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無政府主義



MUSEIFUSHUGI

THE REVOLUTIONARY IDEA IN JAPAN

Victor Garcia & Wat Tyler,
580pp, £9.00, h/b (ISBN 0 904564 39 8),
illustrated, maps, index, important dates.

Museifushugi is the first comprehensive history in any language of the Japanese revolutionary movement.

Museifushugi records the activities of revolutionary militants in Japan from the Meiji restoration down to the present day — women and men whose memory has been systematically obliterated both by establishment scholarship and hostile political factions. Due attention has also been paid to the role of anarchist ideas among minority groups such as the Koreans and outcast **burakumin**, while a whole section has been devoted to the ignored role of women in the revolutionary movement.

The modern Japanese revolutionary movement was born soon after the Meiji Restoration of 1868 in the midst of a popular struggle against a regime for which totalitarian repression was second nature. It has been an unusually tenacious movement, keeping up resistance against a repression that did not stop short of open murder until the 11th hour before World War II.

In the last ten years or so, anarchist methods of non-hierarchical organisation, direct action, etc., have become important motifs of the popular movement in Japan.

In addition to the detailed history of the revolutionary movement itself, readers not familiar with Japanese conditions are provided with chapters explaining the historical development of the country from earliest times, the social, political and economic background to the movement, and the nature of all the factions competing for influence over the popular movement. Among the many myths definitively laid to rest here is that which held anarchist activities to have ceased in the early 1920's, and that which posited the Japan Communist Party as the only important source of ideas for the revolutionary movement.



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