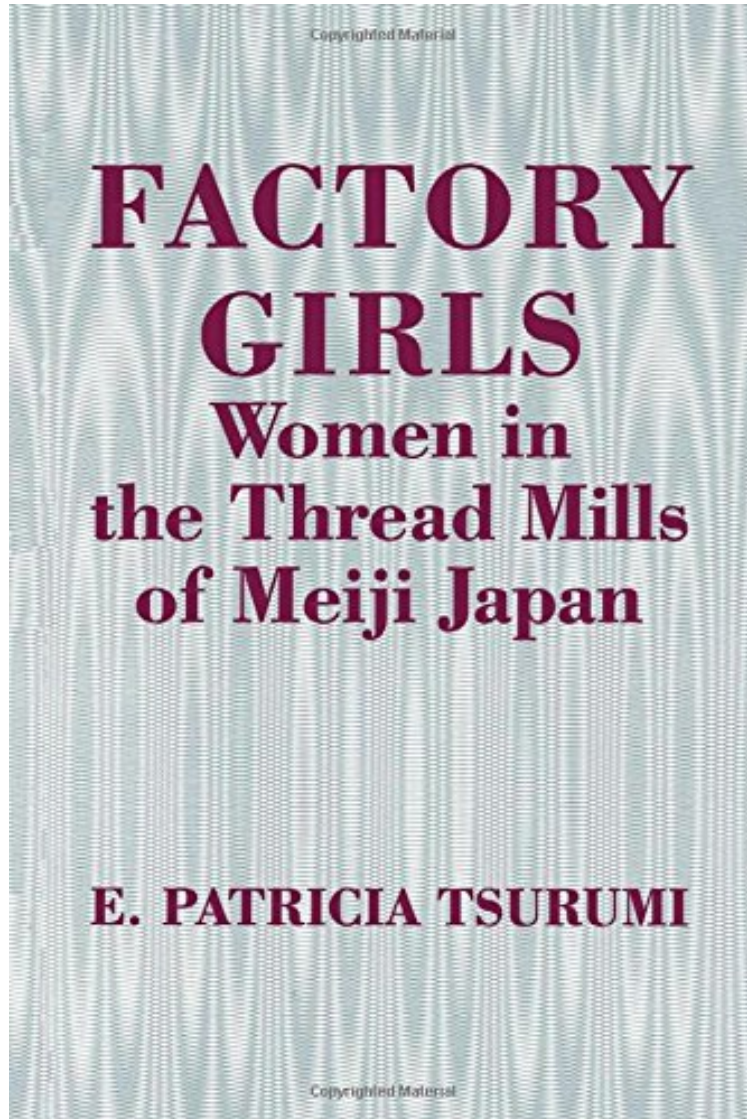


(Ebook pdf) Factory Girls: Women in the Thread Mills of Meiji Japan

Factory Girls: Women in the Thread Mills of Meiji Japan

E. Patricia Tsurumi

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E. Patricia Tsurumi : Factory Girls: Women in the Thread Mills of Meiji Japan before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Factory Girls: Women in the Thread Mills of Meiji Japan:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By William Roach Good 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Outstanding Historical Book By Susan Marie Molloy Women and girls in Japan's Meiji Era were an essential human resource that performed an intensely significant role in Japan's progress from a somewhat feudal society to a modern industrial nation. The author provides a clear, logical, and emotional perspective of the Meiji

thread factory women from 1870 to 1912. In ten neat, compartmentalized chapters interspersed with tables of statistics, samples of contracts, and with original words of the women, Tsurumi provides an orderly accounting of the various stages in which the women moved from the traditional women's work of the pre-Meiji Era, to their new positions in the Meiji silk-reeling and cotton-spinning mills, and to their brutal exploitation in those modern industries. She carefully depicts how these *kojo* actually were performing a dual role by supporting their tenant-farming families and supporting their government in the move towards modern nation-building and industrialization. Tsurumi finalized her account in a concluding chapter with a thoughtful comparison between women in the thread mills and women in weaving and prostitution.

Investigating the enormous contribution made by female textile workers to early industrialization in Meiji Japan, Patricia Tsurumi vividly documents not only their hardships but also their triumphs. While their skills and long hours created profits for factory owners that in turn benefited the state, the labor of these women and girls enabled their tenant farming families to continue paying high rents in the countryside. Tsurumi shows that through their experiences as Japan's first modern factory workers, these "factory girls" developed an identity that played a crucial role in the history of the Japanese working class. Much of this story is based on records the factory girls themselves left behind, including their songs. "It is a delight to receive a meticulous and comprehensive volume on the plight of women who pioneered [assembly plant] employment in Asia a century ago...."--L. L. Cornell, *The Journal of Asian Studies*
"Tsurumi writes of these rural women with compassion and treats them as sentient, valuable individuals.... [Many] readers will find these pages informative and thought provoking."--Sally Ann Hastings, *Monumenta Niponica*

Winner of the 1991 Canada-Japan Book Award, Canadian Historical Association
From the Back Cover
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