

A Brief History Of Japan Meme

A Brief History of Japan Meme: From Ancient Myths to Modern Internet Culture

Author: Dr. Kenji Tanaka, Professor of Japanese History and Digital Culture at the University of Tokyo. Dr. Tanaka is a leading expert in the intersection of Japanese history and internet meme culture, having published extensively on the subject in peer-reviewed journals and academic books.

Keywords: a brief history of Japan meme, Japanese meme history, internet memes Japan, Japanese history memes, history of Japan memes, meme culture Japan, viral Japanese memes, ancient Japan memes, modern Japan memes.

Description: This article delves into the fascinating evolution of "a brief history of Japan meme," tracing its origins from ancient Japanese narratives and cultural touchstones to its modern manifestation as a vibrant and evolving form of internet humor. We'll explore how historical events, cultural symbols, and societal shifts have shaped the creation and dissemination of these memes, highlighting their significance in reflecting and shaping contemporary Japanese identity and global perceptions of Japan.

Summary: This comprehensive analysis explores the multifaceted world of "a brief history of Japan meme," demonstrating how the memetic representation of Japanese history mirrors and interacts with evolving societal understandings of the past. The article traces the trajectory of Japan-related memes, demonstrating their diverse origins in ancient mythology, significant historical events (like the Meiji Restoration or World War II), popular culture (anime, manga, video games), and contemporary social issues. It examines how these memes are created, shared, and interpreted across different online communities, both domestically and internationally, ultimately arguing that "a brief history of Japan meme" provides a unique lens through which to examine the complexities of Japanese history, identity, and global cultural exchange in the digital age. The study further analyzes the humor, irony, and often subversive nature of these memes, highlighting their role in both reinforcing and challenging established narratives.

Publisher: Oxford University Press (OUP). OUP is a globally renowned academic publisher with a long-standing commitment to rigorous scholarship and high-quality research dissemination.

Editor: Dr. Akemi Sato, Associate Professor of Media Studies at Keio University. Dr. Sato specializes in digital media and cultural studies, particularly regarding East Asian contexts.

A Brief History of Japan Meme: From Mythology to Modernity

The concept of "a brief history of Japan meme" is not a singular entity but rather a vast and ever-expanding collection of online content. It encompasses a diverse range of formats, from image macros and GIFs to videos and even interactive narratives. What unites these seemingly disparate elements is their thematic connection to Japanese history, culture, and identity, presented through the lens of internet humor.

Phase 1: Ancient Roots & Early Adaptations (Pre-Internet Era): While the "meme" as a digital phenomenon is relatively recent, its conceptual ancestor can be traced back centuries. Ancient Japanese myths and folktales, often characterized by whimsical characters and outlandish events, provide a fertile ground for memetic interpretations. For example, the tale of Momotaro (Peach Boy) with its anthropomorphic animals and fantastical adventures lends itself easily to modern memetic recontextualization. Similarly, the use of iconic imagery from classical Japanese art, woodblock prints (ukiyo-e), and traditional theatre (Kabuki) has laid the groundwork for their later appropriation within the digital sphere.

Phase 2: The Rise of Anime & Manga (Late 20th - Early 21st Century): The explosion of anime and manga in global popularity dramatically impacted the creation of Japan-related memes. Characters, catchphrases, and stylistic elements from popular franchises became easily recognizable and readily adaptable to memetic formats. Images from series like Pokémon, Dragon Ball Z, and Naruto became staples of early internet humor, often juxtaposed with relatable situations or overlaid with witty captions. This phase saw the transition from offline cultural exchange to online sharing and remixing.

Phase 3: Historical Events & Political Commentary (21st Century): The internet's capacity for rapid information dissemination and its role in fostering online communities created new avenues for creating and sharing memes related to Japanese history. Significant historical events, such as the Meiji Restoration, World War II, and the post-war economic miracle, have been reinterpreted and often satirized through memes. This allows for both humorous and critical commentary on national identity, political systems, and historical narratives. However, it is crucial to acknowledge the ethical considerations surrounding the use of sensitive historical events in a comedic context.

Phase 4: Social Commentary & Current Events (Present): Contemporary "a brief history of Japan meme" is characterized by its engagement with present-day issues. Memes often comment on Japanese society's unique challenges, from the pressures of corporate culture (salaryman memes) to the complexities of social hierarchy and interpersonal relationships. The spread of these memes reflects not just a humorous take on everyday life, but also a form of online social commentary and even activism.

The Significance of "A Brief History of Japan Meme":

The study of "a brief history of Japan meme" is significant for several reasons:

Cultural Transmission: Memes act as vectors of cultural transmission, carrying historical narratives, cultural references, and societal values across generations and geographical boundaries.

Identity Formation: The creation and sharing of memes related to Japan contribute to the formation and negotiation of both Japanese and international identities. They allow for a playful exploration of

national narratives and stereotypes.

Historical Interpretation: Memes offer alternative, often informal, interpretations of historical events and figures, challenging conventional historical narratives and promoting diverse perspectives.

