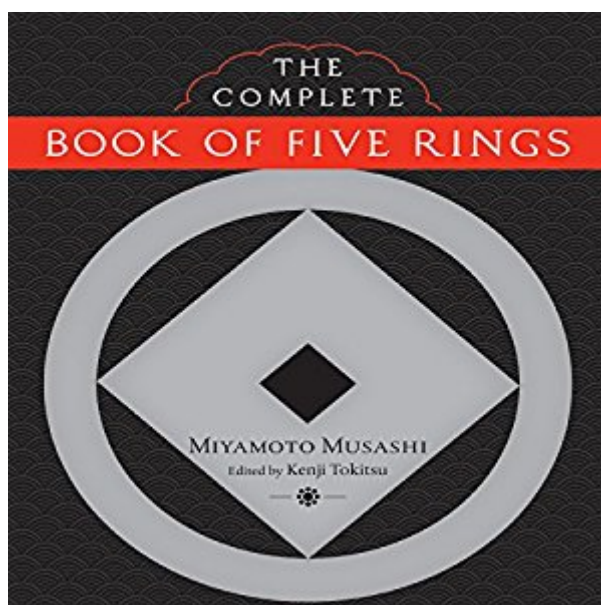


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The Complete Book Of Five Rings



Synopsis

The Complete Book of Five Rings is an authoritative version of Musashi's classic The Book of Five Rings, translated and annotated by a modern martial arts master, Kenji Tokitsu. Tokitsu has spent most of his life researching the legendary samurai swordsman and his works, and in this book he illuminates this seminal text, along with several other works by Musashi. These include "The Mirror of the Way of Strategy", which Musashi wrote when he was in his 20s; "Thirty-five Instructions on Strategy", and "Forty-two Instructions on Strategy", which were precursors to The Book of Five Rings; and "The Way to Be Followed Alone", which Musashi wrote just days before his death. Heard together, these five texts give listeners an unusually detailed, nuanced view of Musashi's ideas on swordsmanship, strategy, and self-cultivation. Tokitsu puts all these writings into historical and philosophical context and makes them accessible and relevant to today's listeners and martial arts students. Tokitsu understands Musashi's writings - and Musashi as a martial artist - unusually well and is able to provide a rare insight into the man and his historical contribution.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This translation is a thing of beauty. Musashi's text is not easy at the best of times, but it is always rewarding. Kenji Tokitsu, the translator, combines being an expert in historical Japan and the antique Japanese language with a remarkable grasp of English ... and he's a serious martial artist, as well. It shows. When you read this, please read all of Tokitsu's footnotes and appendices. They clarify, give extraordinary perspective to, and showcase the power and insight of 'the swordsman's

bible'.

Great book covering several writings of one of Japan's most famous swordsmen. I've read the earlier version sold originally as a "business" book, but this one provides the reader with in-depth background information to better understand Musashi's writings, which makes it easier to apply his philosophies to your own life philosophies (if that is what you are seeking).

I can't imagine how hard it was to translate this book into English. But this timeless information is outstanding and required reading along with Sun Tzu.

I needed a few books to gain a deeper understanding of the Way of the Warrior and Ancient Japan's Samurai. I had read a fantasy series called the Book of Five Rings and decided I should read the origin of this series and was not let down. This translated version seems to have captured the essence of the author and originator of these musings. If you are interested in Japan and its culture or the samurai, pick this one up. Fairly quick read to boot.

lots of translation out there of Musashi's 5 rings, some less accessible than others...if your a budoka then this one is in the top 3....translated by an a native speaker and Musashi scholar who is also a practicing martial artist...insightful and fills in a lot of contextual 'gaps'....destined to become a classic...get Tokitsu's "Miyamoto Musashi: His Life and Writings" too...benchmark stuff...arigato sensei!

The care and respect with which the translator used in this translation is evident. The translator also shows humility as well as a breadth of knowledge in the footnotes, which contain a wealth of additional information and colorful anecdotes. Includes more than just the Book of Five Rings.

A must read for anyone into budo. Fundamental tool for understanding many aspects of Japanese martial arts. A real historic perspective on the mind of masters.

This book is very insightful for its time, and is relevant as well in today's time. I appreciate the wisdom of the author and the many examples he uses to allow the reader to connect. I would recommend this book to those which are striving to become leaders and strengthen their minds and implement in their work, and life.

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