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Drawing the Samurai Sword May 12 2022 To the Japanese, the sword is a spiritual weapon. It possesses a particular divinity, reflecting the soul of its maker, owner, and user. Around its mystical powers has grown the centuries-old ritual and practice of Samurai swordsmanship which is still avidly practiced today as is a fascinating and intricate martial art. This unique guide unlocks all the mysteries of the ancient tradition of Iaijutsu—explaining the history and significance of the sword in Samurai culture and documenting the techniques of swordsmanship as found in no other martial arts book. Darrell Max Craig is one of the foremost teachers of Kendo in the West. He spent many years in Japan competing and training at the very highest level. His book, *Drawing the Samurai Sword*, provides a thorough examination of all aspects of Iaijutsu—including information on sword care and selection, necessary gear, sword and dojo etiquette, and useful drills for practice and demonstration. This book also teaches readers about: How to evaluate your Samurai sword and handle it safely How to wear the traditional Hakama uniform How to perform the Kata forms to hone your technique The brutal history of sword testing, and today's more humane equivalent The classic and exciting story of "The Forty-Seven Ronin" And much more! Featuring a new preface by the author, original color photos and added information about sword testing, this generously-illustrated book is a treasure trove of information for aspiring students and experienced practitioners alike.

Japanese Swords Sep 16 2022 With over 300 stunning photographs and woodblock prints along with extensive historical and cultural commentary, *Japanese Swords* is the ultimate authority on Samurai weaponry. Historically, Japanese warriors considered their swords to be far greater than simple weaponry. Their swords were both lethal tools and divine companions — social and religious icons. Traditionally worn by the samurai as a sign of social status, the Japanese sword represented the junction between the reigning military class and those whom they ruled. Moreover, the samurai sword was a technological and artistic marvel. Many scholars consider it to be the finest sword ever constructed. In terms of symbolism and historical importance, no other blade comes close to the Japanese sword. With a historical, iconographical, and technological perspective, author Cohn M. Roach provides an in-depth study of these magnificent weapons in *Japanese Swords*. This richly illustrated sword book weaves the blade's primary influences together, tracking its history and illuminating its progress from infancy to grandeur. By studying the evolution of the Japanese sword from this perspective, we better understand Japan and its warrior archetype. Combining research materials from multiple disciplines, Roach uses his expertise as an educator to guide readers through the sword's rise to greatness in a unique way. This book discusses the history, development, and spiritual symbolism of the sword, as well as the esoteric metallurgical techniques used in making it. It also covers the difficult training practices used by skilled swordsmen. *Japanese Swords* also includes a companion DVD featuring a beautifully-filmed documentary that explores the traditional swordmaker's craft. The DVD also contains an introduction to the Japanese sword at a sword shop in Kyoto and a visit to a dojo for a beginner's class in the medieval sword-drawing art called iaido.

[Swords of the Samurai](#) Mar 30 2021

Sword of the Samurai Dec 15 2019

[The Samurai Sword](#) Nov 06 2021

Secret of the Samurai Sword Aug 03 2021 When Celia and her brother Stephen visit Japan, they discover a guest with a message from the past—the ghost of an ancient samurai soldier.

Under the Samurai Sword Nov 13 2019 This is a true story of the experiences of just one military man in his life and death struggle while in the Pacific Theater during World War II, the war that has been recorded as being the greatest and perhaps one of the most tragic wars in the history of the United States. It is the war in which some 55 million died and some 3 million more are unaccounted for. It is also the war in which the United States suffered its greatest and most humiliating defeat - that of the loss of the entire Philippines. The story opens with the peaceful and relaxing island life, then carries the reader through the days of intense combat, the facing of the enemy as ammunition and supplies expire, the horrible experience of being captured, the brutal days of torture and slave labor as a prisoner of war and then on to the wonderful return to freedom back in the arms of the United States. In so doing it gives the reader an insight into that period not covered in most U.S. history. It points out the confusion that led to the "writing off" of the entire Allied forces in that faraway theater. It is this part of history that some of our great leaders would like to forget. Those who erred are not to be blamed, for we all do make mistakes. It is however, only by revealing them that we can avoid such in the future and hope that it will be knowledge helpful to generations to come.

