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this is the true story as told to the doctor who looked after him just before he died of the life of one of the last traditional yakuza in japan it wasn't a good life in either sense of the word but it was an adventurous one and the tale he has to tell presents an honest and oddly attractive picture of an insider in that separate unofficial world in his low hoarse voice he describes the random events that led the son of a prosperous country shopkeeper to become a member and ultimately the leader of a gang organizing illegal dice games in tokyo's liveliest entertainment area he talks about his first police raid and the brutal interrogation and imprisonment that followed it he remembers his first love affair and the girl he ran away with and the weeks they spent wandering about the countryside together briefly and matter of factly he describes how he cut off the little finger of his left hand as a ritual gesture of apology he explains how the games were run and the profits spent why the ties between members of the brotherhood were so important and how he came to kill a man who worked for him what emerges is a contradictory personality tough but not unsentimental stubborn yet willing to take life more or less as it comes impulsive but careful to observe the rules of the business he had joined and in the end when his tale is finished you feel you would probably have liked him if you'd met him in person fortunately dr saga's record of his long conversations with him provides a wonderful substitute for that meeting

yakuza moon is the shocking yet intensely moving memoir of 37 yearold shoko tendo who grew up the daughter of a yakuza boss tendo lived her life in luxury until the age of six when her father was sent to prison and her family fell into terrible debt bullied by classmates who called her the yakuza girl and terrorized at home by a father who became a drunken violent monster after his release from prison tendo rebelled a regular visitor to nightclubs at the age of 12 she soon became a drug addict and a member of a girl gang by the age of 15 she found herself sentenced to eight months in a juvenile detention

center adulthood brought big bucks and glamour when tendo started working as a bar hostess during japan s booming bubble economy of the nineteen eighties but among her many rich and loyal patrons there were also abusive clients one of whom beat her so badly that her face was left permanently scarred when her mother died tendo plunged into such a deep depression that she tried to commit suicide twice tendo takes us through the bad times with warmth and candor and gives a moving and inspiring account of how she overcame a lifetime of discrimination and hardship getting tattooed from the base of her neck to the tips of her toes with a design centered on a geisha with a dagger in her mouth was an act that empowered her to start making changes in her life she quit her job as a hostess on her last day at the bar she looked up at the full moon a sight she never forgot the moon became a symbol of her struggle to become whole and the title of the book she wrote as an epitaph for herself and her family

following his acclaimed work a song for nagasaki in which fr paul glynn told the powerful story of dr nagai a christian convert of remarkable courage and compassion who ministered to victims of the atomic bomb attack on his city the smile of a ragpicker brings us the heroic story of satoko kitahara a young beautiful woman of wealth who gave up her riches and comfort to be among the ragpickers in the tokyo slums motivated by her newfound faith in christ she plunged into the life of the poor regardless of the consequences as satoko helped the poor with their material and spiritual needs she also helped them to recover their self respect and dignity satoko's story demonstrates how one person's life can affect so many others every day satoko encountered christ in some new and challenging way calling the church back to identification with the poor like dr nagai she expressed her faith through the sensitivity and beauty of her own japanese culture satoko died a young woman in dire poverty yet her death mourned by many thousands reflected her triumphant life of deep christian faith and

charity this is a powerful story of reconciliation and healing between people of different social economic and religious backgrounds inspired by a frail young woman of luminous faith illustrated with photos

a story carved in ink sealed in blood and whispered through steam in forgotten tea houses inside the mafia is not just a memoir it s a descent shigeru matsuda karao once known as the raven in tokyo s underworld reveals the darkest secrets of the japanese gangster world from cutting off his finger in a bloody yubitsume ritual to walking through the burning ruins of kobe laundering money through fake insurance claims and running illicit gambling dens these are the hidden chapters of japan s postwar criminal underworld each story is rooted in real life events including the assassination of a mayor the brutal rise of the kudo kai syndicate and even a multimillion dollar pokémon card scam written in stark poetic language this true crime novel blurs the lines between memory and myth between honor and survival from the neon shadows of kabukichō to the serene silence of a zen temple in kamakura matsuda reflects on betrayal loyalty and the cost of living by the code

