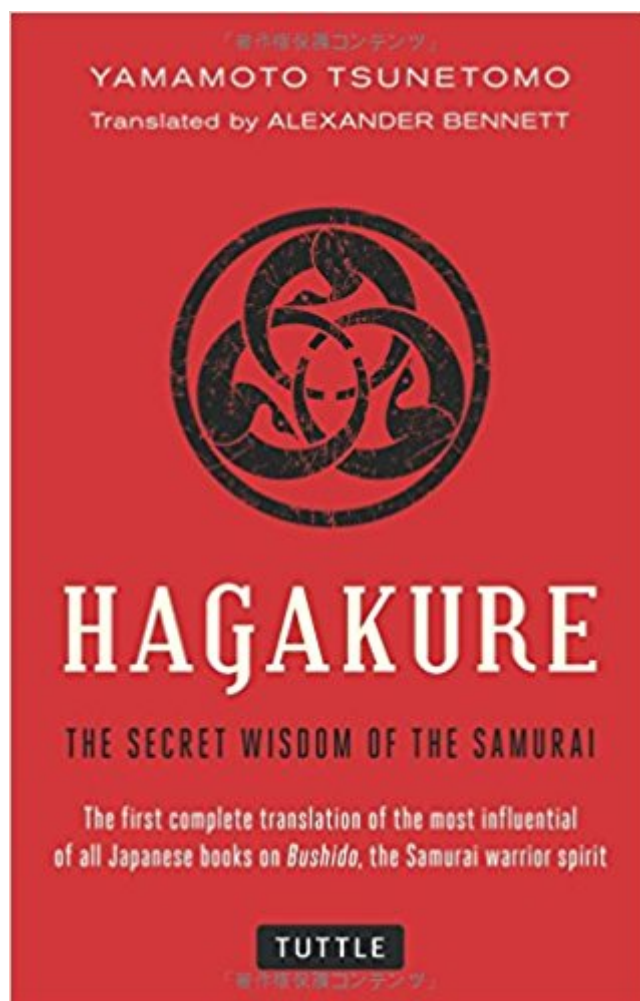


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Hagakure: The Secret Wisdom Of The Samurai



Synopsis

The comprehensive and accurate edition of the Hagakure is a must-have for serious martial artists or fans of samurai and the bushido code. The Hagakure is one of the most influential of all Japanese texts—written nearly 300 years ago by Yamamoto Tsunetomo to summarize the very essence of the Japanese Samurai bushido ("warrior") spirit. Its influence has been felt throughout the world and yet its existence is scarcely known to many Westerners. This is the first translation to include the complete first two books of the Hagakure and the most reliable and authentic passages contained within the third book; all other English translations published previously have been extremely fragmentary and incomplete. Alex Bennett's completely new and highly readable translation of this essential work includes extensive footnotes that serve to fill in many cultural and historical gaps in the previous translations. This unique combination of readability and scholarship gives Hagakure: The Secret Wisdom of the Samurai a distinct advantage over all previous English editions.

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Customer Reviews

"Alex Bennett has produced the first truly authoritative translation and analysis of Hagakure—perhaps the most famous text ever written about samurai honor—to appear in any Western language. Simultaneously erudite and accessible, this volume belongs on the bookshelves of anyone—scholar or hobbyist alike—who is interested in samurai culture, or modern perceptions thereof." —Dr. Karl F. Friday, author of Samurai, Warfare and the State in Early Medieval Japan and Japan Emerging: Premodern History to 1850"Dr. Bennett

possesses a profound knowledge of, and deep insight into, the world of Japanese bushido. This expertise has been enhanced by his extensive practical experience of the traditional martial arts of Japan, and his proficiency in this domain is highly acclaimed." *—* •Tetsuo Yamaori, former Director of the International Research Center for Japanese Studies"[Alex Bennett] is the very best writer on martial arts alive today and [his] work needs to be showcased to the general public." *—* •Don Warrener, President, Budo International"[A] strong point is a scholarly and succinct introduction that grounds the work in historical and social context, equipping the reader with a cultural map of Yamamoto's world. Footnotes provide valuable background and add resonance throughout, keeping names and familial relations straight, highlighting pertinent cross-references and generally rendering the work accessible to contemporary readers." *—* •The Japan Times"*—* the most impressive part of the book for us was Bennett's introductory chapter*—* It puts the Hagakure into its proper historical and social setting as well as examining 'bushido' [*—*] with a critical eye and a look at how Jocho's life experiences and psychology is reflected in the work*—* and does so elegantly and brilliantly. This translation is well worth picking up just on the strength of this chapter." *—* •TheShogunsHouse.com blog