The Theft of the Samurai Sword Apr 11 2022 Another adventure for nine-year-old Secret Agent Jack Stalwart, this time in Japan, as he continues the search for his missing brother, Max.

Secret of the Samurai Sword Dec 27 2020

Mastering the Samurai Sword Nov 18 2022 Memorialized in countless books and movies, the history of Japan's fearsome samurai warriors is known all over the world. Who can forget these Japanese masters' skills with the sword? Today, samurai warriors no longer exist, but their legacy of swordsmanship endures. Now, the way of the samurai sword is learned in the martial arts Iaijutsu and Kenjutsu. This book is the perfect introduction to using this beautiful and ancient weapon. In *Mastering the Samurai Sword*, you'll learn the sword's fascinating history, its evolution, and the philosophy behind its use. You'll also learn practical guidance for mastering the sword itself. Full-color, step-by-step photographs detail many of the most useful and famous samurai moves, including: drawing the samurai sword guard positions, cutting blows, and blocking falling and rolling techniques, and evasive strategies standing forms and kneeling forms All of the martial arts techniques discussed in the book are performed for readers in the downloadable material to help you perfect your form. Beginners will learn everything from proper attire and behavior in the dojo to how they might practice at home, while more experienced samurai sword people will find a new appreciation for the deeper meaning and tradition behind the graceful way of the sword.

Mystery of the Samurai Sword Jun 13 2022 A Japanese business tycoon mysteriously disappears and, soon after, a rare samurai sword is stolen from an art gallery. Suspecting a connection, the Hardy boys try to solve the mystery.

Samurai Swords - A Collector's Guide Oct 17 2022 Japanese swords, particularly those wielded by famous samurai warriors, hold a continuing fascination for collectors of fine arts and historical military weapons. This book is designed to enhance one's appreciation for the wide variety of Japanese swords (as well as their related polearms), their manufacture and their preservation. A fascinating opening chapter explains how the elite Samurai class dominated Japan for more than a thousand years, how technological and ideological advances overtook the Samurai in the 1860s, heralding a more up-to-date political and military system of governance, and how such changes affected Samurai sword design and manufacture. Subsequent chapters present topics of greatest relevance to today's sword collector: namely, the modern Japanese sword; different types of swords and their construction and testing; collecting and studying Japanese swords (and the tremendously important etiquette involved); and techniques of preserving and polishing swords. This book is beautifully illustrated with paintings, photographs, drawings, and maps. In addition, there is an in-depth glossary and useful tables explaining Japanese calligraphic symbols relating to swords, both of

great value to the collector.

Legacies of the Sword Feb 09 2022 Western scholars and educators are generally far less familiar with the samurai in his original-and, ostensibly, primary-role as warrior and masters of arms than in his other functions as landowner, feudal lord, literature, or philosopher. Yet, any attempt to comprehend fully the samurai without considering his military abilities and training (bugei) is futile. With verve and wit, Karl Friday combines the results of nearly two decades of fieldwork and archival research to examine samurai martial culture from a broad perspective: as a historical phenomenon, as a worldview, and as a system of physical, spiritual, and moral education.

Samurai Swords Aug 15 2022 For 700 years Japanese civilization was dominated by a single warrior caste. This project looks at the weaponry of Samurai men and women over the centuries with specifically commissioned photography of reenactors wearing and museum-quality clothing and weaponry.

Forza The Samurai Sword Workout Oct 13 2019 First the author teaches basic sword movements: thrusts, slices etc. Although she keeps it fun, she draws on her years of martial arts training to teach the true movements that combine balance, focus and precised muscle control. Then the author explains the benefits of each movement and her sword fighting program as a whole. In part three of the book she brings it all together showing how to string movements together into a heart-pounding, full-throttle workout.

