JAPAN SERIES · MAISON BEAULIEU

EXTRAIT OFFERT · PREMIÈRES PAGES

Ghosts of Showa

Decoding the Title

L'édition complète est disponible sur
https://adrienbeaulieu.com/books/japan-ghosts-of-showa

Decoding the Title

Dear Reader,

Before we embark on this journey through the labyrinth of modern Japan, let's take a moment to unpack the title of this book: "昭和の亡霊：令和日本を蝕む25の謎" (Ghosts of Showa: 25 Enigmas Eating Away at Reiwa Japan).

This isn't just a catchy phrase; it's a carefully crafted encapsulation of the complex issues we're about to explore.

"昭和の亡霊" (Ghosts of Showa) beckons us to confront the lingering spirits of Japan's past. The Showa era (1926-1989) saw Japan rise from the ashes of war to become an economic superpower. But with this miracle came the birth of many practices and mindsets that, like restless ghosts, refuse to fade away. These are the outdated work ethics, the rigid social hierarchies, the resistance to globalization – spectres that continue to haunt the nation.

"令和日本を蝕む" (Eating Away at Reiwa Japan) draws a stark contrast between these persistent phantoms and the promise of a new era. Reiwa, Japan's current imperial era, began in 2019 with hopes for "beautiful harmony." Yet, as our title suggests, this harmony is being eroded. The choice of the verb "蝕む" (mushibamu) is deliberate – it doesn't just mean "to eat away," but implies a gradual, insidious process of decay. It's the rot that sets into timbers, the rust that weakens steel. This is how the ghosts of Showa corrupt the foundations of modern Japan.

“25の謎" (25 Enigmas) isn't just a nod to the number of chapters in this book. In Japanese, "謎" (nazo) means more than just "problem" – it implies a puzzle, a riddle that needs solving. These aren't simple issues with easy fixes. They're complex, often paradoxical challenges that require us to unravel layers of culture, history, and ingrained behaviors.

Moreover, in Japanese numerology, 2 (ni) and 7 (shichi) can be read as "nishi" (西), meaning "west." This subtly hints at the perspective we're taking – examining Japan through a global, often Western, lens.

The structure of the title itself is a play on the Japanese love for ghost stories and mystery-solving. It promises an exploration that's part cultural exorcism, part detective work. We're not just identifying problems; we're unmasking the yokai (supernatural entities) of Japan's socio-economic landscape.

As we navigate through these 25 enigmas, we'll be doing more than just pointing out flaws. We'll be attempting to understand the deep-rooted causes of Japan's current struggles, always with an eye toward solutions. We're not here to simply criticize, but to shine a light on the shadows where Japan's potential for renewal lurks.

So, dear reader, prepare yourself. We're about to embark on a journey through time and culture, where the past and present collide, and where the future of one of the world's most fascinating nations hangs in the balance. It's time to exorcise some ghosts and solve some riddles.

Welcome to "昭和の亡霊：令和日本を蝕む25の謎". Let the adventure begin.

Lire la suite dans l'édition complète

Retrouvez « Ghosts of Showa » sur **https://adrienbeaulieu.com/books/japan-ghosts-of-showa**.