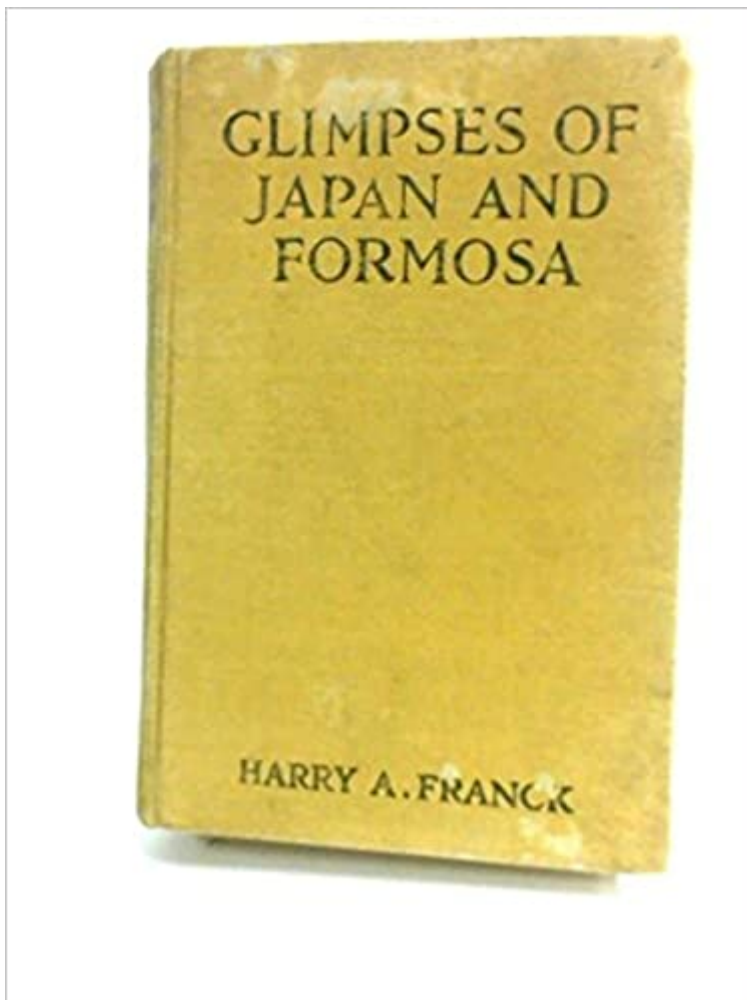


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Glimpses Of Japan And Formosa



Synopsis

Japan

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Japan

A great introduction to Formosa (Taiwan). I always like to read the old books written about a country before I travel to the country. I have not visited Japan, but I did visit Formosa last month. I have very much enjoyed all of the Harry A. Franck books that I own (maybe 10 different countries). The copy of this book that I have was first written in 1924, with a date of 1939 on the front page. The book tells of the colonization of the Japanese of Formosa in 1895 and the changes that the Japanese have made to the people of Formosa. When Frank and his family was there (1924 or 1926 from what I can gather) they were very much afraid to go into certain areas because of the head-hunters!! The Japanese had literally fenced the head-hunting tribes off behind a barbed-wire fence (electrified in some areas!!) to keep the head-hunting tribes confined. When there were raids of retribution by the head-hunters into the areas outside the fence, Franck says it was mostly due to 'keeping your hands off the women'. Franck is a wonderful wonderful writer. He has an outstanding vocabulary and uses all types of figures of speech. He describes the infrastructure improvements that the Japanese have made in the cities and the country. The railroad that was built all along the eastern side of the island is an astounding feat to have built. The Japanese ran Formosa very much like a military occupation. It was interesting to read that the taxes imposed on the Formosan population by the Japanese were used mainly, "to gather quickly the large sums demanded by their (the Japanese) gluttonous army and navy, under the perhaps mistaken impression that only their armed strength

will save them from domination or complete absorption by Western nations." Franck talks about the clothes that were worn, the temples and monuments, the food, the transportation, the vegetation, the geography, the vast difference between the tourist (very few) and the general population. He is my favorite travel writer.

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