Mystery of the Samurai Sword Jun 20 2020 When a rare samurai sword is stolen from an art gallery soon after the mysterious disappearance of a Japanese business tycoon, the Hardy boys suspect a connection and try to solve the mystery.

The Samurai Sword Jan 08 2022 Author Jon Boyd has worked with knives and blades for over 25 years as a knife and sword maker as well as flint knapper. His interest in the samurai sword and his knowledge of edged weapons is apparent in this informative book detailing many aspects of the sword. Approaching this subject from many angles, Boyd presents unique information that can not be found in any other book. Starting with a brief history of Japan and how the sword evolved, *The Samurai Sword: Looking at Form, Fit & Function of a Masterpiece* discusses the parts of the sword, including the design features and purpose of each component. He then describes the physics behind the sword, which covers the weight, balance, speed, force, drag, and the proper place to strike to achieve the optimum cut. Also included are details on how to choose, assemble, disassemble, clean, and store a sword. *The Samurai Sword: Looking at Form, Fit & Function of a Masterpiece* is a valuable resource for any sword enthusiast.

The Connoisseur's Book of Japanese Swords Aug 23 2020 Connoisseur's Book Japanese Swords is a Kodansha International publication.

The Samurai sword Jun 01 2021

The Samurai Sword Tachi-Iai Japanese Long Sword Feb 15 2020 This Samurai Sword Training and Ranking Manual contains step-by-step instructions and hundreds of photographs to help you quickly and easily learn the techniques used by the Samurai. The simple, straight forward instructions will help you to progress from white belt to black belt, mastering long sword techniques that have been used for hundreds of years. This training manual is the ultimate resource for those training in the ways of the long Japanese sword (Tachi). This easy-to-follow manual will provide you with that extra, necessary knowledge every martial arts enthusiast or student of the sword needs to enhance expertise and master the long sword.

Art of the Japanese Sword Sep 23 2020 In *The Art of the Japanese Sword*, master swordsmith Yoshindo Yoshihara offers a detailed look at the entire process of Japanese sword making, including the finishing and appreciation of Japanese blades. Japanese sword art stands out in many ways: functionality as a weapon, sophisticated metallurgy and metal smithing, the shape of the blade itself—all contribute to the beauty of these remarkable weapons. *The Art of the Japanese Sword* conveys to the reader Japanese samurai sword history and Japanese sword care, as well as explaining how to view and appreciate a blade. With 256 full-color pages, this sword book illustrates in meticulous detail how modern craftsmen use traditional methods to prepare their steel, forge the sword and create the unique hardened edge. By gaining a good understanding of how a sword is actually made, the reader will be able to appreciate the samurai sword more fully. Topics include: Appreciating the Japanese sword History of the Japanese sword Traditional Japanese steel making Making the sword Finishing the sword

Samurai Sword Jul 14 2022 The samurai sword: a symbol of the spirit of

old Japan, it embodies the samurai's steel discipline, unswerving devotion and peerless skill. With its creation, a feat of craftsmanship passed down by generations of artisans, the samurai sword is generally considered to be superior even to the famed blades of Western Damascus and Toledo. *The Samurai Sword Handbook* is a precise exploration of the samurai sword designed for sword collectors as well as anyone intrigued by these ancient blades. Detailing the origins and development of the samurai sword, its historical background, styles, famous schools and differences in construction, this revised edition of the classic reference outlines methods of identifying and researching the sword, as well as caring for it properly. This must-have for sword lovers is sure to be a bestseller. Topics of this Samurai book include: Japanese History and the Samurai Sword Types of swords Parts of the sword Blade shape, construction, and grain The making of the sword Inscriptions and their readings Care and maintenance Appraisal and value Relative point values

