



Nihongi: Chronicles of Japan from the Earliest of Times to A.D. 697 (Tuttle Classics)

W. G. Aston

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Nihongi: Chronicles of Japan from the Earliest Times to A.D. 697, often called the *Nihonshoki*, is one of Japan's great classics of literature. Regarded as one of the seminal original authorities on the mythology and ancient history of Japan, it remains as fresh today as when it was written in the eighth century. It provides a vivid picture of a nation in formation.

In the *Nihongi*, we see the growth of national awareness following the assimilation of Buddhism and the general Chinese and Indian influence on Japanese culture. Before its history stretch the mysterious archaeological ages of Jomon and Yayoi. From the first chapter, "The Age of the Gods," the fantastic world of ancient Japan is laid before us. Ritual myth and superstition meet with bare feet and folk custom. Strong emotions and conflict are seen surging in Japan's antiquity. Few historical documents are as "human" as the *Nihongi*. For a thousand years, emperors, scholars, courtiers, and imperial historians have found in the *Nihongi* knowledge and guidance. It remains a key to early Japan, a gateway to the actual old Japan.

The translator of the *Nihongi*, William George Aston, pioneered the translation of Japanese into English.

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