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An introductory chapter provides a historical overview of Japanese philosophy and a discussion of the Japanese debate over defining the idea of philosophy, both of which help explain the rationale behind the design of the Sourcebook. An exhaustive glossary of technical terminology, a chronology of authors, and a thematic index are appended. Specialists will find information related to original sources and sinographs for Japanese names and terms in a comprehensive bibliography and general index.

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- Sales Rank: #284972 in Books
- Published on: 2011-07-31
- Released on: 2011-07-31
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.60" h x 6.10" w x 9.10" l, 2.11 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 1360 pages

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Review

An outstanding sourcebook for all those interested in Japanese philosophy, as well as religious thought, social ideology, and artistic expressions stemming from the classical (Heian) and medieval (Kamakura) through the early modern (Tokugawa) and modern (Meiji and post-Meiji) periods. . . . All readers of Japanese Philosophy will greatly benefit from and be gratified in finding authoritative versions of philosophical materials, offered in a creative, cross-thematic and historically based fashion. The reader may already be familiar with some of these resources, but may wish to reference or cite them anew, while other sections will provide original translations of philosophers with whom many readers may not yet be familiar or have not previously had an opportunity to reflect upon in depth or view in historical perspective. The Thematic Index is one of the excellent tools that will enable the reader to navigate a path through over twelve hundred years of philosophical writing in Japan.-- "*Philosophy East & West*"

This massive tome will stand for the foreseeable future as the gold standard for comprehensive treatment of all matters of Japanese philosophy. The three editors, all significant names within this small but growing subfield, have assembled an impressive group of established and up-and-coming scholars to translate and provide introductions to each entry, resulting in a readable sourcebook remarkable in both scope and acuity of analysis. . . . Essential.-- "*Choice*"

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