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Nota di contenuto	Cover -- Half Title -- Title Page -- Copyright Page -- Dedication -- Table of Contents -- List of figures -- List of maps -- Preface -- Acknowledgements -- Stylistic conventions -- Prologue: witnesses to the largest conflict of the sixteenth century -- Never-ending stories -- Alternative perspectives on a major historical moment -- A question of us and them -- Dramatis personae -- Xu Yihou, patriot in exile -- Yoshino Jingozaemon, warrior of Japan -- Oh Himun, refugee in his own land -- Hwang Shin, intrepid ambassador -- Keinen, reluctant invader -- Setting the scene -- Japan, Korea, and China ante bellum -- War and peace -- Notes -- References -- 1 Warning of the tsunami to come: Xu Yihou, patriot in exile -- Calm before the storm -- Loyalty behind enemy lines -- Xu's actions in his own words -- Xu's intelligence report -- Xu on Hideyoshi and Japan -- Xu's view of the world from Japan -- China among equals? -- Concluding remarks -- Notes -- References -- 2 Glory in defeat: Yoshino Jingozaemon, warrior of Japan -- Yoshino's diary -- Survival of the text -- Yoshino's story -- Japan against the world -- Three lands -- Land of the Gods and Korea -- Past glory and present defeat -- The Japanese in Chosn -- Gods of

war -- Us and them -- Enter the dragon -- Honourable discharge -- One tale among many -- Conclusions -- Notes -- References -- 3 Between a tiger and wolves: Oh Himun, refugee in his own land -- The author -- The diary -- 1592-1593, 'over by new year' -- 1593, Chinese insult to Japanese injury -- 1593-1594, surviving disease and famine -- 1594, living with the Japanese -- 1594-1595, everyday life continues -- 1596, the prospect of peace -- Reflections -- Notes -- References -- 4 When peace broke: Hwang Shin, intrepid ambassador -- Peace process 1593-1596 -- Two ambassadors, two diaries -- The diary of Hwang Shin. The diary of Pak Hongjang -- Osaka and Hideyoshi's wrath -- Return from Japan -- Attitudes towards Koreans in Japan -- Japan and the Japanese -- Conclusions -- Notes -- References -- 5 Descent into hell: Keinen, reluctant invader -- The author -- The diary -- Keinen's journey: through hell to paradise -- Crossing into the unknown -- Witness to suffering -- Victims and perpetrators -- Axis mundi -- Enemy at the gates -- Land of the Gods -- Return -- Afterword -- Notes -- References -- 6 A world connected: Oh Himun, one among many -- 1597, the second invasion -- Joined in communication -- Separated by class -- 1597-1598, end game -- 1598, peace at last -- The Ming in Chosn: a dangerous spectacle -- A Ming monument in Chosn -- Chosn for the Chinese -- Further thoughts -- China experienced and imagined -- A connected world -- Class and country -- Postscript - beyond the war -- Notes -- References -- 7 Post war: stories retold, countries reimagined -- Post war -- Selective memories -- Reversion to type: un-learning about the Japanese -- China the unassailable: from might to right -- When China bowed to Japan: a story long in the making -- China, Korea, and Japan lived and imagined -- Notes -- References -- Epilogue: the war of 1592-1598 and national identity -- Defining the 'nation' -- Culture as identity -- Imagined communities -- Mass participation -- To be or not to be a nation -- The limits of definition -- Notes -- References -- Index.

Sommario/riassunto

"The East Asian War of 1592 to 1598 was the only extended war before modern times to involve Japan, Korea, and China. It devastated huge swathes of Korea and led to large population movements across borders. This book draws on surviving letters and diaries to recount the personal experiences of five individuals from different backgrounds who lived through the war and experienced its devastating effects: a Chinese doctor who became a spy; a Japanese samurai on his first foreign expedition; a Korean gentleman turned refugee; a Korean scholar-diplomat; and a Japanese Buddhist monk involved in the atrocities of the invasion. The book outlines the context of the war so that readers can understand the background against which the writers' lives were lived, allows the individual voices of the five men and their reflections on events to come through, and casts much light on prevailing attitudes and conditions, including cultural interaction, identity, cross-border information networks, class conflict, the role of religion in society, and many others aspects of each writer's world"--