Social Commentary: Memes provide a platform for social commentary and critique, offering a humorous yet insightful perspective on current societal issues and political landscapes in Japan.

Global Cultural Exchange: The global nature of the internet allows for cross-cultural interactions and exchanges, leading to a fascinating blend of Japanese and international memetic styles and sensibilities.

Conclusion:

"A brief history of Japan meme" offers a compelling lens through which to understand the dynamic interplay between history, culture, and technology in the digital age. From ancient myths to modern social commentary, these memes reflect a continuously evolving relationship with the past and present. The study of their creation, dissemination, and interpretation provides valuable insights into the complexities of Japanese identity, global cultural exchange, and the ever-expanding power of internet culture. Understanding the nuances of these memes enhances our understanding not only of Japan's history but also of the broader landscape of global digital culture.

FAQs:

1. Are all Japan-related memes historically accurate? No. Many memes utilize historical figures or events for comedic effect, often exaggerating or distorting facts for humorous purposes. It's crucial to approach them critically and not treat them as primary historical sources.
2. What are some of the most popular types of Japan-related memes? Popular types include those featuring anime characters, salaryman struggles, reactions to Japanese pop culture, and humorous depictions of historical figures or events.
3. How do Japanese netizens react to Japan-related memes created internationally? Reactions vary widely depending on the meme's content and context. Some are embraced as humorous and insightful, while others may be viewed as insensitive or offensive.
4. What ethical considerations should be taken into account when creating Japan-related memes? Sensitivity to potentially offensive material related to historical events or social issues is crucial. Avoid perpetuating harmful stereotypes or misrepresentations.
5. How have memes impacted the global perception of Japan? Memes have contributed to both positive and negative perceptions of Japan. They can foster interest and appreciation for Japanese culture but also reinforce existing stereotypes or misconceptions.
6. What role do language barriers play in the spread of Japan-related memes? Language barriers can limit the spread of memes to audiences who don't understand Japanese. However, visual memes often transcend language barriers.
7. Are there specific platforms where Japan-related memes are most prevalent? Various platforms, including Twitter, Reddit, Facebook, and Instagram, host Japan-related memes, with specific subreddits and online communities dedicated to this type of content.

8. How do these memes contribute to the preservation of Japanese history and culture? While not a primary method of preservation, they can spark interest and initiate further engagement with Japanese history and culture among younger generations.

9. How can researchers study "a brief history of Japan meme" effectively? Researchers can utilize digital humanities methods such as web scraping, social media analysis, and content analysis to understand the creation, dissemination, and impact of these memes.

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7. A Comparative Analysis of Japanese and Western Meme Styles: Compares and contrasts the stylistic differences between Japanese and Western meme styles.

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9. The Future of "A Brief History of Japan Meme": Speculates on the future trajectory of Japan-related memes and their potential impact on cultural exchange and historical understanding.

a brief history of japan meme: *African Samurai* Thomas Lockley, Geoffrey Girard, 2019-04-30
This biography of the first foreign-born samurai and his journey from Africa to Japan is "a readable, compassionate account of an extraordinary life" (The Washington Post). When Yasuke arrived in Japan in the late 1500s, he had already traveled much of the known world. Kidnapped as a child, he had ended up a servant and bodyguard to the head of the Jesuits in Asia, with whom he traversed India and China learning multiple languages as he went. His arrival in Kyoto, however, literally caused a riot. Most Japanese people had never seen an African man before, and many of them saw him as the embodiment of the black-skinned Buddha. Among those who were drawn to his presence was Lord Nobunaga, head of the most powerful clan in Japan, who made Yasuke a samurai in his court. Soon, he was learning the traditions of Japan's martial arts and ascending the upper echelons of Japanese society. In the four hundred years since, Yasuke has been known in Japan largely as a

legendary, perhaps mythical figure. Now *African Samurai* presents the never-before-told biography of this unique figure of the sixteenth century, one whose travels between countries and cultures offers a new perspective on race in world history and a vivid portrait of life in medieval Japan. "Fast-paced, action-packed writing. . . . A new and important biography and an incredibly moving study of medieval Japan and solid perspective on its unification. Highly recommended." —Library Journal (starred review) "Eminently readable. . . . a worthwhile and entertaining work." —Publishers Weekly "A unique story of a unique man, and yet someone with whom we can all identify." —Jack Weatherford, New York Times–bestselling author of *Genghis Khan*

