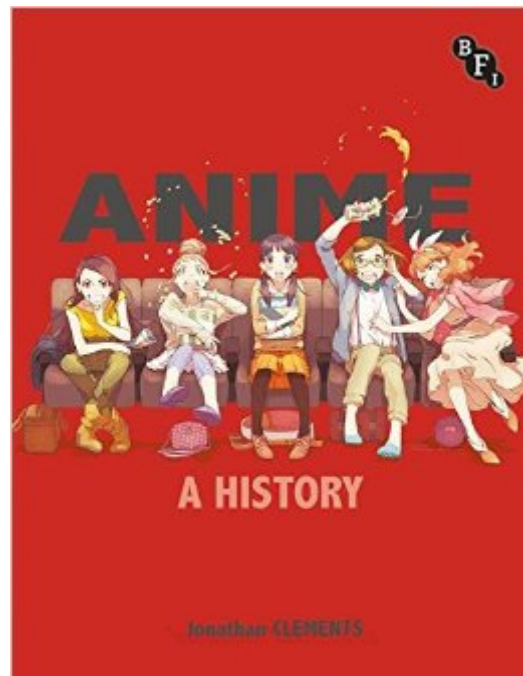


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Anime: A History



Synopsis

This comprehensive history of Japanese animation draws on Japanese primary sources and testimony from industry professionals to explore the production and reception of anime, from its early faltering steps, to the international successes of *Spirited Away* and *Pokémon*.

Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: British Film Institute; 2013 ed. edition (December 12, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1844573907

ISBN-13: 978-1844573905

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 0.6 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (12 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

An amazing book. Has just the right amount of information, enough to feel complete without reaching into something inessential. If you're into anime you'll get a lot from it, and even if you aren't you might like it. A few of the cool things about this book: Extremely frank about the biases of its first person sources. By showing what a lot of different people think about something, and why they might think this way, we get a deeper understanding of the subject. The book spends as much time on pre-Tezuka anime as post, covering a range of history that hasn't been covered in other books. It's really interesting to see the first animation studios pop up in Japan, and the chapter on anime during WWII is really really cool. It's a strange choice in some ways, as less was happening during this time than after, meaning that those chapters feel exhaustive while the post-Tezuka ones are distilled to the highlights. This is not a problem at all, as it makes trends and influences easy to track on an emotional level as you feel the passage of time.

This is not only a great book on the history of anime, but one of the best books on the history of animation, period. All too often animation histories tend to play out like gigantic advertisements for a studio, a problem that Jonathan Clements is well aware of. It's refreshing to read a history of

animation that attempts to look past these kinds of biases. It also traces some of the economic factors that led to the development of the anime style. Like many others have pointed out, the first half of the book covers the pre-Tezuka era of Japanese animation, and I found these chapters to be especially fascinating. As far as I'm aware, there's nothing really comparable to this book written in the English language.

It's more than just anime art--a good resource all-around on history and changes through the years. Recommended for all of those interested in the topic. It's probably best for teenagers and adults.

If you are a fan (or otaku) of Anime, this is a must read.

I have had to force myself to read a number of books on anime and as many other reviews make clear, too many are turgidly academic. As an academic I won't name names but Clements has done very well. This book is a good history, doesn't wander into excessive content analysis but does give a great historical overview of the evolution of anime as an industry. I almost managed to read the whole thing in one sitting and came away with a new appreciation of a topic I am otherwise pretty bored with.

Wonderful gift for Anime fans 13 years +

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