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Men in Metal

A Topography of Public Bronze Statuary in Modern Japan

Author: Sven Saaler

In his pioneering study, *Men in Metal*, Sven Saaler examines Japanese public statuary as a central site of historical memory from its beginnings in the Meiji period through the twenty-first century. Saaler shows how the elites of the modern Japanese nation-state went about constructing an iconography of national heroes to serve their agenda of instilling national (and nationalist) thinking into the masses. Based on a wide range of hitherto untapped primary sources, Saaler combines data-driven quantitative analysis and in-depth case studies to identify the categories and historical figures that dominated public space. *Men in Metal* also explores the agents behind this visualized form of the politics of memory and introduces historiographical controversies surrounding statue-building in modern Japan.

Readership

All interested in the history of modern Japan, the politics of memory surrounding the modern nation-state, nationalism, and public statuary as a significant genre of "political art."

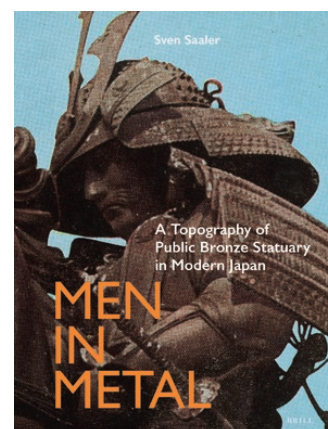
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