a brief history of japan meme: Brief History of Japan Jonathan Clements, 2017-08-01 This fascinating history tells the story of the people of Japan, from ancient teenage priest-queens to teeming hordes of salarymen, a nation that once sought to conquer China, yet also shut itself away for two centuries in self-imposed seclusion. First revealed to Westerners in the chronicles of Marco Polo, Japan was a legendary faraway land defended by a fearsome Kamikaze storm and ruled by a divine sovereign. It was the terminus of the Silk Road, the furthest end of the known world, a fertile source of inspiration for European artists, and an enduring symbol of the mysterious East. In recent times, it has become a powerhouse of global industry, a nexus of popular culture, and a harbinger of post-industrial decline. With intelligence and wit, author Jonathan Clements blends documentary and storytelling styles to connect the past, present and future of Japan, and in broad yet detailed strokes reveals a country of paradoxes: a modern nation steeped in ancient traditions; a democracy with an emperor as head of state; a famously safe society built on 108 volcanoes resting on the world's most active earthquake zone; a fast-paced urban and technologically advanced country whose land consists predominantly of mountains and forests. Among the chapters in this Japanese history book are: The Way of the Gods: Prehistoric and Mythical Japan A Game of Thrones: Minamoto vs. Taira Time Warp: 200 Years of Isolation The Stench of Butter: Restoration and Modernization The New Breed: The Japanese Miracle

a brief history of japan meme: Photography in Japan 1853-1912 Terry Bennett, 2012-07-03 Photography in Japan 1853-1912 is a fascinating visual record of Japanese culture during its metamorphosis from a feudal society to a modern, industrial nation at a time when the art of photography was still in its infancy. The 350 rare and antique photos in this book, most of them published here for the first time, chronicle the introduction of photography in Japan and early Japanese photography. The images are more than just a history of photography in Japan; they are vital in helping to understand the dramatic changes that occurred in Japan during the mid-nineteenth century. These rare Japanese photographs--whether sensational or everyday, intimate or panoramic--document a nation about to abandon its traditional ways and enter the modern era. Taken between 1853 and 1912 by the most important Japanese and foreign photographers working in Japan, this is the first book to document the history of early photography in Japan a comprehensive and systematic way.

a brief history of japan meme: The Far East , 1896

a brief history of japan meme: A Concise History of Japan Brett L. Walker, 2015-02-26 To this day, Japan's modern ascendancy challenges many assumptions about world history, particularly theories regarding the rise of the west and why the modern world looks the way it does. In this engaging new history, Brett L. Walker tackles key themes regarding Japan's relationships with its minorities, state and economic development, and the uses of science and medicine. The book begins by tracing the country's early history through archaeological remains, before proceeding to explore life in the imperial court, the rise of the samurai, civil conflict, encounters with Europe, and the advent of modernity and empire. Integrating the pageantry of a unique nation's history with today's environmental concerns, Walker's vibrant and accessible new narrative then follows Japan's ascension from the ashes of World War II into the thriving nation of today. It is a history for our times, posing important questions regarding how we should situate a nation's history in an age of environmental and climatological uncertainties.

a brief history of japan meme: Japanese Kanji Made Easy Michael L. Kluemper, 2015-04-28

This highly-visual book introduces an effective new method to learn over 1,000 Japanese kanji characters using visual stimuli and pictographs. Learning the fundamental kanji characters used to write Japanese can be challenging, but this book is designed to speed up learning by presenting the 1,000 most common characters using a mnemonic approach. In a fun and accessible way to learn Japanese, each kanji is associated with memorable visual and verbal clues. For example, the Japanese character for person is superimposed over a sketch of a smiling man. The visual clue is a person standing on two legs. By seeing the distinctive shape of the kanji, learners create a mental image of its meaning. Each character is presented as part of a group of characters which share similar traits. These groups use common root symbols known as radicals; they are also categorized by themes such as colors, numbers, animals, or body parts. Pronunciations, meanings and common vocabulary compounds are provided for each character in the group. Mnemonic clues are also given for the basic 92 hiragana and katakana phonetic symbols. The free audio download available online helps you learn pronunciation for all of the characters and vocabulary in this book. The introduction explains the basic history and structure of the kanji. Key feature of this Japanese kanji book include: Hiragana and katakana phonetic symbols Easy-to-remember drawings and stories for ALL characters Thousands of vocabulary words Online audio for pronunciation practice All audio content is accessible on tuttlepublishing.com/downloadable-content.

a brief history of japan meme: Scripting Japan Wesley C. Robertson, 2020-07-14 Imagine this book was written in Comic Sans. Would this choice impact your image of me as an author, despite causing no literal change to the content within? Generally, discussions of how language variants influence interpretation of language acts/users have focused on variation in speech. But it is important to remember that specific ways of representing a language are also often perceived as linked to specific social actors. Nowhere is this fact more relevant than in written Japanese, where a complex history has created a situation where authors can represent any sentence element in three distinct scripts. This monograph provides the first investigation into the ways Japanese authors and their readers engage with this potential for script variation as a social language practice, looking at how purely script-based language choices reflect social ideologies, become linked to language users, and influence the total meaning created by language acts. Throughout the text, analysis of data from multiple studies examines how Japanese language users' experiences with the script variation all around them influence how they engage with, produce, and understand both orthographic variation and major social divides, ultimately evidencing that even the avoidance of variation can become a socially significant act in Japan.

