Masao Maruyama (1914–1996) is the foremost political thinker in twentieth-century Japan. Since the early 2000s, the publication of his extensive work has been completed. In addition, many studies by well-known Japanese scholars have gradually revealed the whole picture of his political thinking. This study introduces Western audiences to the basic components and structure of the political philosophy of Maruyama. The study particularly concentrates on his cosmopolitan ideas. Combining biographical research and theoretical analysis, this dissertation investigates reasons for the emergence of his style of universalism and his unique concept of cosmopolitanism. The study explains that the interplay between his deep-rooted tolerance, his experiences with collective violence, and the particular socio-cultural conditions of his country resulted in the birth of a cosmopolitan thinker from within the homogeneous, ethno-centric society of Japan. Maruyama’s cosmopolitanism was also affected by his strong resistance to Japanese collectivism and feudalism. Beyond institutional modernization, he asked for the modernization of Japanese self-consciousness.