

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My research over many years has been focused on ancient and medieval Buddhism in Japan. As my research progressed, I found that there was a great deal that could not be properly understood within the framework of the Western-centered philosophy of earlier times. I became convinced that a new conception of philosophy is needed. This book is my attempt at such a fresh concept. Drawing on writing in modern Japanese philosophy, I have attempted to present some alternative views on a variety of often-discussed philosophical issues.

The Japanese edition of this book is *Tetsugaku no genba: Nihon de kangaeru to iu koto*, published in 2012 by Transview. The book was written for Japanese readers, so I am not confident that international readers will find its arguments convincing. Nevertheless, given that the Western-centered nature of philosophy is increasingly coming up for discussion, perhaps books like this that present arguments from other traditions may make a significant contribution.

This is not a very specialized scholarly work, but intended for the general reader. I have been gratified to learn that it is used as a textbook and reader on philosophy in some general courses on philosophy in universities in Japan. It does include some rather elementary, introductory explanations that those already familiar with the basics of philosophy might find tedious, but I hope the reader will skim over such parts of less interest.

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I hope you will enjoy this book, along with another recently published under the title *Religion and Ethics at Odds: A Buddhist Counter-Position* (Chisokudō Publications, 2016; translated by Anton Luis Sevilla).

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