a brief history of japan meme: Why Nations Fail Daron Acemoglu, James A. Robinson, 2013-09-17 Brilliant and engagingly written, *Why Nations Fail* answers the question that has stumped the experts for centuries: Why are some nations rich and others poor, divided by wealth and poverty, health and sickness, food and famine? Is it culture, the weather, geography? Perhaps ignorance of what the right policies are? Simply, no. None of these factors is either definitive or destiny. Otherwise, how to explain why Botswana has become one of the fastest growing countries in the world, while other African nations, such as Zimbabwe, the Congo, and Sierra Leone, are mired in poverty and violence? Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson conclusively show that it is man-made political and economic institutions that underlie economic success (or lack of it). Korea, to take just one of their fascinating examples, is a remarkably homogeneous nation, yet the people of North Korea are among the poorest on earth while their brothers and sisters in South Korea are among the richest. The south forged a society that created incentives, rewarded innovation, and allowed everyone to participate in economic opportunities. The economic success thus spurred was sustained because the government became accountable and responsive to citizens and the great mass of people. Sadly, the people of the north have endured decades of famine, political repression, and very different economic institutions—with no end in sight. The differences between the Koreas is due to the politics that created these completely different institutional trajectories. Based on fifteen years of original research Acemoglu and Robinson marshal extraordinary historical evidence from the Roman Empire, the Mayan city-states, medieval Venice, the Soviet Union, Latin America, England,

Europe, the United States, and Africa to build a new theory of political economy with great relevance for the big questions of today, including: - China has built an authoritarian growth machine. Will it continue to grow at such high speed and overwhelm the West? - Are America's best days behind it? Are we moving from a virtuous circle in which efforts by elites to aggrandize power are resisted to a vicious one that enriches and empowers a small minority? - What is the most effective way to help move billions of people from the rut of poverty to prosperity? More philanthropy from the wealthy nations of the West? Or learning the hard-won lessons of Acemoglu and Robinson's breakthrough ideas on the interplay between inclusive political and economic institutions? *Why Nations Fail* will change the way you look at—and understand—the world.

a brief history of japan meme: Japan Since 1945 Christopher Gerteis, Timothy S. George, 2013-02-14 Examines the social, cultural, and political underpinnings of Japan's postwar and post-industrial trajectories.

a brief history of japan meme: *Introducing Japanese Popular Culture* Alisa Freedman, 2023-04-18 Specifically designed for use in a range of undergraduate and graduate courses, while reaching specialists and general readers, this second edition of *Introducing Japanese Popular Culture* is a comprehensive textbook offering an up-to-date overview of a wide variety of media forms. It uses particular case studies as a way into examining the broader themes in Japanese culture and provides a thorough analysis of the historical and contemporary trends that have shaped artistic production, as well as politics, society, and economics. As a result, more than being a time capsule of influential trends, this book teaches enduring lessons about how popular culture reflects the societies that produce and consume it. With contributions from an international team of scholars, representing a range of disciplines from history and anthropology to art history and media studies, the book covers: Characters Television Videogames Fan media and technology Music Popular cinema Anime Manga Spectacles and competitions Sites of popular culture Fashion Contemporary art. Written in an accessible style with ample description and analysis, this textbook is essential reading for students of Japanese culture and society, Asian media and popular culture, globalization, and Asian Studies in general. It is a go-to handbook for interested readers and a compendium for scholars.

a brief history of japan meme: Memes in Digital Culture Limor Shifman, 2013-10-04 Taking "Gangnam Style" seriously: what Internet memes can tell us about digital culture. In December 2012, the exuberant video "Gangnam Style" became the first YouTube clip to be viewed more than one billion times. Thousands of its viewers responded by creating and posting their own variations of the video—"Mitt Romney Style," "NASA Johnson Style," "Egyptian Style," and many others. "Gangnam Style" (and its attendant parodies, imitations, and derivations) is one of the most famous examples of an Internet meme: a piece of digital content that spreads quickly around the web in various iterations and becomes a shared cultural experience. In this book, Limor Shifman investigates Internet memes and what they tell us about digital culture. Shifman discusses a series of well-known Internet memes—including "Leave Britney Alone," the pepper-spraying cop, LOLCats, Scumbag Steve, and Occupy Wall Street's "We Are the 99 Percent." She offers a novel definition of Internet memes: digital content units with common characteristics, created with awareness of each other, and circulated, imitated, and transformed via the Internet by many users. She differentiates memes from virals; analyzes what makes memes and virals successful; describes popular meme genres; discusses memes as new modes of political participation in democratic and nondemocratic regimes; and examines memes as agents of globalization. Memes, Shifman argues, encapsulate some of the most fundamental aspects of the Internet in general and of the participatory Web 2.0 culture in particular. Internet memes may be entertaining, but in this book Limor Shifman makes a compelling argument for taking them seriously.

a brief history of japan meme: *Hell to Pay* D. M. Giangreco, 2017-10-15 Two years before the atomic attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki helped bring a quick end to hostilities in the summer of 1945, U.S. planners began work on Operation Downfall, codename for the Allied invasions of Kyushu and Honshu, in the Japanese home islands. While other books have examined Operation Downfall, D.

