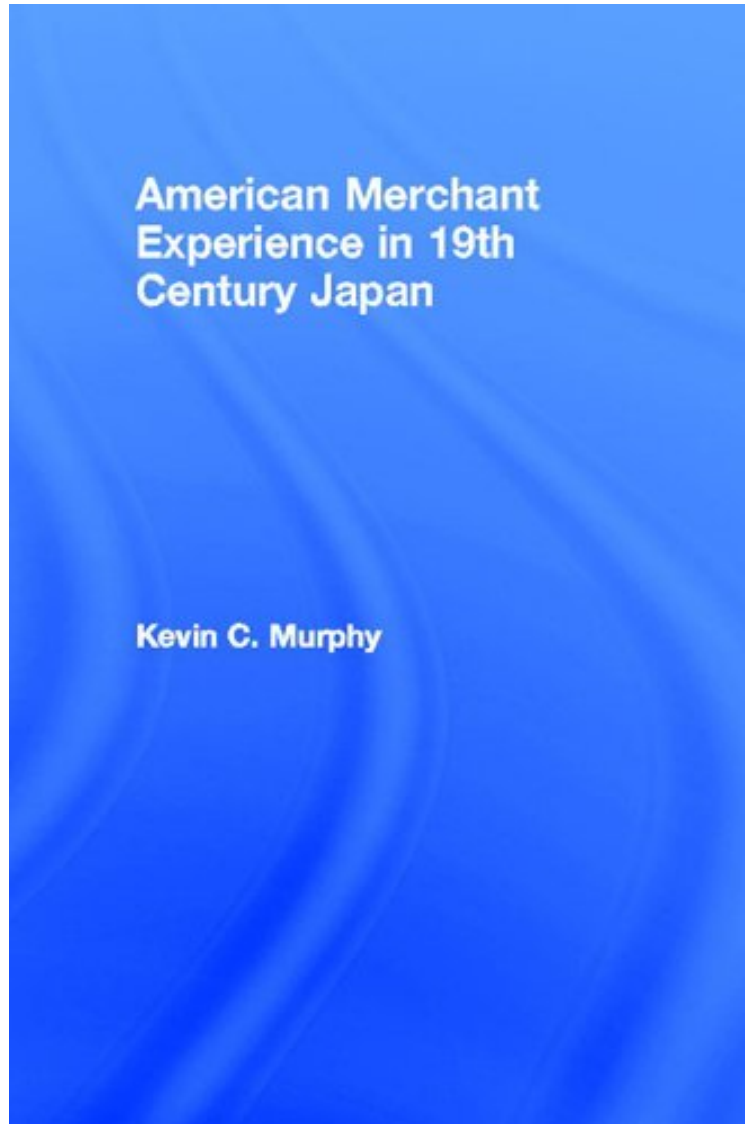


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The American Merchant Experience in Nineteenth Century Japan

Kevin C. Murphy

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Kevin C. Murphy : The American Merchant Experience in Nineteenth Century Japan before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The American Merchant Experience in Nineteenth Century Japan:

American merchants established trading firms in the ports of Yokohama, Kobe and Nagasaki which operated from 1859-1899 until the repeal of the Unequal Treaties. Members of a privileged, semi-colonial community, the merchants formed the largest group of Americans in 19th century Japan. In this first book-length treatment of this group, Kevin

Murphy explores their interactions with the Japanese in the treaty port system, how the Japanese leadership manipulated them to its own ends, and how the merchants themselves defined the limitations of American business in Japan through their ambiguous but deep concern with order and opportunity, restraint and dominance, and conservatism and dominance.

""American Merchant Experience makes a significant contribution to our understanding of the treaty ports and, more important, to the ways by which an aggressive, modernizing Meiji government took charge of its own international commercial development under unequal, difficult circumstances. Murphy breaks new ground by focusing specifically on the treaty-port merchants."-"Journal of Japanese Studies About the AuthorKevin Murphy is chair of the Department of History at Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois.