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| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA9910827787003321 |
| Titolo | Japan and Russia [[electronic resource]] : three centuries of mutual images // edited by Yulia Mikhailova and M. William Steele |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Folkestone [England], : Global Oriental, 2008 |
| ISBN | 1-281-90650-6 9786611906504 90-04-21315-5 |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (288 p.) |
| Collana | Brill eBook titles |
| Altri autori (Persone) | MikhailovaYulia SteeleM. William |
| Disciplina | 300 327.47052 900 |
| Soggetti | Japan Civilization Russian influences Russia Civilization Japan Civilization |
| 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. |
| Nota di contenuto | Preliminary Material / Y. Mikhailova and M. W. Steele -- Introduction / M. William Steele and Yulia Mikhailova -- 1. Changing Japanese-Russian Images In The Edo Period / Michiko Ikuta -- 2. Japonisme In Russia In The Late Nineteenth And Early Twentieth Centuries / Elena Diakonova -- 3. Japan's 'Fifteen Minutes Of Glory': Managing World Opinion During The War With Russia, 1904-1905 / Rotem Kowner -- 4. Japan's Place In Russian And Soviet National Identity: From Port Arthur To Khalkhin-Gol / Yulia Mikhailova -- 5. Memory And Identity: Japanese POWs In The Soviet Union / Sergei Kuznetsov and Yulia Mikhailova -- 6. Constructing The Screen Image Of An Ideal Partner / Irina Melnikova -- 7. Disintegration Of The Soviet Union As Seen In Japanese Political Cartoons / Inoue Kenji and Sergei Tolstoguzov -- 8. Images In Tinted Mirrors: Japanese-Russian Perceptions In Provincial Japan / Tsuneo Akaha and Anna Vassilieva -- 9. Images At An Impasse: Anime And Manga In Contemporary Russia / Yulia Mikhailova and Evgenii Torchinov -- 10. Strategies Of Representation: Japanese |

Sommario/riassunto

This volume recognizes the growing awareness of the importance of images in international relations, exploring the phenomenon over three centuries as it relates to Russia and Japan. The general perception of one country by another – the ‘stereotypical collective mentality’ – is an historic phenomenon that continues to be a fundamental component in international relations at all levels, but especially in the political and business arenas, and remains an ongoing challenge for future generations. Bringing together international scholars from various disciplines, this innovative study focuses especially on modes of seeing and on the enigma of visual experience. It draws on numerous visual representations from propaganda posters and cartoons to artworks and films and to more recent media, such as television, the internet, pop-culture icons, as well as direct visual encounters. The volume raises questions of how different cultures observe, understand and represent each other, how and why mutual representations have changed or remained unchanged during the long history of Japanese-Russian interactions, what mental frameworks exist on both sides of the encounter; and how visions of otherness influence the construction of national, cultural and social identities.