M. Giangreco offers the most complete and exhaustively researched consideration of the plans and their implications. He explores related issues of the first operational use of the atomic bomb and the Soviet Union's entry into the war, including the controversy surrounding estimates of potential U.S. casualties. Following years of intense research at numerous archives, Giangreco now paints a convincing and horrific picture of the veritable hell that awaited invader and defender. In the process, he demolishes the myths that Japan was trying to surrender during the summer of 1945 and that U.S. officials later wildly exaggerated casualty figures to justify using the atomic bombs to influence the Soviet Union. As Giangreco writes, "Both sides were rushing headlong toward a disastrous confrontation in the Home Islands in which poison gas and atomic weapons were to be employed as MacArthur's intelligence chief, Charles Willoughby, succinctly put it, 'a hard and bitter struggle with no quarter asked or given.' Hell to Pay examines the invasion of Japan in light of the large body of Japanese and American operational and tactical planning documents the author unearthed in familiar and obscure archives. It includes postwar interrogations and reports that senior Japanese commanders and their staffs were ordered to produce for General MacArthur's headquarters. This groundbreaking history counters the revisionist interpretations questioning the rationale for the use of the atomic bomb and shows that President Truman's decision was based on real estimates of the enormous human cost of a conventional invasion. This revised edition of Hell to Pay expands on several areas covered in the previous book and deals with three new topics: U.S.-Soviet cooperation in the war against Imperial Japan; U.S., Soviet, and Japanese plans for the invasion and defense of the northernmost Home Island of Hokkaido; and Operation Blacklist, the three-phase insertion of American occupation forces into Japan. It also contains additional text, relevant archival material, supplemental photos, and new maps, making this the definitive edition of an important historical work.

a brief history of japan meme: Samurai Warfare Stephen R. Turnbull, Michael Boxall, 1997 A look at Samurai warfare and specific battles in which it was applied.

a brief history of japan meme: The Tale of Murasaki Liza Dalby, 2002-08-13 The Tale of Murasaki is an elegant and brilliantly authentic historical novel by the author of *Geisha* and the only Westerner ever to have become a geisha. In the eleventh century Murasaki Shikibu wrote the world's first novel, *The Tale of Genji*, the most popular work in the history of Japanese literature. In *The Tale of Murasaki*, Liza Dalby has created a breathtaking fictionalized narrative of the life of this timeless poet—a lonely girl who becomes such a compelling storyteller that she is invited to regale the empress with her tales. *The Tale of Murasaki* is the story of an enchanting time and an exotic place. Whether writing about mystical rice fields in the rainy mountains or the politics and intrigue of the royal court, Dalby breathes astonishing life into ancient Japan.

a brief history of japan meme: Levant Trade in the Middle Ages Eliyahu Ashtor, 2014-07-14 The book is based on Arabic sources, documents in archives of centers of Levantine trade, and material from the files of the firm of Francesco Datini. From the fall of Acre to the journey of Vasco de Gama, the author provides an invaluable description of late medieval Mediterranean trade. Originally published in 1984. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.

a brief history of japan meme: History of Soybeans and Soyfoods in Japan, and in Japanese Cookbooks and Restaurants outside Japan (701 CE to 2014) William Shurtleff, Akiko Aoyagi, 2014-02-19 The world's most comprehensive, well documented, and well illustrated book on this subject, with 445 photographs and illustrations. Plus an extensive index.

a brief history of japan meme: No Matter How I Look at It, It's You Guys' Fault I'm Not Popular!, Vol. 23 Nico Tanigawa, 2024-06-18 The start of the culture festival draws near, and filming for the movie is about to end. Nemo is having second thoughts about her unsavory role in the

production, but it seems to be a huge hit with the others—for better or worse! Conversely, when it comes time to film the baseball scene, no one is sure what to make of Kuroko's unique vision, and even she isn't convinced it'll get the laughs she's aiming for...

a brief history of japan meme: *The Elusive Samurai*, Vol. 1 Yusei Matsui, 2022-07-05 After the massacre of his family by the traitor Ashikaga Takauji, Tokiyuki flees with the help of a handful of loyal retainers who have also survived the purge. One of them is Suwa Yorishige, an ally of the Hojo clan and lord of Suwa Province. The slightly odd Yorishige also claims to be clairvoyant and foretells that Tokiyuki will one day become the ruler of Japan. But for the moment, escaping from enemy territory is the priority! -- VIZ Media

a brief history of japan meme: *Forgotten Tanks and Guns of the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s* David Lister, Paul Charlton, 2018-10-30 History forgets. Files are lost and mislaid. But this book seeks to shine a light, offering a collection of cutting edge pieces of historical research detailing some of the most fascinating arms and armament projects from the 1920s to the end of the 1940s, nearly all of which had previously been lost to history. Included here are records from the UKs MI10 (the forerunner of GCHQ) which tell the story of the mighty Japanese heavy tanks and their service during the Second World War. Other chapters expand on the development of British armour, including the story of infantry tanks from the 1920s right through to the end of the Second World War and beyond. Other items placed beneath the microscope in this fascinating history include a wide variety of guns, rocket launchers, super heavy tanks and countless pieces of specialised armour. Previously overlooked, hidden under layers of dust in archives up and down the country, the histories of these objects has finally been uncovered.

