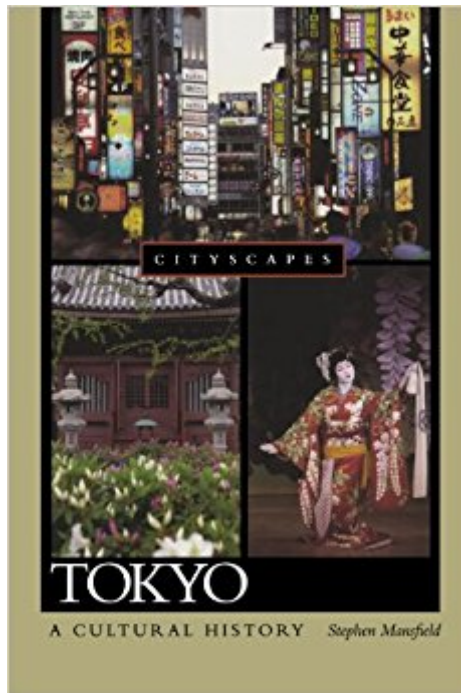


The book was found

# Tokyo A Cultural History (Cityscapes)



## Synopsis

Tokyo seems like an ultra modern--even postmodern--city, with its inventive skyscrapers and digitized surfaces. But it is also a city where past, present, and future coexist--where backstreets both inspire science fiction and host wooden temples, fox shrines, and Buddhist statues that evoke past ages. In this addition to Oxford's Cityscapes series, Stephen Mansfield explores a city rich in diversity, tracing its evolution from the founding of its massive stone citadel, when it was known as Edo, through the rise of a merchant class who transformed the town into a center for art, to the emergence of modern Tokyo. Mansfield traces a city of print masters, Kabuki theater, novelists and great architecture, which has overcome many disasters, from the 1923 earthquake through the fire-bombings of World War II to the 1995 subway gas attacks.

## Book Information

Series: Cityscapes

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (June 1, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0195386337

ISBN-13: 978-0195386332

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.9 x 5.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #350,487 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #149 in [Books > Travel > Asia > Japan > General](#) #541 in [Books > History > Asia > Japan](#) #600 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Asia](#)

## Customer Reviews

Stephen Mansfield is a resident of Tokyo and the author of Tokyo: Eyewitness Travel Guide.

Tokyo: A Cultural History (2009) by Stephen Mansfield is a fascinating look at one of the most interesting cities in the world. Mansfield uses a variety of sources to chart the history of the world's biggest city. These sources range from obscure foreign travelers like Isabella Bird to more established critics and historians like Ian Buruma, Donald Richie, Edward Seidensticker to famous Japanese literary figures like Junichiro Tanizaki, Kafu Nagai, Yasunari Kawabata, Yukio Mishima and famous foreign literary figures who have written about, traveled through or lived in the great city

like Angela Carter, David Mitchell, William Gibson and more. The topics range from woodblock art to tattoos, architecture, geisha, city parks, poetry, and natural disasters. It seems much of the city's history was concentrated in shitamachi, the low city, where the pleasure quarters of Yoshiwara resided for so many years before being shut down in the 60s for the Olympics to the former entertainment district of Asakusa. I plan to read a Nagai book based on the descriptions of his writings in this volume. There was a section in Chapter Six about Kiyosumi-teien that inspired a visit there. And I was inspired by Chapter Seven's "Upheaval and Millenarian Beliefs" to search out Shohei Imamura's film version of the events of the Ejanaike movement where delirious mobs paraded Shinto images through the streets shouting quasi-religious slogans indulging in bouts of eating and drunkenness, wearing costumes, cross-dressing and openly having sex in alleyways. The discussion of the city carries on up to present day Tokyo. It has inspired me to search out other books on the subject like Donald Riche's Tokyo Megacity and Edward Seidensticker's two books Low City, High City and Tokyo Rising.

Outstanding in the tradition of Seidensticker.

This is an extremely compact history that includes everything from geology, earthquakes & fire, to printmaking, poetry & geopolitics--and everything in between. Beautifully written, fast-paced and deep. this book is a joy to read (& makes a great gift).

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Tokyo Travel Guide - Best of Tokyo - Your #1 Itinerary Planner for What to See, Do, and Eat in Tokyo, Japan (Tokyo Travel Guide, Tokyo Travel, Tokyo Japan) (Wanderlust Pocket Guides - Japan) Tokyo A Cultural History (Cityscapes) Hong Kong: A Cultural History (Cityscapes) Stockholm: A Cultural History (Cityscapes) Kyoto: A Cultural History (Cityscapes) Cairo: A Cultural History (Cityscapes) Vienna: A Cultural History (Cityscapes) Phnom Penh: A Cultural History (Cityscapes) Japanese Land: Tokyo and Mt Fuji: Discover the Japan History and The main cities Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka (Japan Guides) (Volume 1) Tokyo Art Directors Club Annual 2004 (Adc Tokyo Art Director's Club Annual) Hello Tokyo: 30+ Handmade Projects and Fun Ideas for a Cute, Tokyo-Inspired Lifestyle Lost in Tokyo: A Romantic Travel Story with Mystery and Suspense (set in Tokyo, Kyoto, Nara, Kamakura, and Nikko, Japan) Tokyo: Cities, Sights & Other Places You Need To Visit (Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka, Nagoya, Kyoto, Kawasaki, Saitama Book 2) Accessible Japan's Tokyo: All you need to know about traveling to Tokyo with a disability Japan Travel Guide - Best of Tokyo and Kyoto: Your #1 Itinerary Planner for What to See, Do, and Eat in Tokyo and Kyoto,

Japan Best of Tokyo and Kyoto: Your #1 Itinerary Planner for What to See, Do, and Eat in Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan Tokyo in 3 Days - A 72 Hours Perfect Plan with the Best Things to Do in Tokyo, Japan (Travel Guide 2016): Includes: Detailed Itinerary, Google Maps, Food Guide, + 20 Local Secrets to Save Time & \$ Travelers Series Guide to Tokyo Disneyland & Tokyo DisneySea Streetwise Tokyo Map - Laminated City Center Street Map of Tokyo, Japan Tokyo: The Ultimate Tokyo Travel Guide By A Traveler For A Traveler: The Best Travel Tips; Where To Go, What To See And Much More

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)