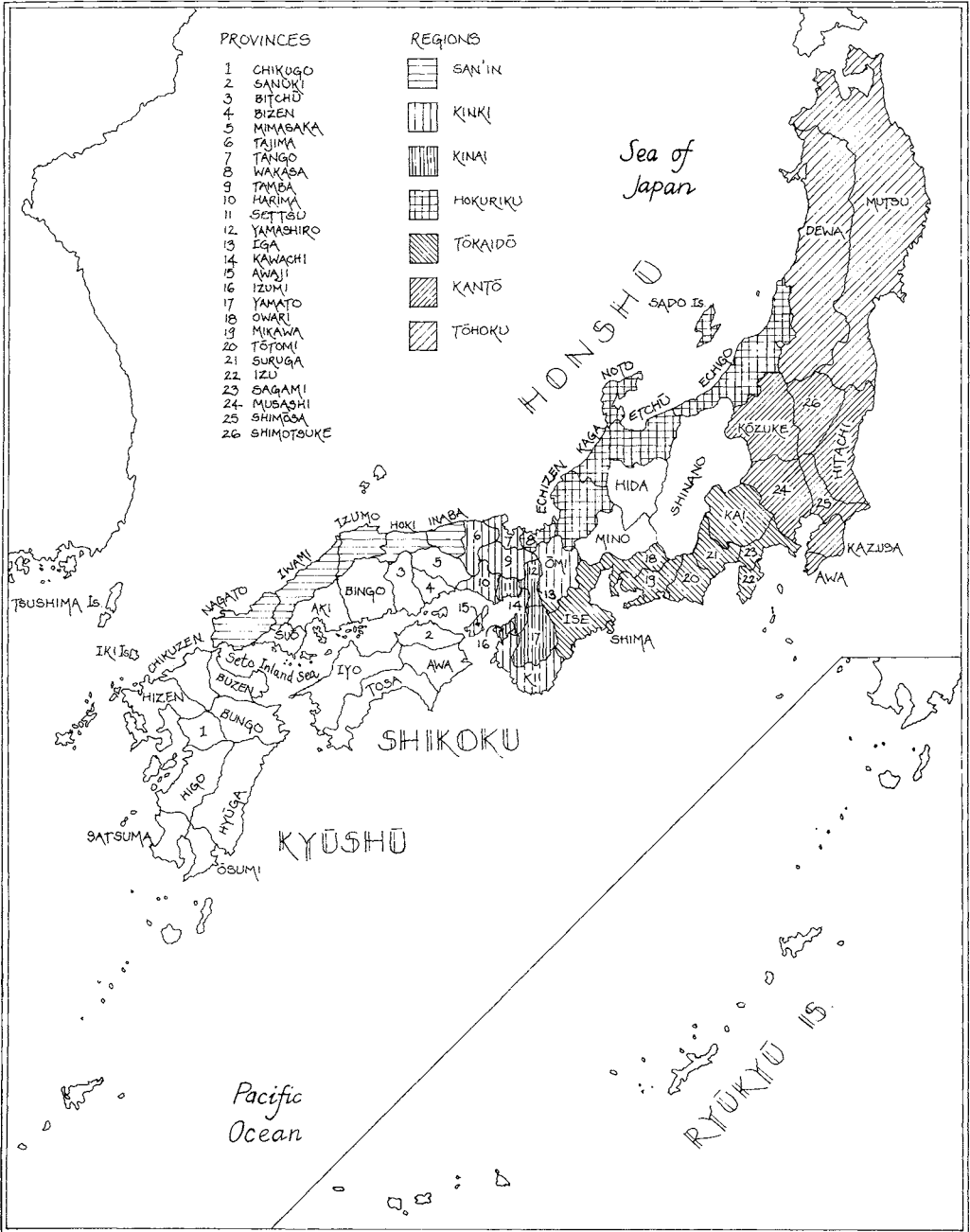
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Medieval Japan: regions and provinces. (For clarity, numbers are used to indicate names of some provinces.)



Medieval Japan: major towns, trading centers, and routes

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