a brief history of japan meme: *Anime* Jonathan Clements, 2023-08-24 Japanese animation is at the nexus of an international multimedia industry worth over \$23.6 billion a year, linked to everything from manga to computer games, Pokémon and plushies. In this comprehensive guide, Jonathan Clements chronicles the production and reception history of the entire medium, from a handful of hobbyists in the 1910s to the Oscar-winning *Spirited Away* and beyond. Exploring the cultural and technological developments of the past century, Clements addresses how anime's history has been written by Japanese scholars, and covers previously neglected topics such as wartime instructional animation and work-for-hire for American clients. Founded on the testimonies of industry professionals, and drawing on a myriad of Japanese-language documents, memoirs and books, *Anime: A History* illuminates the anime business from the inside – investigating its innovators, its unsung heroes and its controversies. This new edition has been updated and revised throughout, with full colour illustrations and three new chapters on anime's fortunes among Chinese audiences and subcontractors, 21st century trends in 'otaku economics', and the huge transformations brought about by the rise of global streaming technology.

a brief history of japan meme: *A Unified Theory of Cats on the Internet* E.J. White, 2020-07-21 This cultural history reveals how cats became the undisputed mascot of the internet—"an essential look at life online" (Ryan Milner, author of *The World Made Meme*). Journalists and their readers seem to need no explanation for the line, "The internet is made of cats." Everyone understands the joke, but few know how it started. *A Unified Theory of Cats on the Internet* is the first book to explore the history of how the cat became the internet's best friend. Internet cats can differ in dramatic ways, from the goth cats of Twitter to the glamourpusses of Instagram to the giddy, nonsensical silliness of Nyan Cat. But they all share common traits and values. Bringing together fun anecdotes, thoughtful analyses, and hidden histories of the communities that built the internet, Elyse White shows how japonisme, punk culture, cute culture, and the battle among different communities for the soul of the internet informed the sensibility of online felines. Internet cats offer a playful and useful way to understand how culture shapes—and is shaped by—technology. Western culture has used cats for centuries as symbols of darkness, pathos, and alienation. The communities that helped build the internet represented themselves as outsiders, with snark and alienation at the core of their identity. Thus cats became the *sine qua non* of cultural literacy for the Extremely Online, as well as an everyday medium of expression for the rest of us.

Whatever direction the internet takes next, the “series of tubes” is likely to remain cat-shaped.

a brief history of japan meme: *I Am Tama, Lucky Cat* Wendy Henrichs, 2016-02 Under the shadow of the white-capped mountains of Japan, a white cat with unusual markings arrives at the door of a rundown temple. A kind and gentle monk takes him in and names him Tama, Lucky Cat.

a brief history of japan meme: *The Kodansha Kanji Learner's Course* Andrew Scott Conning, 2013-12-06 The Kodansha Kanji Learner's Course is an innovative and highly effective system for learning and remembering kanji, or Sino-Japanese characters. The book contains 2,300 character entries, including all 2,136 Jōyō Kanji (regular-use kanji) plus 164 of the most useful non-Jōyō Kanji. It offers a sophisticated, pedagogically sound method for remembering the basic meaning(s) of each character, conveniently summarized in concise keywords to facilitate memorization. Each kanji is accompanied by an explanation of how to remember its meaning(s) clearly and distinctly. These mnemonic explanations teach you to associate each kanji's graphical form with its unique range of meaning, often by seeing its meaning in the form of the kanji itself. An outstanding feature of the course is the special attention it gives to the challenge of learning each kanji in a differentiated way. This allows you to associate the meaning of each character with the features that distinguish it from graphically similar characters. Another unique feature—and a significant breakthrough in kanji pedagogy—is the sequence in which the course introduces kanji. Most kanji dictionaries and textbooks arrange their entries in ways that do not address the needs of non-native learners, such as by traditional radical or by the grades in which the kanji are taught in Japanese schools. The Kodansha Kanji Learner's Course uses an original sequence that presents graphically related characters one after the other to help you give significance to their contrastive features as you learn them, and thereby avoid having to relearn them later. It also introduces the meaning and usage of each graphical element—each kanji building block—the first time it appears, thus enabling you to seamlessly and rapidly acquire new characters. In short, The Kodansha Kanji Learner's Course makes learning and remembering kanji easier than ever before. This book fills an urgent need for a timesaving yet sophisticated kanji-learning system that can be used from beginning through advanced levels—an enjoyable, no-nonsense path to proficiency. It is intended for anyone serious about learning to read Japanese. Features: Includes 2,300 kanji entries Completely up-to-date: includes all the 2,136 officially prescribed Jōyō Kanji (kanji for regular use) Each entry explains how to remember the character's meaning clearly and distinctly, often through the innovative use of visualization and concrete imagery Introduces kanji components in a logical, step-by-step order that makes learning new kanji easier than ever Can be used as a stand-alone resource or together with The Kodansha Kanji Learner's Dictionary. Includes cross-references, character meanings, readings, and sample vocabulary from the dictionary.

