

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910821145003321
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Titolo	The failure of freedom : a portrait of modern Japanese intellectuals / / Tatsuo Arima
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, Massachusetts : , : Harvard University Press, , 1969 London, [England] : , : Oxford University Press, , [date of distribution not identified] ©1969
ISBN	0-674-28011-3
Edizione	[Reprint 2013]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (315 pages)
Collana	Harvard East Asian Series ; ; 39
Disciplina	915.2/03/320922
Soggetti	Intellectuals - Japan Liberalism - Japan Japan Intellectual life
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Preface -- Contents -- I. THE REVOLUTIONARY RESTORATION -- II. UCHIMURA KANZ: THE POLITICS OF SPIRITUAL DESPAIR -- III. THE ANARCHISTS: THE NEGATION OF POLITICS -- IV. JAPANESE NATURALISM: THE LIMITATIONS OF EXPERIENCE -- V. THE SHIRAKABA-HA: THE TYRANNY OF ART -- VI. ARISHIMA TAKEO: BOURGEOIS CRITICISM -- VII. AKUTAGAWA RYOSUKE: THE LITERATURE OF DEFEATISM -- VIII. PROLETARIAN LITERATURE: THE TYRANNY OF POLITICS -- CONCLUSION -- NOTES -- BIBLIOGRAPHY -- GLOSSARY -- INDEX
Sommario/riassunto	An excellent introduction to Japanese intellectual history in the first third of the twentieth century, this is a study of the intellectual atmosphere that made the development of a constitutional form of government difficult. As heirs to the Meiji Restoration, modern Japanese intellectuals were trapped by the historical paradox that modern Japan was born not so much of the victory of the new forces over the old, as of the skillful self-transformation of the old forces themselves. To reject parts of new Japanese society often meant to reject the whole of it. Tatsuo Arima examines the period's philosophical

and religious writings and the main literary figures and groups and their works and theories about literature. He finds a widespread anticonstitutional mentality and relates it to the intellectuals' political behavior. In particular, he analyzes the reasons why prewar Japanese intellectuals, who seemed to be so opposed to the rise of nationalism, took no socially effective action to prevent its emergence and subsequently became its victims.
