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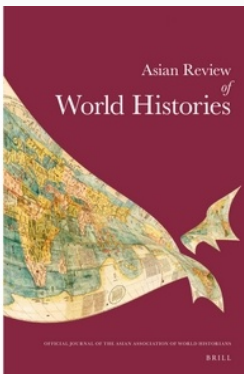
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The Iwakura Embassy and British Industrial Cities

**Author:** [Young-Suk Lee](#)¹**Source:** [Asian Review of World Histories, Volume 1, Issue 2, pages](#)265 – 293 **Publication Year :** 2013**DOI:** [10.12773/arwh.2013.1.2.265](#)**ISSN:** 2287-965X **E-ISSN:** 2287-9811**Document Type:** Research Article**Subjects:** [Asian Studies](#)**Keywords:** [modernization](#); [factory](#); [British economy](#); [industrial city](#);[Iwakura mission](#)[« Previous Article](#) | [Table of Contents](#) | [Next Article »](#)[Abstract](#)[Full Text](#)[Media](#)[References\(o\)](#)[Cited By \(o\)](#)[Metrics](#)

The second volume of the Iwakura Reports is the writing on Britain. What is interesting, here, is the fact that the reports describe the factories in the major industrial cities. The editor of the reports in particular recorded the productive processes of those factories. He wrote his own impressions of the landscapes of those cities. Those records let us know the real situation of the British industry. Japanese historians admit that the activities of the Iwakura mission largely contributed to Japan's modernization. This article analyzed the second volume of the reports which had mainly described modern factories and industrial cities. The article summarizes the records of the reports on the British industry, and to examine what they recognized from the industry. The Iwakura Reports would furnish important information to the notables that had initiated the early industrialization in Japan. As a result, British companies' export to Japan increased rapidly. What is more important, however, is that the British economy

late Victorian age in which Japan began to be rapidly industrialized. During the Japanese industrialization, some Japanese owners might have realized the decline of the British industry. Britain began to be overtaken by her rival countries Germany. The Iwakura Reports do not let us know the change of the British manufacture in the late nineteenth century of Japan's industrialization might focus on the rise of Germany or America. As the Iwakura mission had visited Britain, the competition between Britain and other rival states, they could not know the real situation of the British economy. In the manuscripts, the editor of the reports could not help being based upon the factory-owners' explanations and therefore he focused only on the excellence and competitiveness of British manufacture.

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catharsis, further calculations will leave students as a simple homework.

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