The Samurai Sword Dec 19 2022 The samurai sword: a symbol of the spirit of old Japan, it embodies the samurai's steel discipline, unswerving devotion and peerless skill. With its creation, a feat of craftsmanship passed down by generations of artisans; the samurai sword is considered by most to be superior even to the famed blades of Western Damascus and Toledo. *The Samurai Sword Handbook* is a precise exploration of the samurai sword designed for sword collectors as well as anyone intrigued by these ancient blades. Detailing the origins and development of the samurai sword, its historical background, styles, prestigious schools and differences in construction, this revised edition of the classic reference outlines methods of identifying and researching the sword, as well as caring for it properly. This must-have for sword lovers is sure to be a bestseller. Topics of this Samurai book include: Japanese History and the Samurai Sword Types of swords Parts of the sword Blade shape, construction, and grain The making of the sword Inscriptions and their readings Care and maintenance Appraisal and value Relative point values

The Samurai Jan 28 2021 The true nature of the samurai warrior is an elusive and endlessly fascinating enigma for those in the west. From their inauspicious beginnings as barbarian-subduing soldiers, the samurai lived according to a code known as bushido, or 'Way of the Warrior'. Bushido advocated loyalty, honour, pride and fearlessness in combat. Those who broke the code were expected to perform seppuku, or suicide through belly-slitting. By its very design, seppuku aimed to restore honour to disgraced warriors by ensuring the most painful of deaths. But as the samurai grew into large warrior clans, the bushido virtues of loyalty and honour fell into question, as control was seized and the emperor supplanted by a powerful military ruler, the shogun. Samurai tells the story of the ensuing centuries-long struggle for power between the clans, as Japan's martial elite rose and fell.

Duel for the Samurai Sword-CC Jan 16 2020

The Samurai Sword Mar 10 2022

The Japanese Sword Oct 05 2021 Drawing on the V&A's magnificent collection, this illustrated survey examines the development of the Japanese sword in an historical and social context from the 8th to the 12th century. The development of the sword from its origins as one of the world's most effective cutting weapons in seen in the context of the emergence and development of Japan's ruling military class, the samurai, to whom it was indispensable both as a weapon and symbol of power. The book also deals with the techniques used in the making of the sword and the associated terminology. In addition to weapons from the V&A's own collections, illustrations include comparative materials from Japan's Tokyo National Museum, as well as prints showing graphic depictions of swords in action.

Japanese Sword Fighting Jul 02 2021 Renowned budo (martial arts) and ninja grandmaster Hatsumi explains how Japanese sword fighting embodies the essence of budo and the spirit of the samurai. For centuries, sword masters like Miyamoto Musashi have been revered, and have fascinated and inspired people everywhere. Now, in his definitive work, Masaaki Hatsumi, the world's most famous living budo and ninja grandmaster, shares his vast knowledge of Japanese sword fighting as it's been practiced through the ages: its history, techniques, styles, and core philosophies, along with the deepest secrets of this venerable martial art. Hatsumi covers a variety of classical techniques, including ninja kenpo and two-sword fighting, and also demonstrates applications using the stick, spear, naginata, and kusarigama. He then explores such secret techniques as those involving armor, and the mutodori (no-sword) forms, considered the ultimate samurai skill. Detailed demonstration photos, works of calligraphy by famous samurai artists, historical scrolls,

and illustrations enhance the text. Within Hatsumi's technical descriptions and musings on the history of bushido (the way of the warrior) are sections in which he places budo and sword fighting in their cultural context, discusses their practical applications, and conveys his personal philosophy of promoting a world of peace and tolerance. [Samurai Sword: Spirit * Strategy * Techniques](#) Jan 20 2023 The Samurai Sword is the essential illustrated guide to the Japanese way of the sword. Japan's famous samurai warriors were more than just soldiers — they were adherents to a strict code of honor who respected the deeper, spiritual meaning of the way of the sword. To the samurai, battle was sacred. This indispensable guide to theory and practice respects both the physical and spiritual aspects of martial arts practice with the katana. This sword book features: Beautiful, step-by-step photos and easy-to-understand text Guidance for selecting, maintaining, and using your sword Wisdom about the practical value of meditation Inspirational biographies of some of the greatest samurai swordsmen, men whose words and deeds embodied the true spirit of the samurai warrior Downloadable video Whether you're a beginner or an experienced swordsperson, this book will broaden your practical knowledge with detailed instruction on stances, cuts, guards, forms, and sparring techniques and strategy.

