

# The Samurai Sourcebook

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Last Full MeasureLords of the SamuraiA Day in a Working LifeHistorical Dictionary of  
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brave invincible warriors fighting sword in hand against overwhelming odds those were  
the samurai in this the most comprehensive enthralling look at their history personalities  
strategies costume and battles you ll find every detail of their armor and weaponry as  
well as the samurai army s development its organization and the fighters feudal  
obligation case studies focus in on the most important invasions and combat situation as  
well as their religious traditions a full range of maps chart wartime changes

this book is an introduction the japanese history culture and society from 1185 the  
beginning of the kamakura period through the end of the edo period in 1868

the dazzling spectacle presented by the armies of medieval japan owed much to the

highly developed family and personal heraldry of samurai society from simple personal banners this evolved over centuries of warfare into a complex system of flags worn or carried into battle together with the striking great standards of leading warlords while not regulated in the western sense japanese heraldry developed as a series of widely followed practices while remaining flexible enough to embrace constant innovation scores of examples in monochrome and full colour illustrate this fascinating explanation of the subject by a respected expert on all aspects of samurai culture

in this brilliantly researched deeply humane work of history michael stephenson traces the paths that have led soldiers to their graves over the centuries revealing a wealth of insight about the nature of combat the differences among cultures and the unchanging qualities of humanity itself behind every soldier s death lies a story a tale not just of the cold mathematics of the battlefield but of an individual human being who gave his life what psychological and cultural pressures brought him to his fate what lies and truths convinced him to march toward his death covering warfare from prehistory through the present day the last full measure tells these soldiers stories ultimately capturing the experience of war as few books ever have in these pages we march into battle alongside the greek phalanx and the medieval foot soldier we hear gunpowder s thunder in the slaughters of the napoleonic era and the industrialized killing of the civil war and recoil at the modern automated horrors of both world wars finally we witness the death of one tradition of heroic combat and the construction of another in the wars of the modern era ranging from vietnam to america s latest involvements in iraq and afghanistan in exploring these conflicts and others stephenson draws on numerous sources to delve deep into fascinating period specific detail tracing for instance the true combat effectiveness of the musket the utility of the cavalry charge or the vulnerabilities of the world war ii battle tank simultaneously he examines larger themes and reveals surprising connections across both time and culture what does the medieval knight have in common with the modern paratrooper what did heroism and bravery mean to the roman legionary or to the world war i infantryman and what is the true motivating power of such ideals how do men use religion friendship or even nihilism to armor themselves against impending doom and what do we as human beings make of the undeniable joy some among us take in the carnage combining commanding prose impeccable research and a true sensitivity to the combatant s plight the last full measure is both a remarkably fresh journey through the annals of war and a powerful tribute to the proverbial unknown soldier

150 superb examples of armor weaponry costumes paintings and lacquerware from the hosokawa family

ideal for high school and college students studying history through the everyday lives of men and women this book offers intriguing information about the jobs that people have held from ancient times to the 21st century this unique book provides detailed studies of

more than 300 occupations as they were practiced in 21 historical time periods ranging from prehistory to the present day each profession is examined in a compelling essay that is specifically written to inform readers about career choices in different times and cultures and is accompanied by a bibliography of additional sources of information sidebars that relate historical issues to present day concerns as well as related historical documents readers of this work will learn what each profession entailed or entails on a daily basis how one gained entry to the vocation training methods and typical compensation levels for the job the book provides sufficient specific detail to convey a comprehensive understanding of the experiences benefits and downsides of a given profession selected accompanying documents further bring history to life by offering honest testimonies from people who actually worked in these occupations or interacted with those in that field

the historical dictionary of japan to 1945 spans the entire period from the earliest evidence of human habitation in japan through to the end of the pacific war it includes substantial topics such as cultural and literary history with entries ranging from aesthetics to various genres of writing other branches of history also feature such as economic history industrial history political history and so forth and of course there are the makers of japanese history ranging from emperors and shoguns to politicians and extremists as well as foreign arrivals the early history of japan is told through a detailed chronology an introductory essay appendixes an extensive bibliography and over 800 cross referenced dictionary entries on important people organizations activities and events the historical dictionary of japan to 1945 will appeal to both academics and the general public who have an interest in japan particularly those who want reliable information quickly and easily

