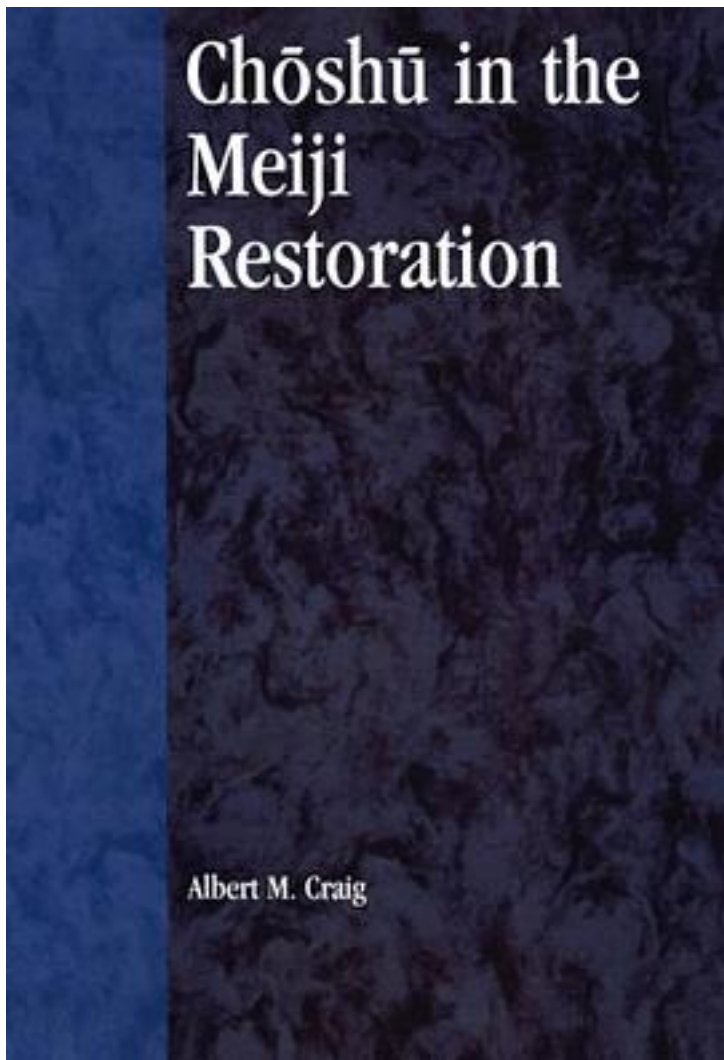


Choshu in the Meiji Restoration



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When Commodore Perry arrived in Japan to open the country to Western trade in 1853, he found a medieval amalgam of sword-bearing samurai, castle towns, Confucian academies, peasant villages, rice paddies, upstart merchants, bath houses, and Kabuki. Fifteen years later, Japan was on its way to becoming the only non-Western nation in the nineteenth century with a modern centralized bureaucratic state and industrial economy. This book is a study of the Meiji Restoration that changed the face of Japan. Prominent historian Albert M. Craig tells its story through that of the domain of Choshu-whose role in the formation of modern Japan was not unlike that of Prussia in Germany-during the fifteen crucial years between 1853 and 1868. Whereas previous studies have stressed the role of discontented lower samurai and frustrated rich merchants and peasants in this transition, claiming that they provided the motive power behind the political movements of the Restoration period, this work sharply challenges these earlier interpretations. Craig instead emphasizes the vitality of traditional values in Japan's early reaction to the West and foregrounds the critical contribution of the old society to the formation of the new Meiji state. Choshu in the Meiji Restoration is a seminal work for scholars and students of Japanese history.

作者介绍:

Albert M. Craig is Yenching Research Professor of History at Harvard University. He is the author, with others, of *The Heritage of World Civilization* (1999), *Personality in Japanese History* (1995), and *East Asia: Tradition and Transformation* (1989).

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标签

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评论

Han nationalism

历史社会学里案例研究的经典著作。在那一个世代里Craig的才华之高，想必很多人都有所耳闻。成书这样之早，能够达到的深度这个之高，的确是相对非常不容易的。在此书中，除去历史学的一些贡献之外，有两点是社会科学的学生也值得评价的地方，第一是对于国家形成的历史社会学的“暗然”地比较，即德川幕府与同时代欧洲绝对主义国家形成的差异。第二则是，Han-Nationalism对于近代主权国家的塑造作用，长州藩取代了德川幕府，并没有形成新的幕府而是建造了一个近代主权国家，的确是国际规范？的在全球体系的扩散的结果。这些近代日本的缔造者，从西洋国家那里看到了近代国家的样子，然后，迅速理解了主权国家的性质，通过短暂的内战，把日本变成了明治国家的样子。这种重视国际要因的研究，也是值得特别指出的。

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