



# Voices of Early Modern Japan: Contemporary Accounts of Daily Life during the Age of the Shoguns (Voices of an Era)

*By Constantine Nomikos Vaporis*

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- 60 original documents, divided into 42 thematic sections
- A chronology of Japanese history from roughly a half century before the beginning of the Tokugawa period until the fall of the Tokugawa shogunate in 1868, with selected events in world history included

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#### Review

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"Filled with unusual and heretofore little known documents that bring us close to the lived experience of 17th through early 19th centuries Japan, this volume deserves to be widely used in the classroom to provide students with glimpses of another world." - Anne Walthall, Professor of History, University of California, Irvine

"High school and postsecondary teachers of Japan and Asia will find this book valuable for their teaching. The introductory essay in and of itself is an excellent explanation of the complexities and developments of the 268-year period of early modern Japanese history. Of course, the most important component of the book is the primary documents, and because of the intelligent selection of the 60 documents, Vaporis has made the Tokugawa period more accessible for students." - **Education About Asia**

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"Constantine Nomikos Vaporis' *Voices of the Shogun's Japan: Contemporary Accounts of Tokugawa Daily Life* is far more than another volume in a series of reference works. The author is one of the top five historians of the Tokugawa period writing in the Western world, whose special expertise in social history is evident. But, the work is extremely well-balanced; it equally covers the period's political, economic, cultural, intellectual, and diplomatic dimensions as well. Moreover, it masterfully conveys how historians use primary documents and why this skill is important for uncovering the texture of life in a society remote from us in time and space. Vaporis does all of this in accessibly clear, plain language. As such, his book belongs not only on the reference shelves of public libraries, but also should be required reading in university-level

introductory surveys of early-modern Japanese history. Even seasoned specialists in the field will find gems of new information here and there within the book's covers." (Bob Tadashi Wakabayashi, Professor Emeritus, York University)

About the Author

**Constantine Nomikos Vaporis**, PhD, is professor of history and founding director of the Asian Studies program at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

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