Over the past two centuries, Japan has undergone Westernization not only in the external realm of material culture and sociopolitical organization, but also in the inner realm of thought and morals. *Modern Japanese Thought* brings together four chapters from Volumes 5 and 6 of the *Cambridge History of Japan*, plus a new Introduction and a chapter on postwar intellectual history. This comprehensive intellectual history describes the forces that made Japanese thinkers both receptive of and hostile to Western ideas and values from the 1770s to the 1990s. The important themes reflected throughout the book are: the potential of Western knowledge to discredit as well as bolster the existing order; and the perennial tension between indigenous and alien, traditional and modern, and rulers and ruled in Tokugawa, imperial and postwar Japan. More specific topics include: Japan’s turn to the West from the medium of books in late Tokugawa to that of direct contact in Meiji; the Meiji Enlightenment and enthusiasm for Westernization; the mid-Meiji conservative reaction; socialism and nationalism in the prewar years; the shock of defeat and the growth of democracy since 1945.
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