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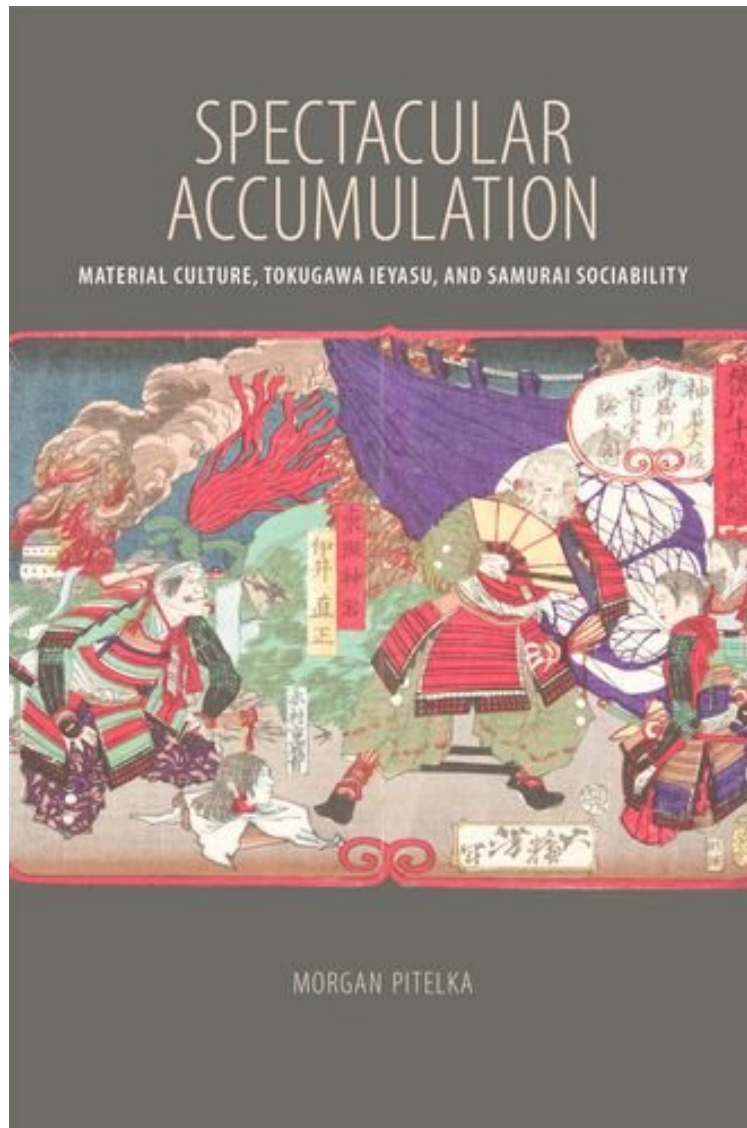
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[Library ebook] Spectacular Accumulation: Material Culture, Tokugawa Ieyasu, and Samurai Sociability

## **Spectacular Accumulation: Material Culture, Tokugawa Ieyasu, and Samurai Sociability**

**Morgan Pitelka : Spectacular Accumulation: Material Culture, Tokugawa Ieyasu, and Samurai Sociability**  
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spectacular Accumulation: Material Culture, Tokugawa Ieyasu, and Samurai Sociability:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyed it immenselyBy WarrenThis author really knows his tomatoes! Enjoyed it immensely!

In *Spectacular Accumulation*, Morgan Pitelka investigates the significance of material culture and sociability in late sixteenth-century Japan, focusing in particular on the career and afterlife of Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543-1616), the founder of the Tokugawa shogunate. The story of Ieyasu illustrates the close ties between people, things, and politics and offers us insight into the role of material culture in the shift from medieval to early modern Japan and in shaping our knowledge of history. This innovative and eloquent history of a transitional age in Japan reframes the relationship between culture and politics. Like the collection of *meibutsu*, or "famous objects," exchanging hostages, collecting heads, and commanding massive armies were part of a strategy Pitelka calls "spectacular accumulation," which profoundly affected the creation and character of Japan's early modern polity. Pitelka uses the notion of spectacular accumulation to contextualize the acquisition of "art" within a larger complex of practices aimed at establishing governmental authority, demonstrating military dominance, reifying hierarchy, and advertising wealth. He avoids the artificial distinction between cultural history and political history, arguing that the famed cultural efflorescence of these years was not subsidiary to the landscape of political conflict, but constitutive of it. Employing a wide range of thoroughly researched visual and material evidence, including letters, diaries, historical chronicles, and art, Pitelka links the increasing violence of civil and international war to the increasing importance of samurai social rituals and cultural practices. Moving from the Ashikaga palaces of Kyoto to the tea utensil collections of Ieyasu, from the exchange of military hostages to the gift-giving rituals of Oda Nobunaga and Toyotomi Hideyoshi, *Spectacular Accumulation* traces Japanese military rulers' power plays over famous artworks as well as objectified human bodies.

In "Spectacular Accumulation" Morgan Pitelka relates the thrilling interactions between three "unifiers" of Japan in the tumultuous decades of the late 16th century and early 17th century. This trio of warlords includes the bloodthirsty Oda Nobunaga, the vainglorious Toyotomi Hideyoshi and Tokugawa Ieyasu who triumphed at the blood-soaked 1615 siege of Osaka Castle. -- "Japan Times" The book's strength lies in the fascinating collection of media featuring the Christian figures, and in Suters' analyses of the significance of those figures evolving gender and cultural ambiguity. . . . the book succeeds in offering an invaluable study of the ways in which the Christian figures of the Tokugawa period are used by modern authors to reflect and also affect the discourse of their times. (Asian Studies) In *Spectacular Accumulation* Morgan Pitelka relates the thrilling interactions between three unifiers of Japan in the tumultuous decades of the late 16th century and early 17th century. This trio of warlords includes the bloodthirsty Oda Nobunaga, the vainglorious Toyotomi Hideyoshi and Tokugawa Ieyasu who triumphed at the blood-soaked 1615 siege of Osaka Castle. (Japan Times) This is a wide-ranging, satisfying, and enlightening book which does rather more than a biography of Ieyasu would have done. Ieyasu emerges from it not so much as a human being, for his inner life is impossible to reconstruct, but as rather more than a successful warrior and strategist. The norms of behavior, accumulation, and sociability that governed his actions are skillfully and painstakingly laid bare in Pitelka's book and it is a pleasure to read. (Journal of Japanese Studies) Pitelka straddles the disciplines of art history and history, and what makes his account interesting is that the collections he studied included most prominently cherished objects linked to tea ceremonies, known as famous objects (*meibutsu*), which were gifted, recovered from ruined castles, and restored. . . Pitelka has crafted a well-researched and well-written study of the agency of objects. This insightful study should be of interest to scholars and students of Japanese history, literature, and art. (American Historical) About the Author Morgan Pitelka is associate professor of Asian studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.