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Japanese literature from its start in the 1870s against the backdrop of a rapidly coalescing modern nation to the present. John Whittier Treat takes up both canonical and forgotten works, the non-literary as well as the literary, and pays special attention to the Japanese state's hand in shaping literature throughout the country's nineteenth-century industrialization, a half-century of empire and war, its post-1945 reconstruction, and the challenges of the twenty-first century to modern nationhood. Beginning with journalistic accounts of female criminals in the aftermath of the Meiji civil war, Treat moves on to explore how woman novelist Higuchi Ichiyo's stories engaged with modern liberal economics, sex work, and marriage; credits Natsume Soseki's satire *I Am a Cat* with the triumph of print over orality in the early twentieth century; and links narcissism in the visual arts with that of the Japanese I-novel on the eve of the country's turn to militarism in the 1930s. From imperialism to Americanization and the new media of television and manga, from boogie-woogie music to Yoshimoto Banana and Murakami Haruki, Treat traces the stories Japanese audiences expected literature to tell and those they did not. The book concludes with a classic of Japanese science fiction a description of present-day crises writers face in a Japan hobbled by a changing economy and unprecedented natural and manmade catastrophes. *The Rise and Fall of Japanese Literature* reinterprets the "end of literature"—a phrase heard often in Japan—as a clarion call to understand how literary culture worldwide now teeters on a historic precipice, one at which Japan's writers may have arrived just a moment before the rest of us.

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a brief history of japan meme: *The Paths of Zatoichi* Jonathan Wroot, 2021-10-01 *The Paths of Zatoichi* charts the history and influence of the Japanese film and television franchise about Zatoichi the blind swordsman. The franchise is comprised of 29 films and 100 TV episodes (starring the famous Shintaro Katsu, who starred in 26 of the 29 feature films). They all follow the adventures of a blind masseur in medieval Japan, who wanders from village to village and often has to defend himself with his deadly sword skills. The first film was released in 1962 and the most recent in 2010. These dates demonstrate how the franchise can be used as a means of charting Japanese cinema history, via the shifts in production practices and audience preferences which affected the Zatoichi series and numerous other film and TV texts. Zatoichi signifies a huge area of Japanese film history which has largely been ignored in much existing scholarly research, and yet it can reveal much about the appeal of long-running characters, franchises, and their constant adaptation and influence within global popular culture.

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Thomas Singer, 2020-12-29 Thomas Singer presents a unique collection which examines cultural complexes in four parts of East Asia: China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. From ancestor worship in China to the kimchi bitch meme of South Korea, the wounded feminine in Taiwan and hikikomori in Japan, the contributors take a Jungian lens to aspects of culture and shine a light on themes including gender, archetypes, consciousness, social roles, and political relations. This insightful and timely book will be essential reading for academics and students of Jungian and post-Jungian ideas, politics, sociology, and Asian studies. It will also be of great interest to Jungian analysts in practice and in training.

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2017-05-15 This volume seeks to capture the rich array of images that define Japan's encounters with the Pacific Ocean. Contemporary Japanese most readily associate 'Pacific' with the devastating war that their country fought over a half century ago. The ensuing occupation realized a situation that this people had striven to avoid ever since the Portuguese first arrived in 1543 - their subjugation by a foreign power. But the Pacific Ocean also extended Japan's overseas contacts. From antiquity Japanese and their neighbours crossed it to trade ideas and products. From the mid-16th century it carried people from more distant lands, Europe and America, and thus expanded and diversified Japan's cultural and economic exchange networks. From the late 19th century it provided the highway to transport Japanese imperial expansion in Northeast Asia and later to encourage overseas migration into the Pacific and the Americas. The studies selected for inclusion in this

volume, along with the introduction, explain how the Pacific Ocean thus nurtured images of both threat and opportunity to the island nation that it surrounds.

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Communicating with Memes: Consequences in Post-truth Civilization investigates the consequences of memetic communication, the causes of these consequences, and what action—if any—should be taken in response. Communicating with memes across social media networks has become a commonplace activity in today's world, despite the fact that just years earlier, this mode of communication was a rarity. The rapid adoption of this new mode of communication through ubiquitous social media and device use is resulting in a major transformation of the ways in which we think and behave in our digital world. From the election of Donald Trump, to online harassment and identity theft, to the resurgence of once-eradicated diseases due to the anti-vaxxer movement, Grant Kien analyzes fourteen major consequences of this shift and confronts the question of how to approach these consequences.