the invasion of korea by japanese troops in may of 1592 was no ordinary military expedition it was one of the decisive events in asian history and the most tragic for the korean peninsula until the mid twentieth century japanese overlord toyotomi hideyoshi envisioned conquering korea ming china and eventually all of asia but korea s appeal to china s emperor wanli for assistance triggered a six year war involving hundreds of thousands of soldiers and encompassing the whole region for japan the war was a dragon s head followed by a serpent s tail an impressive beginning with no real ending kenneth m swope has undertaken the first full length scholarly study in english of this important conflict drawing on korean japanese and especially chinese sources he corrects the japan centered perspective of previous accounts and depicts wanli not as the self indulgent ruler of received interpretations but rather one actively engaged in military affairs and concerned especially with rescuing china s client state of korea he puts the ming in a more vigorous light detailing chinese siege warfare the development and deployment of innovative military technologies and the naval battles that marked the climax of the war he also explains the war s repercussions outside the military sphere

particularly the dynamics of intraregional diplomacy within the shadow of the chinese tributary system what swope calls the first great east asian war marked both the emergence of japan s desire to extend its sphere of influence to the chinese mainland and a military revival of china s commitment to defending its interests in northeast asia swope s account offers new insight not only into the history of warfare in asia but also into a conflict that reverberates in international relations to this day

salem press s five volume magill s guide to military history presents a survey of the wars battles peoples groups and civilizations that played an important role in worldwide military history from ancient times to the twenty first century in addition to comprehensive coverage of western military history the encyclopedia examines the major military events personages and civilizations of the entire world from the beginning of military history includes time line of wars and battles wars and battles by geographical area military leaders by geographic area and list of entries by category

which was the most brilliant of hannibal s three crushing defeats of roman armies what tactics did julius caesar employ to defeat pompey at pharsalus how was alexander the great able to command sufficient loyalty from his troops to lead them across half of the asian landmass in search of new territories to conquer what qualities made attila the hun a strategist of genius how did henry v of england achieve victory at agincourt for the loss of a few hundred of his men when the mounted french knights suffered casualties in the thousands the answers to these and a myriad other fascinating questions can be found in the art of war a sumptuous chronological survey of the 50 greatest commanders of the ancient and medieval worlds compiled by an distinguished team of historians including such names as robin lane fox tom holland john julius norwich jonathan sumption and felipe fernandez armesto working under the general editorship of the andrew roberts the art of war is an authoritative and beautifully illustrated account of the lives and careers of the 50 greatest military commanders of the period from julius caesar to judas maccabeus from belisarius to bohemond and from trajan to tamerlane every commander is profiled in a concise and informative 3000 word article which not only brings its subject vividly to life via a lively fact driven narrative but also analyses and assesses his tactical and strategic gifts each biography is accompanied by a battle feature or campaign feature embellished by a full colour battle plan or campaign map focusing on the commander s greatest battlefield achievement as accessible and informative as it is rigorous and scholarly the art of war is the perfect introduction to its subject for the layperson but also a stimulating and thought provoking read for those with greater knowledge of military history with its companion volume born to command it forms an indispensable guide to the greatest generals the world has seen

in addition to providing excerpts from classic tales of japan s warrior past this volume draws on a wide range of lesser known but revealing sources including sword inscriptions edicts orders petitions and letters to expand and deepen our understanding

of the samurai from the order s origins in the fifth century to its abolition in the nineteenth taken together with thomas donald conlan s contextualizing introductions and notes these sources provide a rare window into the experiences ideals and daily lives of these now sentimentalized warriors numerous illustrations a glossary of terms and a substantial bibliography further enhance the value of this book to students scholars and anyone interested in learning more about the samurai

a guide to programs currently available on video in the areas of movies entertainment general interest education sports recreation fine arts health science business industry children juvenile how to instruction

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a fascinating eclectic collection of writings spanning four hundred years on samurai ethos training and education from premier translator thomas cleary through the ages the samurai have been associated with honor fearlessness calm decisive action strategic thinking and martial prowess their ethos is known as bushido the way of the warrior knight here premier translator thomas cleary presents a rich collection of writings on bushido by warriors scholars political advisors and educators from the fifteenth century through the nineteenth century that provide a comprehensive historically rich view of samurai life and philosophy training the samurai mind gives an insider s view of the samurai world the moral and psychological development of the warrior the ethical standards they were meant to uphold their training in both martial arts and strategy and the enormous role that the traditions of shintoism buddhism confucianism and taoism had in influencing samurai ideals the writings deal with a broad range of subjects from military strategy and political science to personal discipline and character development cleary introduces each piece putting it into historical context and presents biographical information about the authors this is an essential read for anyone interested in military history and samurai history and for martial artists who want to understand strategy

my project focuses on the three great punitive campaigns of the wanli emperor wanli san da zheng which took place in rapid succession in three vastly different frontier regions while these campaigns are well known to scholars scant attention has been paid to the rich primary sources which discuss them these source materials include eyewitness accounts diaries memorials to the throne letters between officials dispatches from the battlefield and imperial decrees

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