

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910598075503321
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Titolo	Language, Nation, Race : Linguistic Reform in Meiji Japan (1868-1912) // Atsuko Ueda
Pubbl/distr/stampa	University of California Press, 2021 Berkeley, CA : , : University of California Press, , [2022] ©2021
ISBN	9780520381728 0520381726
Edizione	[1 ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (172 p.)
Collana	New Interventions in Japanese Studies ; ; 1
Disciplina	306.44/952
Soggetti	Japanese language - Reform - Meiji period, 1868-1912 Language policy - Japan - Meiji period, 1868-1912 Nationalism - Japan - Meiji period, 1868-1912 HISTORY / Asia / Japan Anthologies
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- Part I. "Pre-Nation" -- 1. Competing "Languages" -- 2. Sound, Scripts, and Styles -- 3. Zoku as Aesthetic Criterion -- Part II. Race and Language Reform -- Introduction -- 4. Racializing the National Language -- 5. Tropes of Racialization in the Works of Natsume Sseki -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	A free open access ebook is available upon publication. Learn more at www.luminosoa.org . Language, Nation, Race explores the various language reforms at the onset of Japanese modernity, a time when "national language"; (kokugo) was produced in order to standardize the Japanese language. Faced with the threat of Western colonialism, Meiji intellectuals proposed various reforms to standardize the Japanese language in order to quickly educate the illiterate masses with the new forms of Western knowledge. This book liberates these language reforms from the predetermined category of the "nation," for such a notion had yet to exist as a clear telos to which the reforms aspired.

Atsuko Ueda draws on, while critically intervening in, the vast scholarship of language reform that arose in the 1990s and that engaged with numerous works of postcolonial and cultural studies. She examines the first two decades of the Meiji period, with specific focus on the issue of race, contending that no analysis of imperialism or nationalism is possible without it.
