

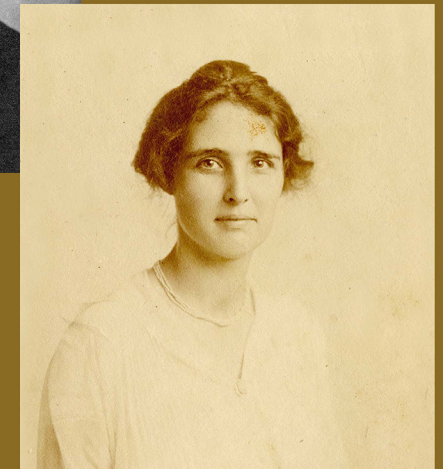
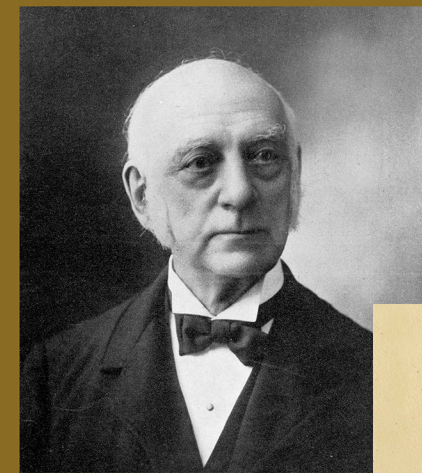
Global events generate unique opportunities

for people to move around and forward, usually out of their comfort zones. Significant historical events are always reflected in the daily routines of people living in that time as actors of history.

Those who travel the world looking for new scenarios and new paths inevitably create new experiences and find new meanings for their personal lives. Their perspectives shape and are shaped by their old and new cultures.

Progress can only be achieved upon recognizing and addressing the legacies of complex histories. Ever since the Meiji Era, modernization has been synonymous with westernization in Japan. To this day, the ability to speak English fluently remains widely recognized as a symbol of the upper class.

The Japanese government's decision to welcome western ideology resonated with the American wish to expand its influence to the eastern hemisphere. Along with economic growth and cultural renovation, a sense of hierarchy was also quietly establishing itself.



Individuals like **James Curtis Hepburn** and **Sarah Clarke Oltmans** traveled to an unfamiliar country with the mission of spreading Christianity. Their works were part of a Long-19th-Century legacy, which included both the institutions that helped advance Japan and the imperialism that colonized and exploited it. Oltmans' care for the Japanese, and her sense of cultural superiority, traveled with her back to the United States, where she worked as a teacher at the incarceration camp at Manzanar during World War II.

Reverend Dr. James Curtis Hepburn As one of the first westerners to set foot in Japan, he compiled and edited the first Japanese-English dictionary, which was later published in nine more editions. He also founded Meiji Gakuin University in Tokyo in 1863, which remains one of Japan's more competitive colleges today.

Sarah Clarke Oltmans An orphan and self-taught college graduate, she was appointed a missionary at age 23. She taught English in Japanese schools until 1941, then returned to the United States to work at Manzanar and later went back to Japan to continue teaching at Meiji Gakuin.