organised crime is now a major threat to all industrial and non industrial countries using an inter disciplinary and comparative approach this book examines the existing official institutional discourse on organised crime to examine whether or not it has an impact on perceptions of the threat and on the reality of organized crime

in this firsthand account of high risk car and motorcycle racing in japan ikuya sato shows how affluence and consumerism have spawned various experimental and deviant life styles among youth kamikaze biker offers an intriguing look at a form of delinquency in a country traditionally thought to be devoid of social problems ikuya sato s kamikaze biker is an exceptionally fine ethnographic analysis of a recurrent form of japanese collective youth deviance sato has contributed a work of value to a

wide range of scholarly audiences jack katz contemporary sociology a must for anyone interested in japan juvenile delinquency and or youth behavior in general or the impact of affluence on society choice the volume provides a sophisticated discussion of changes happening in japanese society in the early 1980s as such it serves as a window on the 1990s and beyond ross mouer asian studies review kamikaze biker is a superlative study one that might help liberate american social science from the simplistic notion that behavior not directly contributing to economic productivity should be summarily dismissed as dangerous and deviant los angeles times book review

a welcome addition to any reading list for those interested in contemporary japanese society roger goodman nissan professor of modern japanese society university of oxford i know no better book for an accessible and up to date introduction to this complex subject than the sage handbook of modern japan studies hiroko takeda associate professor organization for global japanese studies university of tokyo pioneering and nuanced in analysis yet highly accessible and engaging in style yoshio sugimoto emeritus professor la trobe university the sage handbook of modern japanese studies includes outstanding contributions from a diverse group of leading academics from across the globe this volume is designed to serve as a major interdisciplinary reference work and a seminal text both rigorous and accessible to assist students and scholars in understanding one of the major nations of the world james d babb is a senior lecturer in the school of geography politics and sociology at newcastle university

after the techno futurism of the 1950s and the utopian 1960s vision of a great society the 1970s saw americans turning to the past as a source for both nostalgic escapism and serious reflection on the nation s history while some popular works like grease presented the relatively recent past as a more innocent time far away from the nation s post vietnam post watergate

malaise others like roots used america s bicentennial as an occasion for deep soul searching happy days investigates how 1970s popular culture was obsessed with america s past but often offered radically different interpretations of the same historical events and icons even the figure of the greaser once an icon of juvenile delinquency was made family friendly by henry winkler s fonzie at the same time that he was being appropriated in more threatening ways by punk and gay subcultures the cultural historian benjamin alpers discovers similar levels of ambivalence toward the past in 1970s neo noir films representations of america s founding and neo slave narratives by alex haley and octavia butler by exploring how americans used the 1970s to construct divergent representations of their shared history he identifies it as a pivotal moment in the nation s ideological fracturing

sacred ferocious and businesslike adelstein describes the japanese mafia like nobody else roberto saviano on tokyo vice makoto saigo is half american and half japanese in small town japan with a set of talents limited to playing guitar and picking fights with rock stardom off the table he turns toward the only place where you can start from the bottom and move up through sheer merit loyalty and brute force the yakuza saigo nicknamed tsunami quickly realizes that even within the organization opinions are as varied as they come and a clash of philosophies can quickly become deadly one screw up can cost you your life or at least a finger the internal politics of the yakuza are dizzyingly complex and between the ever shifting web of alliances and the encroaching hand of the law that pushes them further and further underground saigo finds himself in the middle of a defining decades long battle that will determine the future of the yakuza written with the insight of an expert on japanese organized crime and the compassion of a longtime friend investigative journalist jake adelstein presents a sprawling biography of a yakuza through post war desperation to bubble era optimism to the present including a cast of

memorable yakuza bosses coach the buddha and more this is a story about the rise and fall of a man a country and a dishonest but sometimes honorable way of life on the brink of being lost

