

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910965028103321
Autore	Hutchinson Rachael
Titolo	Nagai Kafu's occidentalism : defining the Japanese self // Rachael Hutchinson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Albany, [New York], : SUNY Press, c2011
ISBN	9781438439082 1438439083 9781461907497 1461907497
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (302 p.)
Disciplina	895.6/344
Soggetti	Civilization, Western, in literature East and West in literature Japan In literature
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 -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- Constructing the "West" -- Imagining Authenticity -- Positioning the Observer -- Occidentalism -- Resistance -- Conclusions -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Nagai Kaf (1879–1959) spent more time abroad than any other writer of his generation, firing the Japanese imagination with his visions of America and France. Applying the theoretical framework of Occidentalism to Japanese literature, Rachael Hutchinson explores Kaf's construction of the Western Other, an integral part of his critique of Meiji civilization. Through contrast with the Western Other, Kaf was able to solve the dilemma that so plagued Japanese intellectuals—how to modernize and yet retain an authentic Japanese identity in the modern world. Kaf's flexible positioning of imagined spaces like the "West" and the "Orient" ultimately led him to a definition of the Japanese Self. Hutchinson analyzes the wide range of Kaf's work, particularly those novels and stories reflecting Kaf's time in the West and the return to Japan, most unknown to Western readers and a number unavailable in English, along with his better-known depictions

of Edo's demimonde. Kaf's place in Japan's intellectual history and his influence on other writers are also discussed.
