

"G. Clinton Godart has written one of the best books in modern Japanese intellectual history in recent years. Nuanced in analysis, deftly written, and with a compelling reinterpretation of the role of religion in modern Japan, it challenges many aspects of the secularization thesis of modernization. Godart demonstrates that religion and science are more than compatible: They are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the truth. A valuable study that will shatter many a shibboleth in the Japan studies field. Highly recommended!"

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"In this major intellectual endeavor, G. Clinton Godart dissects and analyzes the complex engagements of Japanese scholars (scientists, religious thinkers, philosophers, and political activists of the left and right) with Darwinism from the early Meiji period to the 1960s. He amply shows that it was a story of creative appropriation and elaboration rather than passive reception. Godart's work will surely become the leading authority on evolutionary theory in Japan and a major field-defining contribution for a better and more sophisticated understanding of Japanese modern thought."

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"From the beginning, Darwinian theory met with resistance from religious leaders in Britain, Europe, and America. Many suppose this would not be the case in Japan, given Christianity's limited presence and Japan's eagerness to adopt ideas from the West. Clinton Godart, in this brilliant volume, shows in vivid detail why these and other assumptions on the reception of evolutionary theory in Japan are largely unsupported. His eye-opening work reveals a new facet in the cultural history of science."

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JACKET ILLUSTRATION

Sketch by biologist Ishikawa Chiyomatsu showing evolution from nondistinctive natural origins to "humans" (*ningen*) standing atop Mount Fuji (Tokyo: Banrikaku shobō, 1928).

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