

Pinned down Butterflies by Nena Kolmer

Women's history in Meiji Japan on the example of Cio-Cio-San

Introduction

Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* is a prime example of exoticistic representation of Japan and Japanese women. This paper was interested in the conclusions that can be drawn from Puccini's and his sources' said portrayal.

Conclusion

The picture presented is one of unintelligibility, an escapism. However, it can be shown that, European and Japanese women very much shared a similar fate within the industrialising societies they were a part of.

Central Idea

How art portrays Japan



Inference about the self-perception of the West

What art doesn't mention about Japan



Inference about Europe's desire expressed in such art

Main sources:

Kawaguchi, Yoko, *Butterfly's Sisters*
Lee, Hyunseon, *Metamorphosen der Madame Butterfly*
Said, Edward W., *Orientalism*