

A Short Chronology of Yukichi Fukuzawa

1835 Yukichi Fukuzawa is born in Osaka on 10 January, in the storehouse of Nakatsu clan.

1836 Yukichi's father dies. The family of 6 returns to Nakatsu.

1854 Yukichi goes to Nagasaki to learn Dutch Studies.

1855 Yukichi enters the Tekijuku academy run by doctor and Dutch Studies scholar Kōan Ogata.

1858 On order of the provincial lord, Yukichi goes to Edo and opens a Dutch Studies academy (now Keio University).

1859 Yukichi switches to the exclusive study of English.

1860 Travels to America on the 'Kanrin Maru'.

1862 Travels on a delegation to Europe and visits France, England, Holland, Prussia, Russia and Portugal.

1864 Returns to the capital accompanied by 6 young scholars from Nakatsu, and becomes a translator for the Bakufu.

1865 Publishes his observations of Europe in "Things Western".

1868 Names his academy "Keio Gijuku". The Meiji era begins that year in September.

1872 Publishes the first Volume of "A Encouragement of Learning".

1875 Opens the Mita Public Speaking Hall. Publishes "An Outline of a Theory of Civilization".

1890 Establishes the first private university at the Keio Academy with three Faculties (Literature, Economics, and Law).

1898 A Complete Works is published in 5 volumes. Yukichi suffers a stroke.

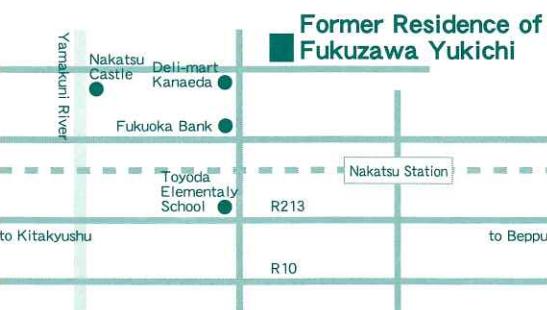
1901 Yukichi suffers a second stroke and died on 3 February.



Former Residence of Fukuzawa Yukichi



Fukuzawa Memorial Museum



Former Residence of
Fukuzawa Yukichi

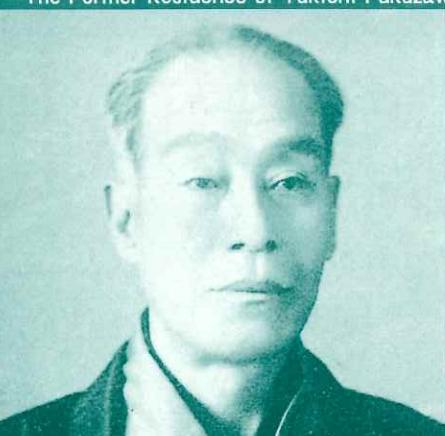
Public Interest Incorporated Association
The Society to Preserve the
Former Residence of Fukuzawa

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"Heaven places no person above another, and places no person below another"



A Designated National Cultural Treasure; Historical Landmark
The Former Residence of Yukichi Fukuzawa



独立自尊之修身

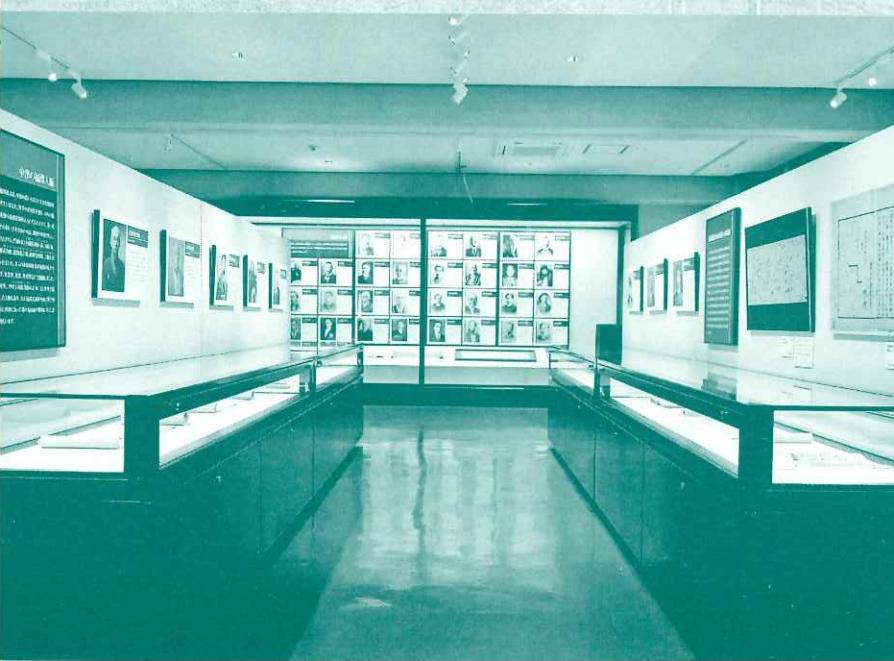
身脩生主格

Whosoever perfectly realizes the principle of Independence, both of Mind and Body, and paying due respect to his own person, preserves his dignity unblemished, - him we call a man of independence and self-respect.

Yukichi Fukuzawa was born in the storehouse Nakatsu Clan in Osaka, in the 5th year of Tempo (1835), the second son of the lower-ranking samurai Hyakusuke Fukuzawa (possessing 65 bushels of rice plus keep for 2 followers as the annual income). At one and half years of age Yukichi Fukuzawa lost his father, and returned to Nakatsu together with his mother and 4 siblings. Though his family was poor, Yukichi's youth was based in faith, and at the age of 14 he entered the academy of the Confucian scholar Shozan Shiraishi.

