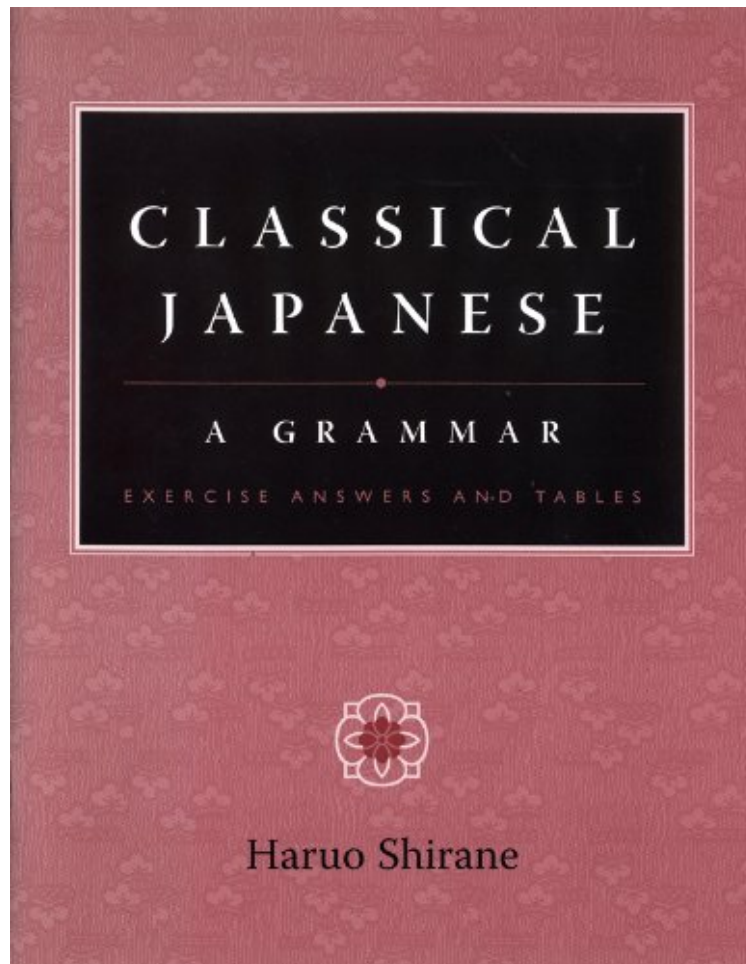


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This comprehensive guide... includes in-depth explanations, exercises and literary excerpts useful to beginners as well as advanced speakers. (Columbia College Today) A significant contribution to the field of premodern Japanese language and literary studies. (Stephen D. Miller *Monumenta Nipponica*) About the Author Haruo Shirane is Shincho Professor of Japanese Literature in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at Columbia University. He is the author of *The Bridge of Dreams: A Poetics of The Tale of Genji* and *Traces of Dreams: Landscape, Cultural Memory, and the Poetry of Basho*; and an editor of *Inventing the Classics: Modernity, National Identity, and Japanese Literature and Early Modern Japanese Literature: An Anthology, 1600-1900*.