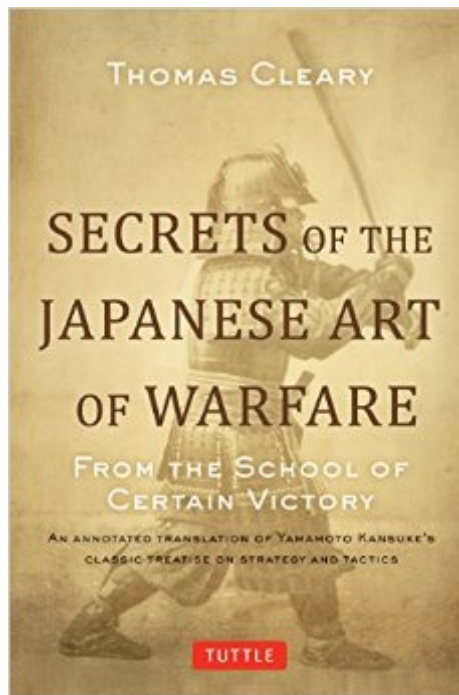


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Secrets Of The Japanese Art Of Warfare: From The School Of Certain Victory



Synopsis

This samurai strategy book is the first widely available English translation of Yamamoto Kansuke's classic treatise on strategy and tactics. *Secrets of the Japanese Art of Warfare* is Thomas Cleary's translation of the seminal writings attributed to Yamamoto Kansuke on Japanese martial arts and military service. A mysterious man of humble origins, Yamamoto distinguished himself in the service of the redoubtable Takeda Shingen. Yamamoto was a career soldier and founder of the so-called "school of certain victory," from which the famous Miyamoto Musashi (*The Book of Five Rings*) emerged. His school developed the art of discerning situational combat advantage, so that a warrior was able to commit to action only when success was virtually assured. Translated and accompanied with helpful insights by Thomas Cleary, one of the foremost translators of the martial wisdom of Asia, this book is for all persons engaged in military, law enforcement, or emergency response, as well as for martial artists, athletes, business executives, diplomats and politicians.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When looking at military philosophers and thinkers, one of the most important questions is "who did they influence and why does it matter?" Yamamoto Kansuke's work on military science is a framework for individual training of soldiers, and guidance on leading formations in battle. His book is important in the history of Japanese military science and martial arts as it was the well-spring of Japanese martial traditions, adopted by Tokugawa Ieyasu (the man who ascended to the Shogunate), and was the framework for Miyamoto Musashi's training. In short, Kansuke influenced some of the most important leaders and teachers in Japan during and long after his own lifetime,

and it matters because of the impact on Japanese thinking on conflict from the personal to the strategic. The first section lays out general principles of military science, training, and touches on underlying ideas of the ethics of conflict or 'just war'. It begins with the background and some of the influences on this philosophy of conflict, then moves on to more pragmatic matters. These include ranges of conflict, from bow shot to grappling, the importance of secrecy and implicitly the importance of surprise, personal bearing, the relationships between military science and other disciplines, and the imperative to practice and always train harder. This first section also addresses the shortcomings of other schools of strategy and the dangers of unqualified people posing as instructors. In this section, Kansuke lays out the five curricula of military leaders; weapons, personnel, terrain, weather, and assistance (this last having been addressed in the first section).

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