The Samurai Sword Sep 04 2021

The Lady and the Samurai Apr 18 2020 THE LADY AND THE SAMURAI - Swordplay at its finest! For thousands of years, humanity has used the sword as an instrument of righteousness to do battle, and here in the world of sport fencing and the classical realm of the Japanese Samurai sword, both blade cultures clash in an epic battle between the forces of Good and Evil. Follow the exploits of the troubled, coming of age fencing prodigy Christina Brickley as she confronts her arch-nemesis Felipe LaForche, villainous fencing master par excellence amid the backdrop of the Olympic games as they vie for the prestige, power and championship of the fencing world. Share in Brickley's agony as she battles to overcome her own inner demons and outwit the treacherous LaForche, fencing team Captain, and killer in the most darkest arts of manipulation. In do-or-die confrontations, hero Christina and the vile LaForche lock steel blades in the sweltering cauldrons of their furious passions striving against each other in mental bladeholds as they seek to gain the glories as only a world Olympian can. One will become the undisputed master of the world of the fencing blade; the other must fall. Upon the brink of self-destruction, Christina meets Thomas Kannon, a young and virile master of the 'katana, ' the blade of the Samurai of Japan. Gentle Thomas instructs Brickley in not the 'why' or 'how' of the blade, but imparts to her the very heart of the sword - the soul of the Samurai warriors of old. As she trains under his stern tutelage, Christina is transformed from a lowly sword-renegade to that of a consummate artiste of the most elite sword of mercy. In this dramatic tale of mind, body and soul, global fencing cultures clash head on as lightning-fast actions of word, thought and deed go into the making of a world champion and the slaying of a nightmarish dragon who would stop at nothing to possess the mind and body of young Christina. In this surging, heart-scalding crucible of serrating conflict, where spirit, soul and the whining sheens of naked blades meet, titanic battles of wills slam together, contesting the right and quest for personal freedom as opposed to the supreme powers of evil, tyranny and the ultimate subjugation of death-dealing bondage. [About the Word-Fencer: Douglas M. Laurent, M.A., English, B.A., Film, is a graduate of Northeastern Illinois University and Columbia College, Chicago. A martial artist with over 40 years experience, according to Eastern and Western fencing traditions, Laurent combines both worlds weaving them into one solid tale of hot wrought passionate iron. Allusions to famous fencers as well as popular and formal Literature, Music, History, Myth and Art thrust this volume forward, offering readers a glimpse into their own cultural heritages and the legendary mores and ways of the cold steel. The gallant sword, symbolic apex of Divinity itself, has been since time began the instrument of ridding the world of evil and its woes. From Arthur's Excalibur to Alexander's sword that cut the Gordian knot, swords have been in the foreground of the mightiest tales known to myth and history. It is the implement of reckoning, of quelling the agencies of darkness wherever needs be. From the first wooden swords such as the Japanese 'bokken' to that of a Jedi 'lightsaber, ' 'LadySam' bridges this gap bringing time-honored tales of the blade into the modern era amid the boldness of descriptions that only the steel blade and its masters can generate. A dynamic read, The Lady and the Samurai is non-stop action that will surely keep readers on the edge . .](#)

