The essay is concerned with education in the first twenty years of the Meiji era. At first there is a short account on situation of the education and the main governmental proposals concerning it. The main part of the essay is dealing with the discussion among Meiji era intellectuals about the goals of the education and means to achieve them. Bacause of the importance of the western influence the essay concentrates on the intellectuals with western experience gathered in a group called Meirokusha.