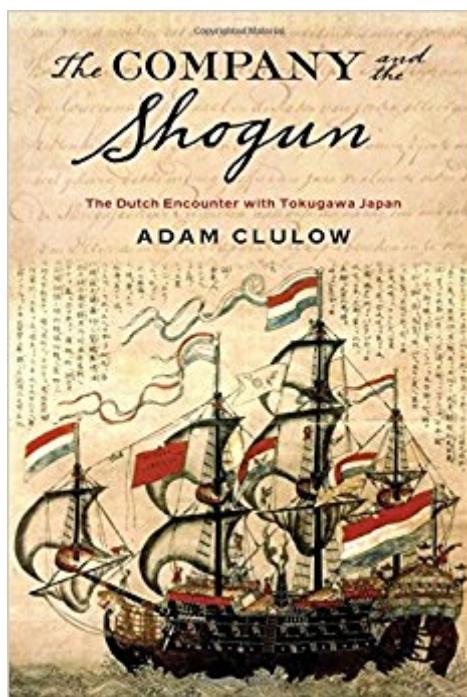


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# The Company And The Shogun: The Dutch Encounter With Tokugawa Japan (Columbia Studies In International And Global History)



## Synopsis

The Dutch East India Company was a hybrid organization combining the characteristics of both corporation and state that attempted to thrust itself aggressively into an Asian political order in which it possessed no obvious place and was transformed in the process. This study focuses on the company's clashes with Tokugawa Japan over diplomacy, violence, and sovereignty. In each encounter the Dutch were forced to retreat, compelled to abandon their claims to sovereign powers, and to refashion themselves again and again—*from subjects of a fictive king to loyal vassals of the shogun, from aggressive pirates to meek merchants, and from insistent defenders of colonial sovereignty to legal subjects of the Tokugawa state*. Within the confines of these conflicts, the terms of the relationship between the company and the shogun first took shape and were subsequently set into what would become their permanent form. The first book to treat the Dutch East India Company in Japan as something more than just a commercial organization, *The Company and the Shogun* presents new perspective on one of the most important, long-lasting relationships to develop between an Asian state and a European overseas enterprise.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Clulow provides a superb study of the establishment of the relationship between the Dutch East India Company and the Tokugawa shogunate in the 17th and early 18th centuries...

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The first book to treat the Dutch East India Company in Japan as something more than just a commercial organization, this study focuses on the company's clashes with Tokugawa Japan over diplomacy, violence, and sovereignty. The Dutch were forced to refashion themselves again and again—*from subjects to vassals, pirates to merchants, and within the confines of these*

conflicts, the terms of the relationship between the company and the shogun took shape. The Company and the Shogun presents a new perspective on one of the most important and long-lasting relationships to develop between an Asian state and a European overseas enterprise. It tells the story of Dutch East India Company's clashes with Tokugawa Japan over diplomacy, violence, and sovereignty. In each encounter, the Dutch were forced to retreat, abandon their claims to sovereign powers, and refashion themselves from subjects of a fictive king to loyal vassals of the shogun, from aggressive pirates to meek merchants, and from insistent defenders of colonial sovereignty to legal subjects of the Tokugawa state. Within these conflicts, the terms of the relationship between the company and the shogun took shape and were subsequently set in their permanent form.

good history

I found this an illuminating read as it gave me some understanding of the conflicting Japanese and Dutch world views and the way they impacted on each other.

This is an excellent book that takes you back to a time of sailing ships and commerce where everything was on the line. The strange samurai budo culture in Japan and the industrious Dutch learn to trade. It's tentative at first with danger. A good read for it's own sake for the story alone.

Very interesting new research. Recommended for studies Japanese history!

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