



# Japanese Fashion: A Cultural History

*By Toby Slade*

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Japanese Fashion examines the entire sweep of Japanese clothing history, from the sophisticated fashion systems of late-Edo period kimonos to the present day, providing possible theories of how Japan made this fashion journey and linking current theories of fashion to the Japanese example.

The book is unique in that it provides the first full history of the last 200 years of Japanese clothing. It is also the first book to include Asian fashion as part of global fashion as well as fashion theory. It adds a hitherto absent continuity to the understanding of historical and current fashion in Japan, and is pioneering in offering possible theories to account for that entire history. By providing an analysis of how that entire history changes our understanding of the way fashion works, this book will be an essential text for all students of fashion and design.

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

Slade sets himself very ambitious targets in *Japanese Fashion: A Cultural History*, an analytical survey of a whole clothing culture, which he successfully meets. Dr. Slade is an imaginative historian who has the ability to synthesize a wide range of sources, ranging from the official record to the ephemeral and the vernacular. Peter McNeil, *Fashion Theory*: Volume 14, Issue 4 This book is much more than just about fashion - it includes discussions of comparatives, political thought, mass-consumerism, the cloth industry and industrialization, roles of department stores, fashion magazines, wood-block prints, -art, education, schooling, sport, importance of The Rokumeikan (new large westernized building for the elite), and what Slade calls samuraization of all classes. Long, dense read, but really intriguing. Ann Wright

### **About the Author**

Toby Slade has a Ph.D. in Art History and Theory from Sydney University, where his main area of research was Japanese fashion. He has taught fashion history at the University of Technology Sydney and is currently lecturing in fashion theory at Keio University in Tokyo.

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