

The Kinokuniya Humanities Books of the Year 2017

Kinokuniya Company Ltd (Chairman and President Masashi Takai) will hold a book fair entitled the 'Kinokuniya Humanities Books of the Year 2017 – The 30 best humanities books chosen by readers' in our major stores across the country from Friday 10 February 2017.

The Kinokuniya Humanities Books of the Year was established upon our desire to create an attractive bookish space and introduce outstanding humanities books together with the public. It returns for a seventh time this year.

Thanks to a lot of customers' support, we have received numerous entries and recommendation comments yet again this year. The best 30 titles were selected by the committee based on the results of the questionnaires received from the general public, as well as taking into consideration the recommendations from publishers and Kinokuniya staff.

* The books eligible for this award are humanities titles that were published from December 2015 – November 2016. We invited customers to answer questionnaires from Monday 7 November – Tuesday 6 December 2016. When we refer to 'humanities books' we mean books on philosophy, ideology, psychology, religion, history, society, education and literary criticism including paperbacks (*bunko* and *shinsho*).

The Kinokuniya Humanities Books of the Year 2017- 30 best humanities books chosen by readers:

1. [*Senso Made – Rekishi wo Kimeta Kosho to Nihon no Shippai*](#) (A Prologue to the War – The Negotiations that Determined the Course of History and the Failures of Japan) by Yoko Kato, Asahi Press <Modern Japanese history>
2. [*Sapiens Zenshi – Bunmei no Kozo to Jinrui no Kofuku, Book 1 & 2*](#) (A Complete History of Sapiens – The Structure of Civilizations and the Blessing of Humankind) by Yuval Noah Harari/Translated by Yasushi Shibata, Kawade Shobo Shinsha <Archaeology>
Original title: Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind, HarperCollins
3. [*Dotoku Kanjo wa Naze Hito wo Ayamaraseru noka - Enzai, Gyakusatsu, Tadashii Kokoro*](#) (Why does Moral Feeling Delude a Person? – False Accusations, Slaughter and the Righteous Mind) by Eruro Kanga, Yosensha <Crime>
4. [*Mura ni Hi wo Tsuke, Hakuchi ni Nare--- Itoh Noe Den*](#) (Set Fire to a Village, Become an Idiot --- A Biography of Noe Ito) by Yasushi Kurihara, Iwanami Shoten <Biology/Social philosophy>
5. [*Shimomaruko Bunka Shudan to Sono Jidai*](#) (The Shimomaruko Cultural Movement and Their Decade) by Chikanobu Michiba, Misuzu Shobo <Sociology>
6. [*Meiji no Kenchikuka Ito Chuta Osuman Teikoku wo Yuku*](#) (An Architect in the Meiji Era, Chuta Ito goes to the Ottoman Empire) by Miyuki Aoki Girardelli, Wedge <History>
7. [*Niwatori – Jinrui wo Kaeta Oinaru Tori*](#) (The Chicken - A Significant Bird that has changed Human Beings) by Andrew Lawler/ Translated by Hiromi Kumai, Intershift <History>

Original title: Why Did the Chicken Cross the World? The Epic Saga of the Bird that Powers Civilization, Atria Books

8. [Korekara no Erikku Hoffa no Tame ni: Zaiya Kenkyusha no Sei to Kokoroe](#) (For the Eric Hoffer of the Future – The Life and Creed of Independent Researchers) by Yuta Araki, Tokyo Shoseki <Education>

9. [Ima Sekai no Tetsugakusha ga Kangaeteiru Koto](#) (Contemporary Thought of Philosophers from Around the World) by Yuichiro Okamoto, Diamond <Philosophy>

10. [Yugensei no Ato de – Guzensei no Hitsuzensei ni Tsuite no Shiron](#) (After the Finitude - An Essay on the Necessity of Contingency) by Quentin Meillassoux, Jinbun Shoin/ Translated by Masaya Chiba, Kantaro Ohashi, Futoshi Hoshino <Metaphysics>

Original title: Après la finitude: Essai sur la nécessité de la contingence, Seuil

11. [Yoroppa Koringu: Jibeta kara no Poritkaru Repoto](#) (Europe Calling – A Political Report from the Bottom of Society) by Mikako Brady, Iwanami Shoten <Politics>

12. ['Sonohi Gurashi' no Jinrui Gaku](#) (Anthropology: Living for Today) by Sayaka Ogawa, Kobunsha <Anthropology>

13. [Shisu beki Sadame – Shini Yuku Hito ni Nani ga Dekiruka](#) (Being Mortal – What can you do when the end is near?) by Atul Gawande/ Translated by Hiroaki Harai, Misuzu Shobo <Healthcare>

Original title: Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End, Metropolitan Books

