

Nichibunken Monograph Series No. 16

Itō Hirobumi – Japan's First Prime Minister and Father of the Meiji Constitution

Takii Kazuhiro

Translated by Takechi Manabu

Edited by Patricia Murray

**International Research Center
for Japanese Studies
Kyoto**

 **Routledge**
Taylor & Francis Group
LONDON AND NEW YORK

Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	xi
<i>Preface to the English edition</i>	xiii
Introduction	1
<i>Previous scholarship on Itō Hirobumi</i>	2
<i>Itō in Shiba's historical fiction</i>	4
<i>Reconsideration based on the latest research</i>	5
1 Encounter with Western civilization	7
<i>Early years</i>	7
<i>Institutions and the West</i>	16
<i>The Iwakura Mission and shift to gradualism</i>	23
2 A constitution for Japan: building the foundation	37
<i>Moving toward constitutional government: 1873–80</i>	37
<i>The Political Crisis of 1881</i>	43
<i>Constitutional study tour in Europe</i>	47
<i>Education and knowledge in constitutional government</i>	51
<i>Enactment of the Constitution and party government:</i>	
<i>Itō's speeches</i>	61
<i>Constitutional government as popular government:</i>	
<i>Itō's address to royalty and peers</i>	66
3 Itō the constitutional evangelist	75
<i>All things change: Itō's worldview</i>	75
<i>Nationwide campaign: stumping for the Constitution</i>	81
<i>Treaty revision and a new status in the world</i>	89
<i>Implanting the idea of popular government</i>	93
<i>Educating the people in practical science</i>	95
<i>Personal experience</i>	97

x	<i>Contents</i>	
4	Creating a society for knowledge: the Seiyūkai	101
	<i>From oligarch to party politician</i>	101
	<i>Constitutional government and party-led government</i>	106
	<i>Forming the Seiyūkai</i>	110
	<i>From “faction” to “society”</i>	116
	<i>The party as think-tank</i>	122
5	Consolidating the national structure: the Constitutional Reforms of 1907	127
	<i>Seiyūkai setback</i>	127
	<i>The Imperial Household Research Committee and constitutional reform</i>	135
	<i>Constitutional reforms of 1907 (1): integrating the emperor into the state</i>	138
	<i>Constitutional reforms of 1907 (2): responsible government and control over the military</i>	143
	<i>Itō Hirobumi’s idea of the nation</i>	152
6	Itō and China	158
	<i>Two months in Korea and China</i>	158
	<i>Lessons of the 1898 coup in China</i>	163
	<i>Meeting with Zhang Zhidong</i>	166
	<i>Views on China and plans for Japan</i>	173
	<i>Hands off political change in China</i>	178
7	Fostering governance in two countries	183
	<i>Itō’s dual role and the resident-generalship</i>	183
	<i>The showdown with Confucian tradition</i>	190
	<i>Governing Korea and military reforms in Japan: extension of constitutional reform</i>	201
	<i>The breakdown of Korean rule</i>	208
	Afterword	217
	<i>References</i>	222
	<i>Chronology</i>	236
	<i>Index</i>	245