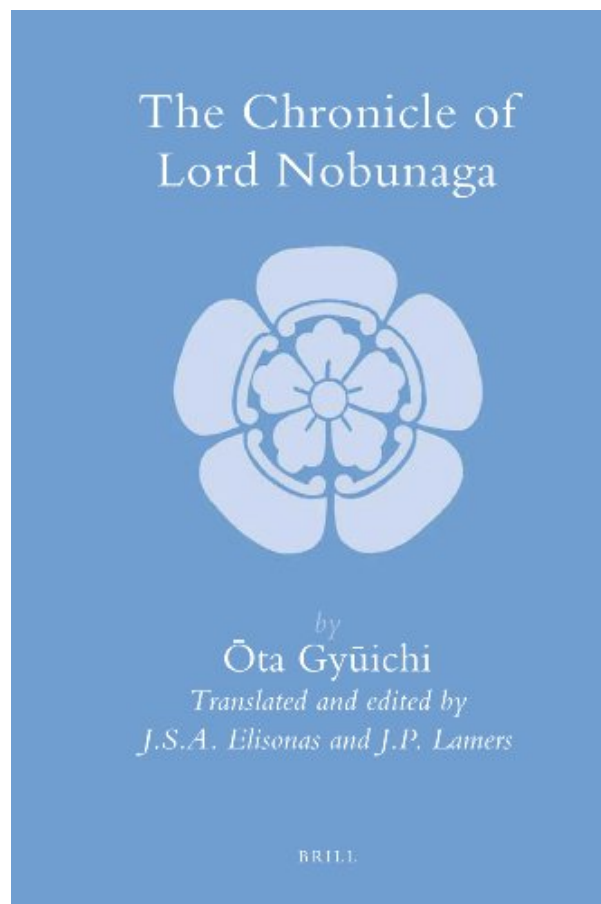


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The Chronicle of Lord Nobunaga



by
Ōta Gyūichi
Translated and edited by
J.S.A. Elisonas and J.P. Lamers

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Review

Experts on early modern Japanese history will welcome this book, while more casual readers may find it a bit dense for their passing entertainment. Nobunaga is very probably the least well known of the three giant figures (with Hideyoshi and Tokugawa) of later-16th-century Japan who set in motion the events that produced a unified country under the Tokugawa family's leadership after 1600. Helpful scholarly aids and refinements fill the volume. The translation is clear, the footnotes are substantive, and the supporting text analyses are often fascinating. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Graduate students and scholars. -- R. B. Lyman Jr., emeritus, Simmons College, "Choice" January 2012

About the Author

Jurgis Saulius Algirdas Elisonas, Ph.D. (1969) in History and Far Eastern Languages, Harvard University, is Professor Emeritus of East Asian Languages and Cultures and of History at Indiana University. He has published extensively on Japanese political, cultural, and international history of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Jeroen Pieter Lamers, Ph.D. (1998) in Literature, Leiden University, is Chief of Staff at the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture, and Innovation. His publications include *Japonius Tyrannus: The Japanese Warlord Oda Nobunaga Reconsidered* (Hotei, 2000) and other works on early modern Japanese history and culture.

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ELISONAS J.P. LAMERS PDF**

Shinch-K ki, the work translated here into English under the title *The Chronicle of Lord Nobunaga*, is the most important source on the career of one of the best known figures in all of Japanese history Oda Nobunaga (1534-1582), the first of the Three Heroes who unified Japan after a century of fragmentation and internecine bloodshed. The other two of the triad, Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1537-1598) and Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543-1616), also make frequent appearances in this chronicle, playing prominent although clearly subordinate roles. So the chronicle also is an important source on their early careers, as it is on a constellation of other actors in Japan's sixteenth-century drama. The chronicle's author, ta Gyichi, was Nobunaga's former retainer and an eyewitness of some of the events he describes. He completed his work about the year 1610.

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- Dimensions: 9.40" h x 1.20" w x 6.40" l, 2.24 pounds
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Review

Experts on early modern Japanese history will welcome this book, while more casual readers may find it a bit dense for their passing entertainment. Nobunaga is very probably the least well known of the three giant figures (with Hideyoshi and Tokugawa) of later-16th-century Japan who set in motion the events that produced a unified country under the Tokugawa family's leadership after 1600. Helpful scholarly aids and refinements fill the volume. The translation is clear, the footnotes are substantive, and the supporting text analyses are often fascinating. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Graduate students and scholars. -- R. B. Lyman Jr., emeritus, Simmons College, "Choice" January 2012

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A needed addition to medieval Japanese history

By Bdgold

This work marks a significant contribution to the field of Japanese history. Hitherto there have been good translations of war tales and memoirs covering most of the samurai era. These ranged from The Tale of Heike in the early medieval to Remembering Aizu in the early modern. Sadly the Warring States period (sixteenth century Japan) represented one major gap. There are of course numerous histories from this era (produced primarily in the early Edo period). However, these works have remained inaccessible to English speaking audiences. While The Chronicle of Lord Nobunaga is not the literary tour de force of Heike monogatari, this translation is fluid, accessible, and authentic in its overall tone. The subject of the work, Oda Nobunaga, is also of course one of the most important figures of the sixteenth century. This book represents the most detailed treatment of Nobunaga in English. This is probably one of the most important translations of the past ten years for the premodern field.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

The overall story, insight, and excitement make up for the boring parts. Sections can be extremely sad/morose. Violent.

By bloopetybloop

"This is a world where the young die first, leaving their elders behind, where the morning glory does not last until nightfall. Ours is an existence ephemeral as a dayfly's."

Yoshiaki Gy?ichi's Shinch? k?ki, translated by JSA Elisonas and JP Lamers as The Chronicle of Lord Nobunaga, offers a deep and unique insight into life in 16th century Japan, particularly life as a member of the nobility. At times the writing itself is poetic, fast-paced, and full of imagery while at others it's monotonous, gruelingly detailed, and morbid. Throughout the work, it's obvious that Gy?ichi poured his heart and soul into writing a factual chronicle as best he could, not an embellished fairytale. While there is an apparent bias in his writing - he praises his former feudal Lord at every opportunity - he doesn't fail to recount instances of extreme brutality and questionable actions taken by Nobunaga. Still, he almost entirely refrains from adding his own analyses, assumptions, and opinions. What remains are mostly facts.

The translation is beautiful. The footnotes are astoundingly detailed and well-researched. Elisonas and Lamers have included an informative preface, timeline of events, and introduction as well as fifteen maps and an index. It's hard to think of anything else they could have done to make this a more complete experience.

The content of this chronicle is not for the faint-hearted. The savagery and relentless disregard for human life documented herein is overwhelming. While there are meticulously detailed accounts of sumo matches, parades, falconry, festive gatherings, gift-giving, construction projects, and tea ceremonies along with anecdotes of generosity, kindness, and hospitality, the majority of this work deals with Nobunaga's scorched-earth military conquests and the unspeakable atrocities that surrounded his life.

That being said, there's nothing else out there in the non-fiction realm that's quite like The Chronicle of Lord Nobunaga and I highly recommend it to anyone who's willing to trudge through a thick history book in order to transport themselves several hundred years back in time to feudal Japan.

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Super!

By Momographica

This book is a jewel! I am currently researching about Oda Nobunaga and this book is the best source of information about him that I ever found around! The delivery has been efficient and the book arrived in very good conditions. Thank you!

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