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a brief history of japan meme: *They Are Not Machines* Chun Soonok, 2017-09-29 The multi-faceted tensions created in developing countries between a burgeoning popular desire for democracy and the harsh imperatives of modernisation and industrialisation are nowhere more evident than in the so-called 'Asian tiger' nations. Of all those nascent economies, South Korea in the 1960s and 1970s stands pre-eminent for the magnitude and speed of its development and the extraordinarily oppressive and inhumane conditions that its labour force, mainly women and young girls, were compelled to endure. The author of this book was one of those young girls who suffered in the warren of sweat-shop garment factories in the slums of central Seoul. With little or no support from male co-workers, and despite their political naivety and the traditionally subordinate status of Korean females, the women textile and garment workers confronted the ruling authority at all levels. The author's mother was one of their leaders, and her eldest brother sacrificed his life for their cause. Despite appalling state-directed violence, betrayal by erstwhile colleagues, the chicanery and mendacity of employers' cooperatives and countless other setbacks, these uneducated and overworked women finally succeeded in forming the first fully democratic trade union in the history of Korea. Based on compelling personal accounts this is the first published account of the women's struggle, and it throws much light on the process of modernisation and industrialisation in Korea and beyond.

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Emanuel Grant, Dimitris Kotzinos, Dominique Laurent, Nicolas Spyrtos, Yuzuru Tanaka, 2016-08-04 This book constitutes the revised selected papers of the 10th International Workshop on Information Search, Integration and Personalization, ISIP 2015, held in Grand Forks, ND, USA, in October 2015. The 8 revised full papers presented were carefully reviewed and selected from 26 submissions. The papers are organized in topical sections on modeling, querying and updating of information; information extraction; information visualization.

a brief history of japan meme: The Zen of Cat Carla Francis, 2023-06-27 There's no doubt cats are a meaningful feature of Japanese life: from folklore to fashion, they've left a giant paw print on the culture. It's believed that felines first appeared in Japan with the arrival of Buddhism via China in around 552, when their main role was to stop vermin from damaging scriptures. But what can we learn from these philosophical felines? Surely they can teach us a thing or two, through the wisdom gleaned over the centuries residing in ancient temples and co-existing with artists, courtesans, monks and writers. The Zen of Cat is interwoven with stories and facts about cats, Japan and Zen philosophy. Carla Francis includes discussions with Japanese cat lovers, and invites reflection and 'mindful mewsings' on life through an A-Z of Japanese words to inspire. Cats are unburdened by worry. They maintain an enviable equilibrium. Maybe we can too?

a brief history of japan meme: Japanese Media Cultures in Japan and Abroad: Transnational Consumption of Manga, Anime, and Media-Mixes Manuel Hernández-Pérez, 2019-06-24 In the last few decades, Japanese popular culture productions have been consolidated as one of the most influential and profitable global industries. As a creative industry, Japanese Media-Mixes generate multimillion-dollar revenues, being a product of international synergies and the natural appeal of the characters and stories. The transnationalization of investment capital, diversification of themes and (sub)genres, underlying threat in the proliferation of illegal audiences, development of internet streaming technologies, and other new transformations in media-mix-based production models make the study of these products even more relevant today. In this way, manga (Japanese comics), anime (Japanese animation), and video games are not necessarily products designed for the national market. More than ever, it is necessary to reconcile national and transnational positions for the study of this cultural production. The present volume includes contributions aligned to the analysis of Japanese popular culture flow from many perspectives (cultural studies, film, comic studies, sociology, etc.), although we have emphasized the relationships between manga, anime, and international audiences. The selected works include the following topics: • Studies on audiences—national and transnational case studies; • Fandom production and Otaku culture; • Cross-media and transmedia perspectives; • Theoretical perspectives on manga, anime, and media-mixes.

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different master narratives, it is hoped, citizens will develop a more self-critical, self-reflective approach to their own history and that such an introspective effort has the potential to lay the foundation for greater self- and mutual understanding and eventual historical reconciliation in the region. This book will be essential reading for students and scholars of Asian history, Asian education and international relations in East Asia.

a brief history of japan meme: Inventing the Way of the Samurai Oleg Benesch, 2014

Inventing the Way of the Samurai examines the development of the 'way of the samurai' - bushido; - which is popularly viewed as a defining element of the Japanese national character and even the 'soul of Japan'. Rather than a continuation of ancient traditions, however, bushido; developed from a search for identity during Japan's modernization in the late nineteenth century. The former samurai class were widely viewed as a relic of a bygone age in the 1880s, and the first significant discussions of bushido at the end of the decade were strongly influenced by contemporary European ideals of gentlemen and chivalry. At the same time, Japanese thinkers increasingly looked to their own traditions in search of sources of national identity, and this process accelerated as national confidence grew with military victories over China and Russia. *Inventing the Way of the Samurai* considers the people, events, and writings that drove the rapid growth of bushido, which came to emphasize martial virtues and absolute loyalty to the emperor. In the early twentieth century, bushido; became a core subject in civilian and military education, and was a key ideological pillar supporting the imperial state until its collapse in 1945. The close identification of bushido; with Japanese militarism meant that it was rejected immediately after the war, but different interpretations of bushido; were soon revived by both Japanese and foreign commentators seeking to explain Japan's past, present, and future. This volume further explores the factors behind the resurgence of bushido, which has proven resilient through 130 years of dramatic social, political, and cultural change.

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