In the first year of Ansei (1854), at the age of 19 Yukichi resolved to learn Dutch Studies, and for this purpose went first to Nagasaki, and then in the following year he threw himself into intensive studies at the Tekijuku academy in Osaka. In the 5th year of Ansei (1858), Yukichi was sent to Edo as a lecturer in Dutch Studies for the Nakatsu Clan, where he opened a Dutch Studies academy. This would eventually become what is known today as Keio University.

Having stored up considerable knowledge on Western languages, in the first year Manen (1860) Yukichi joined the mission to the US as an attendant and boarded the Kanrin Maru bound for America. Thereafter he visited several European countries, and studied their parliaments, postal systems, banks, hospitals and schools etc. with deep and abiding curiosity. He subsequently authored several texts such as "Things Western", "An Outline of a Theory of Civilization" and "An Encouragement of Learning", which helped enlighten his fellow countrymen who had been cut off from the world for so long.



An Encouragement of Learning (1872-1876; 17 Volumes)

Coinciding with the opening of the Nakatsu Citizen's School, this was written for the young people of Nakatsu. Criticizing the Confucian ideas that underpinned the feudal stratification of society, he expounded the importance of the new, positivistic learning. The phrase "Heaven places no person above another, and places no person below another..." is the opening paragraph in the first volume. Taken together the seventeen volumes, 3,400,000 copies were sold.

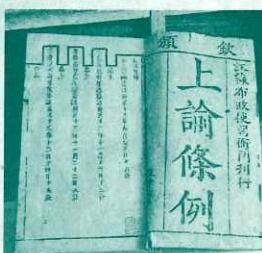


An Outline of the Theory of Civilization (1875; 6 volumes)

This work makes an historical overview of Western and Japanese civilization, and systematically reveals Yukichi's view of history. Arguing that civilization was the advancement of people's knowledge and virtue, he advocated that through adopting Western civilization, Japan could preserve its independence. Takamori Saigo was also influenced by this text, and strongly encouraged students of "Shigakkou", a non governmental military academy in Kagoshima, to read it.

Things Western (1866-1870; 10 volumes)

These volumes bring together the things that Yukichi saw during his travels in Europe and America. He introduces various devices and systems used in the West, from the actual economic conditions in Western countries and school education, to hospitals apparatus, and gas lighting. This book not only deepened the average person's awareness of the West, but it is also said that this book became the catalyst for Yoshinobu Tokugawa's decision to relinquish his rule, and likewise had a major influence on the new government's Charter Oath of Five Articles and their Constitution.



Jyôyûjôrei; A lawbook of Ming Dynasty

On the day Yukichi's birth his father Hyakusuke Fukuzawa acquired this book, from which Yukichi got his name.

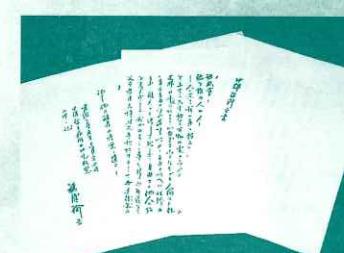
"I feel that I have lived two lives in one lifetime"

Yukichi Fukuzawa, who raised aloft the light of civilization and enlightenment, and was a pioneer of modernization and democracy in Japan.



The Rules of Account Keeping (1873; 4 volumes)

This is the first document in our country to address Western bookkeeping. Indeed, the term 'book-keeping' did not yet exist in Japanese, so the term 'balance book' that was used in shops and other commercial enterprises was introduced as an approximation of it.



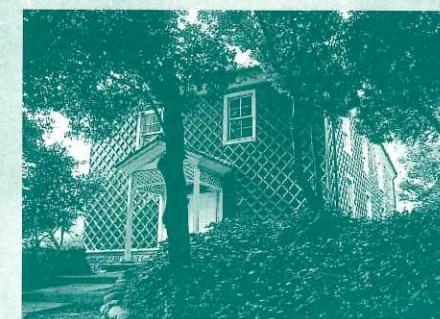
The farewell address to those staying in Nakatsu (1870)

Yukichi wrote this in the old house where he was brought up in Rusuimachi, Nakatsu, on the occasion of meeting his ageing mother, for the people of the hometown of which he was so fond. He repeatedly urges readers to study Western learning and cultivate a spirit of personal independence.



A Moral Coad (1900)

Yukichi was asked to edit this multi-authored volume by his senior disciples. Out of the 29 provisions 'independence and self-respect' was put forward as a fundamental ethic, referring also to ethics related to the family, society, the state, and even as a member of the human race. People of independent self-respect were defined as "Whosoever perfectly realizes the principle of Independence, both of Mind and Body, and paying due respect to his own person, preserves his dignity unblemished, - him we call a man of independence and self-respect".



Speaking Hall. (Keio Academy)

Yukichi Fukuzawa introduced 'public speaking' to Japan

As a means of spreading individual views to many others, Yukichi Fukuzawa translated the word "speech" as "enzetsu" in Japanese, and introduced this form of address to Japan. Thereafter, "enzetsu" took its place beside "text" as a principle mode of communication, and was emphasized as a modern means of conveying opinion. by Yukichi, the Public Speaking Hall with its black and white coloured walls is quietly preserved to this day. It opened in 1875 (the 8th year of Meiji), Intended as the purpose-built venue for the Mita Public Speaking Society that had been formed the year before, it is of course the oldest building of its kind in Japan, and has been designated an Important Cultural Treasure.

The Nakatsu Citizen's School

This was founded in 1871 through the efforts of those working under Yukichi Fukuzawa in the Keio Academy with financial support from the former lord of the Okudaira clan (equivalent to one fifth of its annual income, or 1,060 koku) and from a cooperative organization comprising former samurai from Nakatsu (20,000 yen). As an English school located in the provinces it was considered to be rare at the time.