14. [Sono Shima no Hitotachi wa Hito no Hanashi wo Kikanai – Seishinkai 'Jisatsu Kisho Chiiki' wo Iku](#) (The People on that Island do not Listen to Others – A Psychiatrist goes to a Region Where Suicide is Rare.) by Suimei Morikawa, Seidosha <Psychiatry>

15. [Ounin no Ran – Sengoku Jidai wo Unda Tairan](#) (The Onin War – The Civil War that Produced the Warring States Period) by Yuichi Goza, Chuokoron-Shinsha <Medieval Japanese history>

16. [Gendai Nihon Gaikoshi – Reisengo no Mosaku, Shushotachi no Ketsudan](#) (Modern History of Japan's Foreign Diplomacy – Examining the Post-Cold War Period and the Decisions of Prime Ministers) by Taizo Miyagi, Chuokoron-Shinsha < Modern Japanese history >

17. [Okinawa no Shimbun wa Honto ni 'Henko' Shiteiru noka](#) (Are Okinawan Newspapers Actually 'Biased'?) by Koichi Yasuda, Asahi Shimbun Publications <Social problems>

18. ['Nippon Suqoi' no Disutopia - Senjika Jiga Jisan no Keifu](#) ('Great Japan': a Dystopia – The History of Self-praise During War Time) by Tadanori Hayakawa, Seikyusha <War>

18. [Gakujutsusho no Henshusha](#) (An Editor of Academic Books) by Sogo Tachibana, Keio University Press <Sociology>

20. [Sekai Manuke Hanran no Tebikisho](#) (A Guidebook to Senseless Rebellion from Around the World) by Hajime Matsumoto, Chikuma Shobo <Subculture>

20. [Jinko Jigoku – Gendai Ato to Kankyaku no Seijigaku](#) (Artificial Hells - Contemporary Art and the Politics of Spectatorship) by Claire Bishop/ Translated by Toshikatsu Omori, Filmart-Sha <Art/Art criticism>

Original title: Artificial Hells: Participatory Art and the Politics of Spectatorship, Verso Books

20. [‘Hyakugaku Renkan’ wo Yomu](#) (Reading ‘Hyakugaku Renkan’) by Takamitsu Yamamoto, Sanseido <Philosophy>

23. [Netto Enjo no Kenkyu](#) (Research on Online Flaming) by Tatsuo Tanaka, Shinichi Yamaguchi, Keiso Shobo <Society>

23. [Shintai Wa Torauma wo Kiroku Suru – Nou, Kokoro, Karada no Tsunagari to Kaifuku no Tame no Shuho](#) (The Body Recalls Trauma – The Connection Between Brain, Mind and Body and Healing Methods) by Bessel van der Kolk/Translated by Yasushi Shibata, Kinokuniya <Trauma/PTSD>

Original title: The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma, Viking

23. [Sakebi no Toshi – Yoseba, Kamagasaki, Ryudoteki Kaso Rodosha](#) (City of Screams – Day Labourer Camp, Kamagasaki and Homeless Day Labourers) by Takeshi Haraguchi, Rakuho Publications <Sociology>

26. [Watashi wa Koushite Shitsuji ni Natta](#) (Thus I Became a Butler) by Rosina Harrison/ Translated by Masayo Arai, Hakusuisha <British history>

Original title: Gentlemen's Gentlemen: From Boot Boys to Butlers, True Stories of Life Below Stairs, Sphere

27. [Kagaku no Hakken](#) (The Discovery of Science) by Steven Weinberg/ Translated by Yoko Akane, Bungei Shunju <Science>

Original title: To Explain the World: The Discovery of Modern Science

27. [Saikusu Piko Kyotei Hyakunen no Jubaku - Chuto Daikonmei wo Toku](#) (The 100 Year Curse of the Sykes-Picot Agreement – Understanding the Utter Chaos in the Middle East) by Satoshi Ikeuchi, Shinchosha <International affairs>

27. [Gyakuten no Daichugokushi](#) (Chinese History from a New Perspective) by Haiying Yang, Bungei Shunju <Chinese history>

27. [<Bukkyo 3.0> wo Tetsugaku Suru](#) (Philosophizing about Buddhism 3.0) by Issho Fujita, Hitoshi Nagai, Ryodo Yamashita, Shunjusha <Buddhism>

◆ The Kinokuniya Humanities Books of the Year 2017– The 30 best humanities books chosen by readers– book fair is running from Friday 10 February 2017 until early March. Please inquire about the details at participating stores.

◆ For the duration of the book fair, free brochures with a statement from the first prize winner Ms Yoko Kato and recommendation comments from readers will be available at participating bookstores. (The brochures for the ‘Humanities Books of the Year’ and ‘Kino Best’ will be compiled into one booklet from this year.)

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