

Contents

EDITORIAL NOTES	13
PREFACE	15
Chapter 1	
CHILDHOOD AND EARLY YOUTH 1852–1867	31
Japan in the second half of the 19 th century	31
The Kyoto Imperial Palace	35
Parents	44
Birth	49
Daily life and education	54
– at Nakayama’s house	54
– at the Imperial Palace	58
„Expel the barbarians! Restore the imperial rule!”	61
Emperor Kōmei’s death: taking over the regalia	71
Chapter 2	
NEW TIMES. FIRST YEARS OF RULE 1867–1873	79
„Overthrow the shogunate! Restore the imperial rule!”	79
Centralization of power. Abolition of feudalism 1868–1871	95
– Coming of age ceremony: Sovereign Mutsuhito	95
– first reforms	100
„Rich country, strong army” 1868–1873	111
Enthronement	117
New image of the sovereign. Duties and education	121
– Mutsuhito in Kyoto	121
journey to Osaka	122
new duties	126
journey to the East	127
– Tokyo – the new capital	134
the imperial palace	138

- Mutsuhito in Tokyo 153
 - new duties 153
 - new clothes, vehicles, food 165
 - education continued 170
 - the crucial year 1873 171

Chapter 3

JAPAN IN THE YEARS 1873–1912 175

- Successive reforms 175
- Protests of the dissatisfied 177
- Constitutional monarchy and the parliament 184
- Japanization of westernization? 191
- Stabilization of rule? 196
- Japan: a power in East Asia? 201

Chapter 4

MATURITY 1873–1912 217

- Education continued 218
- Great journeys across the country 225
 - first trip: western and southern Japan, Chūgoku
and Saikoku region (1872) 227
 - second trip: north-eastern Japan, Tōhoku and
Hokkaido region (1876) 234
 - third trip: central and northern Japan, Hokuriku
and Tōkaidō region (1878) 242
 - fourth trip: central Japan, Chūōdō region (1880) 245
 - fifth trip: north-eastern Japan, Tōhoku and Hokkaido region (1881) ... 247
 - sixth trip: western Japan, San'yōdō region (1885) 251
- A conscientious ruler, constitutional monarch 252
 - duties and events 252
 - guests from abroad 280
- The supreme commander and his soldiers 300
 - reforms 300
 - war in the south-west 303
 - *Imperial Precepts to Soldiers and Sailors* 306
 - Manoeuvres, exercises, other duties 310
 - war with China 313
 - manoeuvres and exercises 321
 - war with Russia 324
 - the last years 332

Chapter 5	
MUTSUHITO'S WOMEN AND CHILDREN	335
Women at the imperial court – the history	335
– imperial consorts	335
– ladies-in-waiting	340
Mutsuhito's women and children	342
– empress Haruko	342
– ladies-in-waiting	360
Yanagiwara Naruko	366
– descendants	368
Chapter 6	
END OF AN ERA – FAREWELL TO EMPEROR MUTSUHITO	381
Diseases and end of life	381
Mourning and funeral	386
Reaction in the country and worldwide	394
CONCLUSION	409
A conservative modern ruler?	409
The memory of Emperor Meiji	424
BIBLIOGRAPHY	445
APPENDICES	459
1. <i>The Constitution of the Empire of Japan</i> (1889)	459
2. <i>The Imperial Household Law</i> (1889)	465
3. <i>Imperial Rescript on Education</i> (1890)	471
CALENDAR	473
SUMMARY	489
INDEX OF NAMES	491
ILLUSTRATION SOURCES	500