

**JAPAN'S ACCESSION  
TO THE COMMUNITY  
OF NATIONS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649617562

Japan's Accession to the Community of Nations by Alexander von Siebold

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Cover @ 2017

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**ALEXANDER VON SIEBOLD**

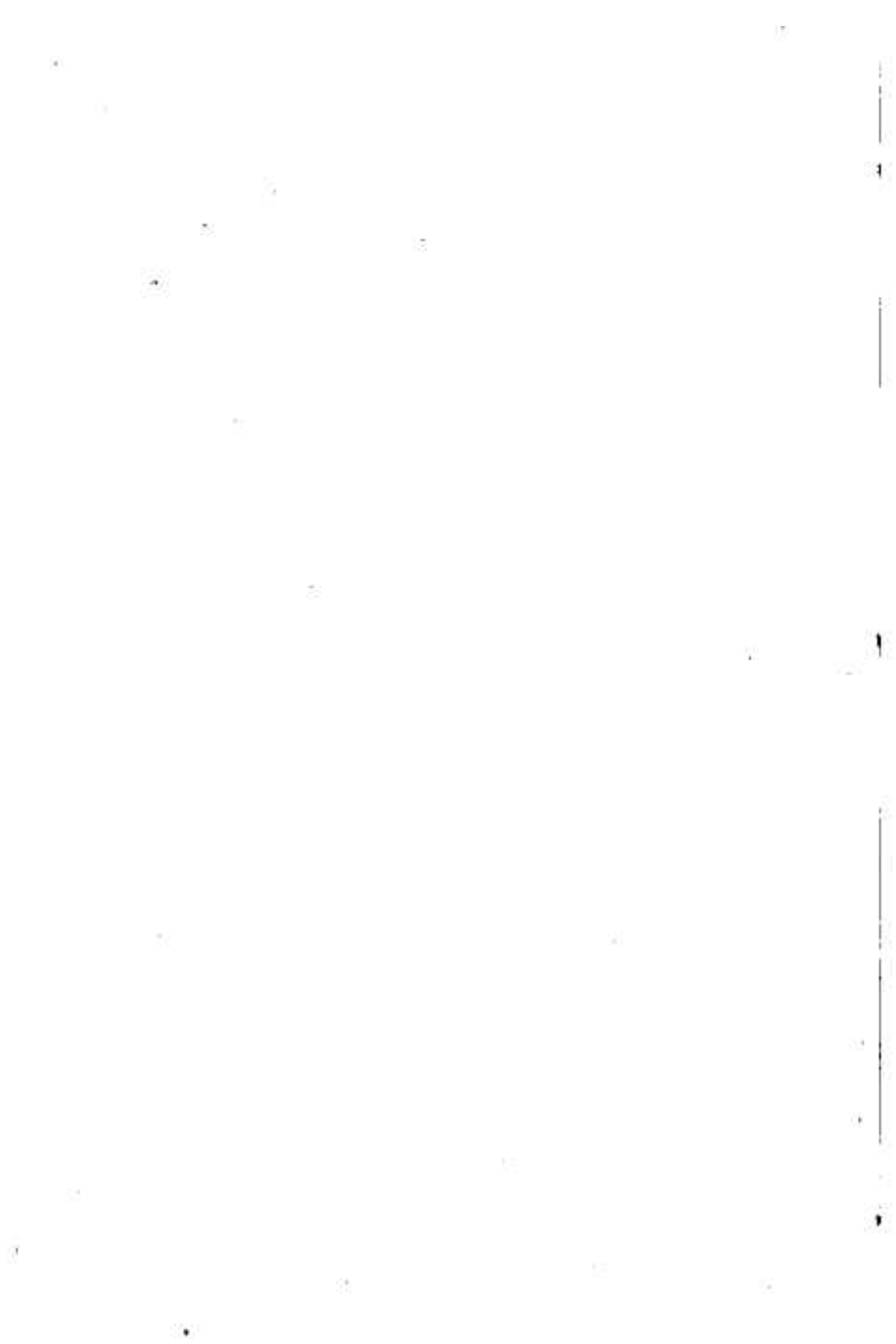
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BY  
BARON ALEXANDER VON SIEBOLD

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN WITH AN  
INTRODUCTION BY

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"ALEXANDER III. OF RUSSIA," "THE GERMAN EMPEROR,  
WILLIAM II.," "KING EDWARD VII.," ETC. ETC.



LONDON  
KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRÜBNER & CO. LTD  
PATERNOSTER HOUSE, CHARING CROSS ROAD  
1901

11-11-17  
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Printed by BALLANTYNE, HANSON & Co.  
At the Ballantyne Press



## AUTHOR'S PREFACE

THE substance of this little work on the entry of Japan into the comity of European nations has already appeared in the form of a series of articles in the magazine *Ost-Asien*; and the author thought it right to revise and republish them as a whole, in view of the fact that the opening up of the Japanese Empire had, in the meantime, attracted universal attention to his subject.

The following narrative is based on personal observations and recollections extending over six different periods of residence in Japan, between the years 1859 and 1887, but not on official Japanese sources of information, which, unfortunately, have not yet been rendered accessible. The work of a prominent German labourer in the same field, *Japan's Volkswirtschaft und Staatshaushalt* (The Political

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Economy and Finances of Japan), by Karl Rathgen, has served him as guide and furnished him with some of his statistical matter, while recent English Blue-books provided valuable material for his account of the latest diplomatic negotiations.

Defective and unsatisfying as such an attempt to sketch the history of reform in Japan must necessarily be, the writer nevertheless thought it incumbent on him not to shirk the task, seeing that, having lived so long in the Far East as an eye-witness of the events recorded, and as an occasional assistant of their authors, he felt particularly called upon to contribute to an appreciation of the magnificent achievements of the statesmen and diplomatists of the *Meiji* Era who have laid the foundation-stone of Japan's enlightenment and international equality.

CHÂTEAU LEIPHEIM

(On the Danube)

*December 1899.*

## TRANSLATOR'S INTRODUCTION

THE recent course of events in the Far East has once more attracted the attention of the West to that remarkable Power which, as it brought China to her knees in 1894, has again been foremost in the ranks of the nations that allied themselves for the purpose of calling the Celestial Empire to account for the outrages perpetrated by its Government and people on what may be called the rights of civilisation. In the advance on Peking to rescue the Legations of the Powers from a fate worse than that of another Cawnpore, the troops of Japan formed the strongest and most efficient contingent of the Allied Army; and, indeed, it may be said that, but for the general assistance rendered by the Imperial Government at Tokio throughout the whole crisis, the