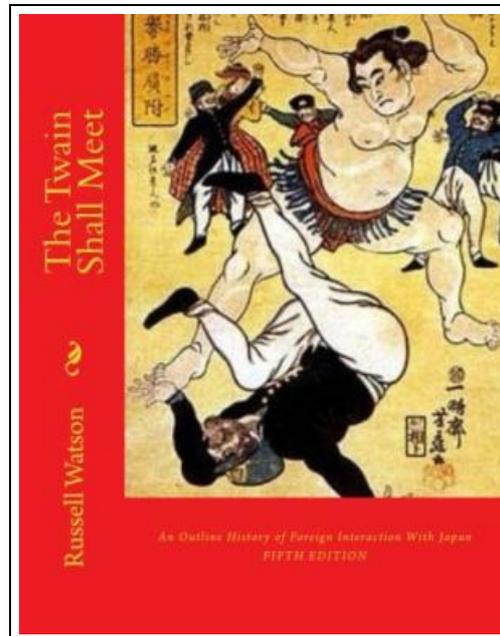


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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, 2014. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*. Rudyard Kipling coined the phrase Oh East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet. This referenced the gulf of understanding between the British and the peoples of the Indian subcontinent. Kipling was perhaps blissfully ignorant of the falsehood he helped to fuel for in the case of Japan nothing could be further from the truth. It is self-evident how Japanese culture has significantly impacted on the world. This ranges from sushi, California and otherwise to origami and anime or judo and karate to beatniks crafting haiku Zen poetry. The reverse is also true. British diplomats had already concluded by the early 1970s that most Japanese were, in many respects, leading essentially Western lifestyles. When Melvil Dewey devised the Dewey Decimal System for classification of library books in 1876, he grouped history, geography and biography together in one section. He was acknowledging that the three are almost invariably linked together. History without geography or biography is little more than a tedious and meaningless list of dates; biography minus history has no context. Europeans had known of Japan for over two hundred years before they set foot on its shores. People on the Island of Zipangu (Japan) have tremendous quantities of gold. The King s palace is roofed with pure gold, and his floors are paved in gold two fingers thick. So wrote the Venetian merchant Marco Polo (1254-1324). Because of his book, The Travels of Marco Polo, Europeans believed that Zipangu was a land of gold, and Columbus later sailed across the Atlantic in search of it. However, the first known contact with Europeans on Japanese soil had to wait until around 1542 when the Portuguese adventurer...



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