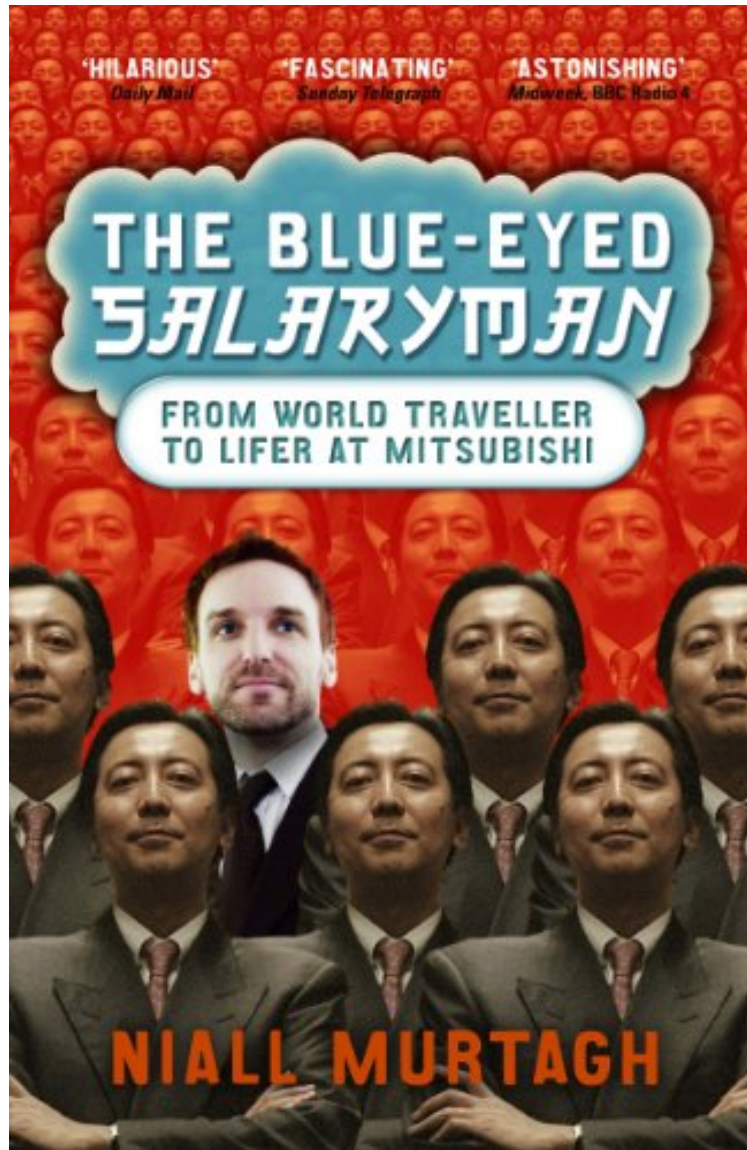


(Download free ebook) The Blue-Eyed Salaryman: From World Traveller to Lifer at Mitsubishi

The Blue-Eyed Salaryman: From World Traveller to Lifer at Mitsubishi

Niall Murtagh

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Niall Murtagh : The Blue-Eyed Salaryman: From World Traveller to Lifer at Mitsubishi before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Blue-Eyed Salaryman: From World Traveller to Lifer at Mitsubishi:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Blue-eyed or Any-eyed SalarymanBy Ronald L. SaylesNiall

Murtagh is an Irishman who came to Japan to study the language. He ended up working for the Mitsubishi corporation for 14 years. Murtagh was a world traveler who did not stay in any one place for too long. So how is it he stayed with one company, a Japanese company at that, for 14 years? This book attempts to answer that perplexing question. Though Murtagh has led a varied life, he devotes most of his book to his 14 years with the Mitsubishi Company as a Japanese *kaishain*, or salaryman. Murtagh rose to a middle-manager position, almost unheard of for any *gaijin* (foreigner) in a Japanese corporation. He was always the only *gaijin* in the room. Because his Japanese was flawless he was always looked at askance. The Japanese feel that their language is too difficult for *gaijin* to learn let alone speak fluently. He tells of his daily commute to work on a bicycle, his unpaid overtime, company uniforms and he even the company song. He says little of his personal life. His courtship and marriage to Miyuki is a good example of this. He sums up this chapter of his life by saying Miyuki's parents approved of their marriage because of his Mitsubishi credentials. Murtagh keeps the story moving in a conversational style. He has an eye for the irony of the cultural differences between the west and the east. I have a friend in Tokyo who is also a salaryman. I got this book for that reason. I wanted to see some of the things that he had to go through. He said that many of the experiences that Murtagh went through are quite common for a *gaijin* salaryman. It is an entertaining book and I would definitely recommend it to anyone who has friends or family working in Japan. And for those of you who don't, it is still an interesting read to compare the cultures.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Japan from the Inside By Seeker This is a revealing, sometimes witty look into the life of a man who chooses to become a Mitsubishi salaryman and remains with the company for many years. The book gives insights into the workings of a typical Japanese company, how such companies function, and what occurs to those who remain with the companies. "A delightful story." (The reader used to work in Tokyo.)

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must read for any westerner considering living and working in Asia. By Derek Proctor Very entertaining and informative view of the Westerner working in Asia. Strikingly highlights the double-edged sword of becoming too fluent in the language and too integrated in society and most importantly reminds us that a foreigner will always be viewed as a foreigner. This is true of every country in Asia.

Why on earth would anyone give up a life on the open road for the regimen of a vast Japanese conglomerate? And is it really so different in Japan from everywhere else? Niall Murtagh spent years as a world traveller - hitchhiking to Istanbul, bussing to Kathmandu and crossing the Atlantic in a home-built yacht. In 1986 he closed the door on his adventurous life and settled down in Japan, eventually joining Mitsubishi as a Salaryman - a man in a shiny suit with a shiny attache case in a conglomerate with 100,000 employees. And what happens when you give up the Salaryman life? The book follows life after the corporation, giving fresh perspectives on the nature of Japanese business culture and the problems faced by outsiders in Japan.

"A fascinating and engaging book ... a rare inside look at corporate life in Japan, one that's worth more than a dozen business-school studies." - Bloomberg "Full of wonderful vignettes and details." - Spectator "Murtagh gives a fascinating account of a system that is misunderstood, even satirised, in the West." - Culture Vulture Books