

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910416521303321
Autore	Yamaji Aizan <1865-1917.>
Titolo	Essays on the Modern Japanese Church : Christianity in Meiji Japan // Yamaji Aizan ; translated by Graham Squires ; with introductory essays by Graham Squires and A. Hamish Ion
Pubbl/distr/stampa	2020 Ann Arbor, Mich : , : Center for Japanese Studies, University of Michigan, , 1999 ©1999
ISBN	9780939512935 0939512939
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (viii, 196 p.)
Collana	Michigan Monograph Series in Japanese Studies ; ; v.27
Classificazione	HIS000000SOC000000SOC008000
Altri autori (Persone)	IonA. Hamish SquiresGraham <1955->
Disciplina	275.2/08
Soggetti	Social Science / Cultural & Ethnic Studies / General Religion Social Science Electronic books. Japan Religion 1868-1912 Japan Church history 19th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Sommario/riassunto	Essays on the Modern Japanese Church (Gendai Nihon kyokai shiron), published in 1906, was the first Japanese-language history of Christianity in Meiji Japan. Yamaji Aizan's firsthand account describes the reintroduction of Christianity to Japan-its development, rapid expansion, and decline-and its place in the social, political, and intellectual life of the Meiji period. Yamaji's overall argument is that Christianity played a crucial role in shaping the growth and development of modern Japan. Yamaji was a strong opponent of the government-sponsored "emperor-system ideology," and through his historical writing he tried to show how Japan had a tradition of

tolerance and openness at a time when government-sponsored intellectuals were arguing for greater conformity and submissiveness to the state on the basis of Japanese "national character." Essays is important not only in terms of religious history but also because it highlights broad trends in the history of Meiji Japan. Introductory chapters explore the significance of the work in terms of the life and thought of its author and its influence on subsequent interpretations of Meiji Christianity.

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