

1. Record Nr.	UNISA996247924303316
Titolo	Recreating Japanese women, 1600-1945 // Gail Lee Bernstein
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, CA : , : University of California Press, , [1991] ©1991
ISBN	0-520-91018-4 1-282-35570-8 9786612355707 0-585-10490-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xi, 340 p. ) : ill. ;
Disciplina	305.42/0952
Soggetti	Women - Employment - Japan - History Feminism - Japan - History Women - Japan - History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- Introduction -- ONE. Women and Changes in the Household Division of Labor -- TWO. The Life Cycle of Farm Women in Tokugawa Japan -- THREE. The Deaths of Old Women: Folklore and Differential Mortality in Nineteenth-Century Japan -- FOUR. The Shingaku Woman: Straight from the Heart -- FIVE. Female Bunjin: The Life of Poet-Painter Ema Saiko -- SIX. Women in an All-Male Industry: The Case of Sake Brewer Tatsu'uma Kiyō -- PART TWO. The Modern Discourse on Family, Gender, and Work: 1868-1945 -- SEVEN. The Meiji State's Policy Toward Women, 1890-1910 -- EIGHT. Yosano Akiko and the Taishō Debate over the 'New Woman' -- NINE. Middle-Class Working Women During the Interwar Years -- TEN. Activism Among Women in the Taishō Cotton Textile Industry -- ELEVEN. The Modern Girl as Militant -- TWELVE. Doubling Expectations: Motherhood and Women's Factory Work Under State Management in Japan in the 1930s and 1940s -- THIRTEEN. Women and War: The Japanese Film Image -- Afterword -- Glossary of Japanese Names and Terms -- Index

## Sommario/riassunto

In thirteen wide-ranging essays, scholars and students of Asian and women's studies will find a vivid exploration of how female roles and feminine identity have evolved over 350 years, from the Tokugawa era to the end of World War II. Starting from the premise that gender is not a biological given, but is socially constructed and culturally transmitted, the authors describe the forces of change in the construction of female gender and explore the gap between the ideal of womanhood and the reality of Japanese women's lives. Most of all, the contributors speak to the diversity that has characterized women's experience in Japan. This is an imaginative, pioneering work, offering an interdisciplinary approach that will encourage a reconsideration of the paradigms of women's history, hitherto rooted in the Western experience.

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