Alexander Bennett holds doctorates from the University of Canterbury and Kyoto University. He has worked for the International Research Center for Japanese Studies and is currently Associate Professor at Kansai University's Department of International Affairs. He lectures frequently on Japanese martial culture and is Vice President of the International Naginata Federation and a committee member of the All Japan Kendo Federation, as well as director of the Japanese Academy of Budo. He is also head coach of New Zealand Kendo. His recent publications include Naginata: the Definitive Guide, Budo Perspectives, The History and Spirit of Budo and The Bushido That Japanese Don't Know (in Japanese).

I enjoyed this book. At times the book was a little dense thanks to the word choice used, but not terrible. I really enjoyed the physical shape, size, and layout of this book. It's very easy to pick up and read a few passages when you feel like it. I'm always fascinated by the history of Japan and the Samurai, and this book added some context to these topics. It was amazing to read just how fragile life was; people could be killed or choose to die over some of the strangest things! That was my biggest take away message from this book. If you like reading about the Samurai I think you'll enjoy this book. I did.

I have read translations of 'Hagakure' before now, but none as thorough or accessible as this. The introduction is worth the Kindle price alone, showing as it does the evolution of Dr Bennett's work on bushido (previously published in Kendo World, among others). The text is clear and easy to read, and Dr Bennett succeeds in drawing out the author's voice, expressing his philosophy in the matter of fact tones required of a devoted retainer. The footnotes are also exhaustive and cross-referenced for the reader's benefit. The finished work is a must-have for serious students of the Japanese martial arts, providing as it does an important historical context and perspective for our practice today. I look forward to Dr Bennett's next work, 'Budo Perspectives'.

Dr. Bennett brings to this work a unique set of qualifications. There are quite a few translations by people who are fluent in Japanese but not so aware of kendo and the history of Japanese martial arts. There are also quite a few translations by people who are highly knowledgeable of kendo and the history of Japanese martial arts. Dr. Bennett, is not only a scholar of the history of Japanese martial arts but comes with a very deep knowledge of the Japanese language based on long years of living in Japan. I'm glad to be one of the first people to own this book and, after my first run through I'm looking forward to a deeper reading of the book.

One of the fascinating books I have read in a while. I was completely uninitiated so just blew my mind away.

Dr. Bennets translation sheds a new light on this book and generally on this topic. Knowing Dr. Bennets background (kendo 7. Dan kyoshi), his translations help kendokas and other followers of the martial ways to understand the origins of Japanese thinking a bit more and so to understand orthodox teaching of senseis much better. Thank you!

Over the years I have read many of Dr .Bennett's books/ translations and articles re Budo. He is extremely knowledgeable, not only as far as the physical aspects of many types of ancient and modern martial arts are concerned but also in the history and philosophy of Budo generally. DR. Bennett has immersed himself in the Japanese culture for several decades and is acknowledged throughout the education system in Japan as a Budo scholar of some renown. He has the ability to take very complicated explanations from commentators from several hundred years ago as well as recent authors and distil them into easily understood concepts. This book is no exception!! I would heartily recommend this book to any serious martial artist or anyone interested in Japanese history

and culture; the insights you will find will make it a very worthwhile investment of your time.

nice translation

I really appreciate the writings of Alex Bennett. He has a talent for keeping academically researched topics current and interesting, I love his prose, his clarity and the way he can put into focus the sometimes obscure content of a book, that I read a long time ago, in a very dusty translation. His point of view of expert in various Martial Paths also complements the pleasure of the reading in an excellent manner. Thank you for this effort!

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