

# THE EMPIRE OF THE RISING SUN

## THE TRADING ADVENTURE.

THREE CENTURIES OF EXPLORATION AND TRADE  
BETWEEN CIPANGO AND THE WESTERN WORLD

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### Historical essay

Javier Yuste



This book covers the period from 1542 to 1868 in Japanese history: more than three hundred years of cultural and commercial contacts between the Western world and Japan: from the shogunate and the unification of Japan by Nobunaga, Toyotomi and Tokugawa to the restoration of the imperial power. Traditions, adventures, explorations and wars. The gripping story of a country's modernization, a country full of contrasts.

### Synopsis

Learn the fascinating story of the adventures and misadventures of the men who, setting sail from the ports of Andalusia and Lisbon, from Amsterdam, London and many other places, wanted to reach the mythical Cipango's coasts that Marco Polo described in his travels in the 13th century; a group of islands inhabited by oriental people with a high cultural level and surrounded by such riches that only the light of the sun could have given birth.

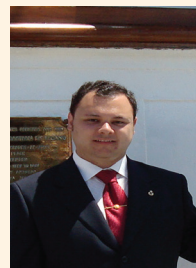
This is a work that comprehensively collects more than three centuries worth of history of cultural and commercial contacts, full of shadows and lights, full of brotherly hugs and exacerbated hatreds. Those times were a turning point for humanity, that was conquering and discovering new lands that had remained hidden until then, carried away by the desire to know what was hidden in those blank spaces that dotted the maps, that were marked with the words "Terra Incognita", in which sinuous dragons were crowned as the only kings and lords of those mysterious lands. If you dare to turn the first page, you will be transported to 1542, aboard a Chinese junk with Fernan Mendes Pinto, or to 1853, aboard a modern American warship. Meanwhile, you will witness how the good harmony between Japanese and Spanish broke apart bloodily into a thousands pieces, and how that blood was used as ink to write a warning message addressed to king Philip IV. This is not only a historical chronology but an adventures tale that tries to show us that we share a past with a land that continues to surprise us even nowadays

### Biography

**Javier Yuste** has a degree in law from the University of Deusto and currently resides in Pontevedra. He collaborates with the Revista General de la Marina, in which he has published several articles, and with some other magazines in print and digital format, such as the blog Novilis (focused on military, naval and historical literature), the magazine Revista General de Marina Historia Rei Militar, FDM, Todo a babor, and Ares Enyalius.

He wrote the novel *Los últimos años de mi primera guerra* (De Librum Tremens, 2012), and he is also the author of the essay *Crucero Reina Mercedes* (Tombooktu, 2014).

He writes regularly on his blog *El navegante del mar de papel*.



### Sales pitch

- This is an appealing book that tells us the fascinating story of the trade between the Western world and the legendary Japan in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries, complemented with plenty of economic, social, political and cultural historical facts.

-Although Japan and its history arouse a great interest among readers, this historical period in particular is not very well known and there is a bibliographic gap about it that this work tries to cover.

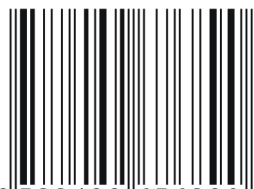
-It's a period of history little known to the general public in our country.

-It's a rigorous essay written in a very original way. This is a very compelling reading, because these tales are full of adventures.

-It's a new historiographical vision that makes a critical study of the European deeds in Japan in those times.

-Don't miss the chance to read it: nowadays, we are celebrating the fourth centenary of the establishment of the first Japanese embassy in Spain.

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Contact: [ventas@nowtilus.com](mailto:ventas@nowtilus.com)

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