



## Tokyo Rising: The City Since the Great Earthquake

By Edward G. Seidensticker

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**Tokyo Rising: The City Since the Great Earthquake** By Edward G. Seidensticker

The Great Earthquake of 1923 left much of Tokyo desolate. Shitamachi, the Low City, heart of Tokyo's cultural life for centuries, was a smoking ruin--hundreds of blocks of wooden dwellings, teahouses, and entertainment quarters gone forever. Yet Tokyo was a city that would not die. Here, in his brilliant sequel to "Low City, High City: Tokyo from Edo to the Earthquake," Edward Seidensticker carries the story of this irrepressible metropolis forward to the present, showing it rising not only from the disaster of the earthquake but a second time, from the still more serious catastrophe of 1945, to become a city in which skyscrapers stand in the midst of neighborhoods jammed full of little bars and "soaplands," baseball is the national sport, one can spend \$500 on a meal, the best subway system in the world is matched by the worst traffic jams, and only a multimillionaire can afford to buy a house. Exciting, horrifying, utterly distinctive, modern Tokyo comes to life in "Tokyo Rising" as never before.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

As this vibrant, intimately detailed volume opens in September 1923, Tokyo is rebuilding after a devastating earthquake and fires; Japan is run by the Taisho emperor, a mentally incapacitated figurehead. Tokyo would rebuild a second time: after the Allied bombing raids of WW II and the typhus plague of 1945-46. By the book's close, the city is the hub of a contemporary Japan that has largely overcome strong feelings of inferiority; yet it is still a very insular town, one that effectively excludes foreigners from much of its pulsating life. This sequel to *Low City, High City* is much more than a portrait of Tokyo; in good measure, it is a serendipitous social history of modern Japan. Interwoven with 72 photographs, the narrative covers sundry topics from nightlife to the arts, all set in the context of Japan's metamorphosis from 1930s jingoistic, repressive state to its emergence as the world's chief creditor nation.

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Review

[Seidensticker] has written a kind of cultural anatomy of the metropolis, embracing its folkways, its architecture, its street speech, its crime lore, its entertainment, its art. (*New Yorker*)

James Joyce once declared that if turn-of-the-century Dublin were to vanish from the face of the earth it could be rebuilt on the basis of Ulysses. In *Tokyo Rising*, Edward Seidensticker seems to have exercised a similar, nonfictional ambition...Seidensticker's history of Tokyo is a loving elegy to a lost city. (Jay McInerney *New York Times Book Review*)

The most distinguished living celebrator of Tokyo in the English language...When the city has been transformed yet again, some writer will feel the deepest nostalgia. One may only hope that he or she will express it with the wit and style of...a Seidensticker. (Ian Buruma *New York Review of Books*)

Rich, fascinating cultural geography...*Low City, High City* and *Tokyo Rising* are guidebooks to an unforgettable journey. (*Bloomsbury Review*)

Instead of an economic or sociologic determination, [Seidensticker] focuses on the effect upon society of the disappearance of this theater building, that café, those geisha houses, markets, and other landmarks, and their replacement stores, subways, and so on... Packed with original material and insights, [this book is] invaluable to scholars, students, and Tokyophiles. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

[This] vibrant, intimately detailed volume...is much more than a portrait of Tokyo; in good measure, it is a serendipitous social history of modern Japan. (*Publishers Weekly*)

### Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Ann Bland:**

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive at this point, people have to do something to make all of them survive, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and

notice by simply surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated the idea for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a book your ability to survive improve then having chance to stand than other is high. For you who want to start reading a book, we give you this particular Tokyo Rising: The City Since the Great Earthquake book as beginner and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

**Debra Davis:**

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**James Pickett:**

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**Ann Strickland:**

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