Cutting Edge Feb 26 2021 The Japanese sword has long been

appreciated both as a weapon and as an object of art. Only in Japanese culture has the sword been developed to such a level of technological excellence and spiritual importance. As a cutting weapon, the fully developed curved katana, or samurai sword, of the samurai warrior was uniquely effective. As a cultural object, it offers invaluable insights into the social and spiritual history of the Japanese people. [Cutting Edge: Japanese Swords in the British Museum](#) offers a fascinating introduction to the design, manufacture and collecting of these Japanese weapons. It covers the development of sword art and designs, traditional forging methods, regional variations in style and signature works by legendary craftsmen. Includes hundreds of photos with 16 pages in full color. [Lethal Elegance](#) Apr 30 2021 As the "soul of the samurai," the sword is famously both the symbol and instrument of Japanese military prowess. Less known, at least in the west, is its role as a fashion accessory or status symbol. More than the weapon itself, it was the sword's metal fittings--from the hand guard to the small decorative plates on the hilt--that reflected the complexities of samurai life. Some fittings were meant to convey the honor and self-control expected of a samurai, while other, more flamboyant fittings reflected the samurai's leisure-time persona as "man about town." Later, when the wearing of swords spread beyond the samurai class, both the decorative function of the fittings and the variety of their designs increased, leading to some of the most accomplished metalwork ever created. Now in paperback for the first time, *Lethal Elegance* presents 150 of these remarkable sword fittings, and is one of the few books to focus on their styles and techniques. It discusses the visual effects achieved with different alloys, the evolution of fittings following changes in warfare, symbolism and standards for connoisseurship. Though these objects were created for violent ends, their variety and beauty also reveal them as wonders of self-expression. [Samurai Swords for the Material Battle](#) Dec 07 2021 With the advent of World War I, infantry rapiers or cavalry sabers had practically become obsolete on the European battlefields due to the introduction of machine weapons and tanks. At the same time, in Japan, the samurai sword experienced an impressive renaissance due to the growing demand of Japanese officers for traditionally forged swords. *Samurai Swords for the Material Battle* tells the story of the last Samurai Swords forged for battle and answers the question of why Japan's soldiers entrusted their fate to these swords in the inferno of material battles. Impressive visual documents tell of the events of that time and allow the viewer to imagine the hell through which the soldiers of all warring parties went. Using the example of the works of contemporary swordsmiths, the author not only proves the art status of these swords. He also examines the question of whether only swords from Tamahagane can be genuine Nihon-to. Purists will be shocked by the estimation of a leading contemporary swordsmith who recommended that the Japanese War Ministry supply all swordsmiths with Manchurian steel. Likewise, the estimation of Japanese swordsmen who fought to the death with their swords is likely to turn many Budo devotees' idea of the ideal fighting sword on its head. Based on the personal fates of Japanese soldiers, the author evokes the spirit of the last samurai. The reader can understand how the Japanese sword myth and the samurai's code of honor shaped the Japanese society up to the time of the Second World War and had a decisive influence on their actions. By not looking at the swords in isolation, but placing them in the focus of contemporary historical events, this book differs from many reference books in this genre and complements the existing literature in a unique way. Competently and carefully researched, it is for the connoisseur of the subject as well as for beginners or readers interested in contemporary history a real treasure trove and exciting reading to the end.

The Samurai Sword Oct 25 2020 This book is a must have treasury of "how to" for every martial arts enthusiast. Its purpose and intent focus on the "way of the sword" used throughout history by the Samurai. Through the Toyama Iai-batto-do system of comprehension and practical application you will be able to duplicate and execute the same rhythm, timing and speed required to be proficient in the sword. Learn correct and practical methodology on how to execute sword technique in a simple and direct no-nonsense approach. Discover the art of drawing and sheathing, stances, manipulation, gripping, pre-arranged forms, cutting patterns, evasive action, test cutting, plus much more. Every sword enthusiast must have this information! Enhance your expertise; Master the samurai sword, practice its applications used throughout ancient Japan and studied in modern society.