a fascinating study of how criminal enterprise can infect the very heart of modern capitalism here is the backstage world of political influence and organized crime in the world s second largest economy by far the most detailed and even handed study of this important and neglected subject john w dower author of embracing defeat japan in the wake of world war ii reviews of original edition a superb study of japan s underworld that is both entertaining and revealing the authors miss none of the color and curious detail of the yakuza style but at the same time go far beyond surface observations far eastern economic review the book is laden with fascinating information some of it heretofore unavailable in english washington post blend the mafia with the masons let them simmer a while then fold in the ku klux klan and you ll have the yakuza important and timely yakuza will serve for years as the source document on japanese organized crime san jose mercury news state of the art investigative reporting must reading for those who consider themselves already highly conversant with yakuza activities disturbing journal of asian studies

please note this is a companion version not the original book sample book insights 1 ijichi eiji s world is alien from japanese norms but it reveals so much of the average man s thoughts and feelings his book has been translated into english and is available worldwide

in the maelstrom of globalization and cyberspace organized crime continues to defy definition a diverse array of activities is perpetuated by criminal organizations criminal groups and associations and gangs and it is clear that one specific label is no

longer adequate this book offers a uniquely global approach to organized crime and the multitude of forces that shape it in the 21st century as well as discussing definitions of and the historical roots of organized crime this book examines various forms of organized crime around the world in the us mexico latin america and the caribbean russia and europe asia and africa this revised and updated new edition includes coverage of the rise of the ndrangheta in italy and their global expansion the impact of drug legalization on organized crime and the problem of methamphetamine organ trading money laundering and animal poaching changes in gang traditions and gangland penitentiaries the decentralization of mexican cartels the growth of opium production in myanmar and the drug war in africa and the advancement of isis and the emergence of the silk road and the dark net this book is essential reading for students engaged in the study of global and transnational organized crime with features including chapter overviews key terms critical thinking questions and case studies

a darkly comic sequel to tokyo vice that is equal parts history lesson true crime exposé and memoir it s 2008 and it s been a while since jake adelstein was the only gaijin crime reporter for the yomiuri shimbun the global economy is in shambles jake is off the police beat but still chain smoking clove cigarettes and tadamasa goto the most powerful boss in the japanese organised crime world has been banished from the yakuza giving adelstein one less enemy to worry about for the time being but as he puts his life back together he discovers that he may be no match for his greatest enemy himself and adelstein has a different gig these days due diligence work or using his investigative skills to dig up information on entities whose bosses would prefer that some things stay hidden the underworld isn t what it used to be underneath layers of paperwork corporations are thinly veiled fronts for the yakuza pachinko parlours are a hidden battleground between disenfranchised korean japanese and north korean extortion plots tepco the electric power corporation keeping the lights on for all of tokyo

scrambles to hide its willful oversights that ultimately led to the 2011 fukushima meltdown and the japanese government shows levels of corruption that make the yakuza look like philanthropists in comparison all this is punctuated by personal tragedies no one could have seen coming in this ambitious and riveting work jake adelstein explores what it s like when you re in too deep to distinguish the story you chase from the life you live

originally intended to guide the japanese in self examination minami s text provides valuable insights into the japanese and their mentality the author takes a long look at postwar japn examining self consciousness happiness and unhappiness and social relationships jacket

we all dream of a better future and of a better relationship we all dream of a better family and of a better life but how do we go about realizing these dreams is the degree of our dreams directly proportional to the degree of sacrifice required to achieve them when physical separation from the husband and separation from an only child is demanded of us is it still worth pursuing that dream is not the nearness of a husband the nearness of a son the nearness of our family the nearness of loved ones a most wonderful dream is this not enough

entries covers japanese life and culture with specific references to the subject in anime and manga

this study provides a comprehensive overview of organized crime explaining the concept and the theories of organized crime and criminal behaviour this text covers several topics including the definition of organized crime some theories to explain it its businesses history participants both domestic and foreign groups political and corporate alliances and methods for controlling it

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