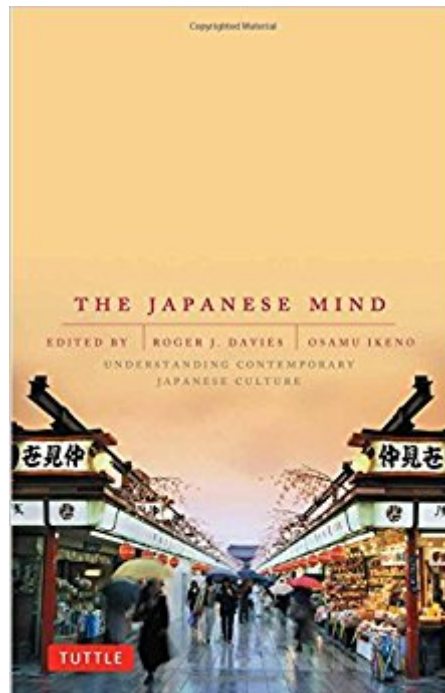




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# The Japanese Mind: Understanding Contemporary Japanese Culture



## Synopsis

In *The Japanese Mind*, Roger Davies offers Westerners an invaluable key to the unique aspects of Japanese culture. Readers of this book will gain a clear understanding of what really makes the Japanese, and their society, tick. Among the topics explored: *aimai* (ambiguity), *amae* (dependence upon others' benevolence), *amakudari* (the nation's descent from heaven), *chinmoku* (silence in communication), *gambari* (perseverance), *giri* (social obligation), *haragei* (literally, "belly art"; implicit, unspoken communication), *kenkyo* (the appearance of modesty), *sempai-kohai* (seniority), *wabi-sabi* (simplicity and elegance), and *zoto* (gift giving), as well as discussions of child-rearing, personal space, and the roles of women in Japanese society. Includes discussion topics and questions after each chapter. All in all, this book is an easy-to-use introduction to the distinguishing characteristics of Japanese society; an invaluable resource for anyone—business people, travelers, or students—perfect for course adoption, but also for anyone interested in Japanese culture. Next in this series: Now available separately, *Japanese Culture: The Religious and Philosophical Foundations* is a fascinating journey through Japan's rich cultural history.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"When I first saw *The Japanese Mind*, I assumed it would be similar to Takeo Doi's *The Anatomy of Dependence*. They're actually quite different. Doi's book focuses on the Japanese concept of emotional dependence, but *The Japanese Mind* gives an on-the-ground view of a wide range of topics in a way that would be more useful to newcomers who are getting established. Doi's book should be on the reading list too, but a little later. All of the essays in *The Japanese Mind* are

excellent. The authors do a great job of representing their country and what they want for it domestically and globally. Students of Japanese studies, as well as casual readers, will learn a lot."

â " Japan Reference

Roger Davies holds a Ph.D. from the University of Wales, Bangor, and is currently Professor of Applied Linguistics and Academic Director of the English Education Center at Ehime University in Matsuyama, Japan. Osamu Ikeno holds master's degrees in linguistics and ESL from Kobe University and the University of Hawaii. He is Associate Professor of English Education in the Faculty of Education at Ehime University.

Highly academic, but thoroughly engaging in discussions of history and the culture of Japan and the Japanese way of thinking.

Wonderful insights into the mind and culture of a complex society. Essays by students provide a first-hand point-of-view of their society.

A lovely book divided in chapters titled with a single word, written by multiple graduated Japanese students. It gives a great explanation about these particular Japanese concepts which makes Japanese culture unique. Chapters end with some open questions (in the form of essay questions) which can optionally be read and thought about, inviting you to make the additional connections yourself. The comparisons often made between Western cultures and Japan are very illustrative, but portrayings of Western cultures and values might be a little shallow and overgeneralized - but this is forgiven given the fact that the authors are Japanese themselves, and that the book was targeted at Western audiences in the first place, who will spot the details. Definitely recommended.

This book is exactly what it was promised to be. There are several old school Japanese executives in the company that I work for and it has really helped me better understand their approach. It was also an easy and very enjoyable read.

Nice assortment of essays, explores each concept briefly without too much depth

Well laid out and easy to read. Not a book that you might necessarily read from A to Z but one you can laser in on the area(s) you need the most help with.

The book was well written and helped me to a greater understanding of the Japanese culture.

Brilliant and insightful. Great read, heavy duty. Simply organized alphabetic by a Japanese word describing a state of mind or custom unique to Japan.

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