Sword of the Samurai Nov 25 2020 The land of Hachiman is in grave danger. The Shogun's control is slipping. Bandits roam the land freely and barbarian invaders have begun to raid across the borders. All this

because the Dai-Katana, the great sword, Singing Death, has been stolen from the Shogun. YOU are the Shogun's champion, a young Samurai. Your mission is to recover this wondrous sword from Ikiru, the Master of Shadows, who holds it hidden deep in the Pit of Demons.

Jack Stalwart: The Theft of the Samurai Sword Jul 22 2020 Sacred Japanese treasures are being stolen, and Jack must investigate. Can he defeat the shady geisha Madame Minori and her band of ninja thieves?

Samurai Weapons May 20 2020 Unlock the secrets of the legendary weapons of the samurai While the samurai is well known as the military nobility of medieval Japan, their range of weapons, which went far beyond the katana, bow, and spear, is lesser known. For instance, some weapons, like the tesson, or iron fan, were used in secret where samurai swords were not allowed. Others were improvised, with warriors using whatever fighting tool was at hand. In Samurai Weapons, readers will follow the story of Zenigata Heiji, among others, who developed an uncanny ability to use heavy coins as dangerous weapons by throwing them like bullets. Author Don Cunningham, who held ranks in judo, jujutsu, and kendo, including a second dan license from the Kodokan Judo Institute in Tokyo, gives us a historical look at these ancient arms in a way that's useful for novices and samurai experts alike. Chapters cover such rich details as: Japanese martial arts culture Hidden weapons Sensu, truncheons, and polearms Learn how and why samurai weapons included not only the sword of popular lore, but also a variety of others. Cunningham describes the society of Japan, how the samurai class arose, and the place in society that samurai held through the centuries, focusing in particular on the various weaponry they used, how they used it, and why. Samurai Weapons highlights how these weapons and fighting styles have influenced various schools of Japanese martial arts. *The Lost Samurai* Mar 18 2020 "An inherently fascinating, impressively well written, exceptionally informative, and meticulously detailed history" of Japanese overseas mercenaries (Midwest Book Review). The Lost Samurai reveals the greatest untold story of Japan's legendary warrior class, which is that for almost a hundred years Japanese samurai were employed as mercenaries in the service of the kings of Siam, Cambodia, Burma, Spain and Portugal, as well as by the directors of the Dutch East India Company. The Japanese samurai were used in dramatic assault parties, as royal bodyguards, as staunch garrisons and as willing executioners. As a result, a stereotypical image of the fierce Japanese warrior developed that had a profound influence on the way they were regarded by their employers. While the Southeast Asian kings tended to employ samurai on a long-term basis as palace guards, their European employers usually hired them on a temporary basis for specific campaigns. Also, whereas the Southeast Asian monarchs tended to trust their well-established units of Japanese mercenaries, the Europeans, while admiring them, also feared them. In every European example a progressive shift in attitude may be discerned from initial enthusiasm to great suspicion that the Japanese might one day turn against them, as illustrated by the long-standing Spanish fear of an invasion of the Philippines by Japan accompanied by a local uprising. During the 1630s, when Japan chose isolation rather than engagement with Southeast Asia, it left these fierce mercenaries stranded in distant countries never to return: lost samurai indeed!

Katana Feb 21 2023 The Samurai sword of Japan is probably the finest edged weapon ever made. This volume by leading Samurai expert Stephen Turnbull reveals the story of how and why it achieved this distinction. Particular attention is paid to the development of the familiar curved blade from the original straight blades, the associated development of Japan's famous steel-making techniques and the challenges from contemporary warfare. Together with the technical details of forging, polishing, mounting and testing; this volume is brought to life with details of the great swordmakers themselves. Moreover, no history of the sword would be complete without a detailed examination of its use in combat, from the greatest Samurai armies to individual duels and revenge killings. Personal accounts allow the reader to discover the

art of Japanese swordsmanship in the hands of masters such as Miyamoto Musashi to the unnamed Japanese warrior defending his family's honour. This lively text is perfectly complemented by artwork reconstructions of the sword in use and colour photographs of the swords in use.

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