Collection of Documents of World History

12 volumes
Edited by the Historical Science Society of Japan
Published by Iwanami Shoten, 2005 —

The Historical Science Society of Japan has edited a collection of documents of world history, which is a long awaited enterprise for the students of history and is being published by Iwanami Shoten in 12 volumes.

Below are the main titles of documents included in each volume. Each document, though abbreviated, is taken from reliable source and has commentary by a specialist of the topic.

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A Message from the Editors

With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 a "sea change" took place. In consequence, most people, including historians, had to revise the view of the world they had hitherto held, whatever position they had taken toward socialism, which was one of the elements greatly affecting the 20th century. On top of that our hope that the new century would be better than the 20th, a century of wars, was frustrated at the very start of the 21st, and is being so until today. In order to spin hopes for the future in this grim situation, it will do much to reinterpret history, above all world history, on the basis of sure sources.

The task of building up an image of world history was tackled in Japan right after World War II, especially by the teachers at schools. Historians also expanded their frontiers toward various areas of the world, overcoming the traditional framework centered on China and Europe. There were changes also in viewpoints in the sense that many new aspects such as ordinary life and groups outside of a nation state became the topics.

The editors of this series, "Sources of World History", tried together with more than 500 contributors to make the most recent achievements of Japanese historical community reflected. It took more than 10 years to get it into shape. Sources of various nature that shed light to different ages and societies were chosen, and translated into Japanese mostly from the original. We flatter ourselves, this series is a great adventure that no other historical community would dare to. Let us hope that this series will be put into practical use both in research and education.

Masao Nishikawa

Volume 1 The Ancient Orient and the Mediterranean World

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Code of Ur-Nammu

Assyrian king's campaigns into Syria-Palestine

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Adjudication of water rights in Hispanic cities

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The conquest of Babylon by Alexander the Great

The diplomacy of Cleopatra

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The assassination of Nizam al-Mulk

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The Battle of Kosovo

Technique of sailing etc.

Chapter 3: African World

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Kanem Empire on Lake Chad

A Letter from Congolese King of Afonso to the King of Portugal etc.

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Muslim high officials in the dynasty of Ayutthaya

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Five Overlords of the Chunqiu era

Burning books on the Chinese classics and burying Confucian scholars alive

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Policies of Guang Wu Di

Dian Kingdom in Yunnan and the gold seal

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Chapter 4: Societies and Cultures in Modern Europe

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