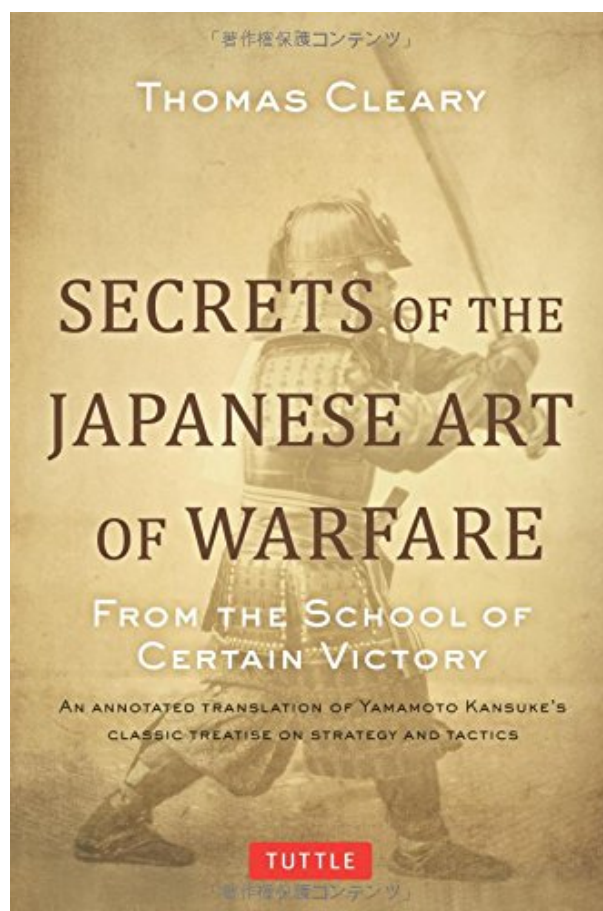
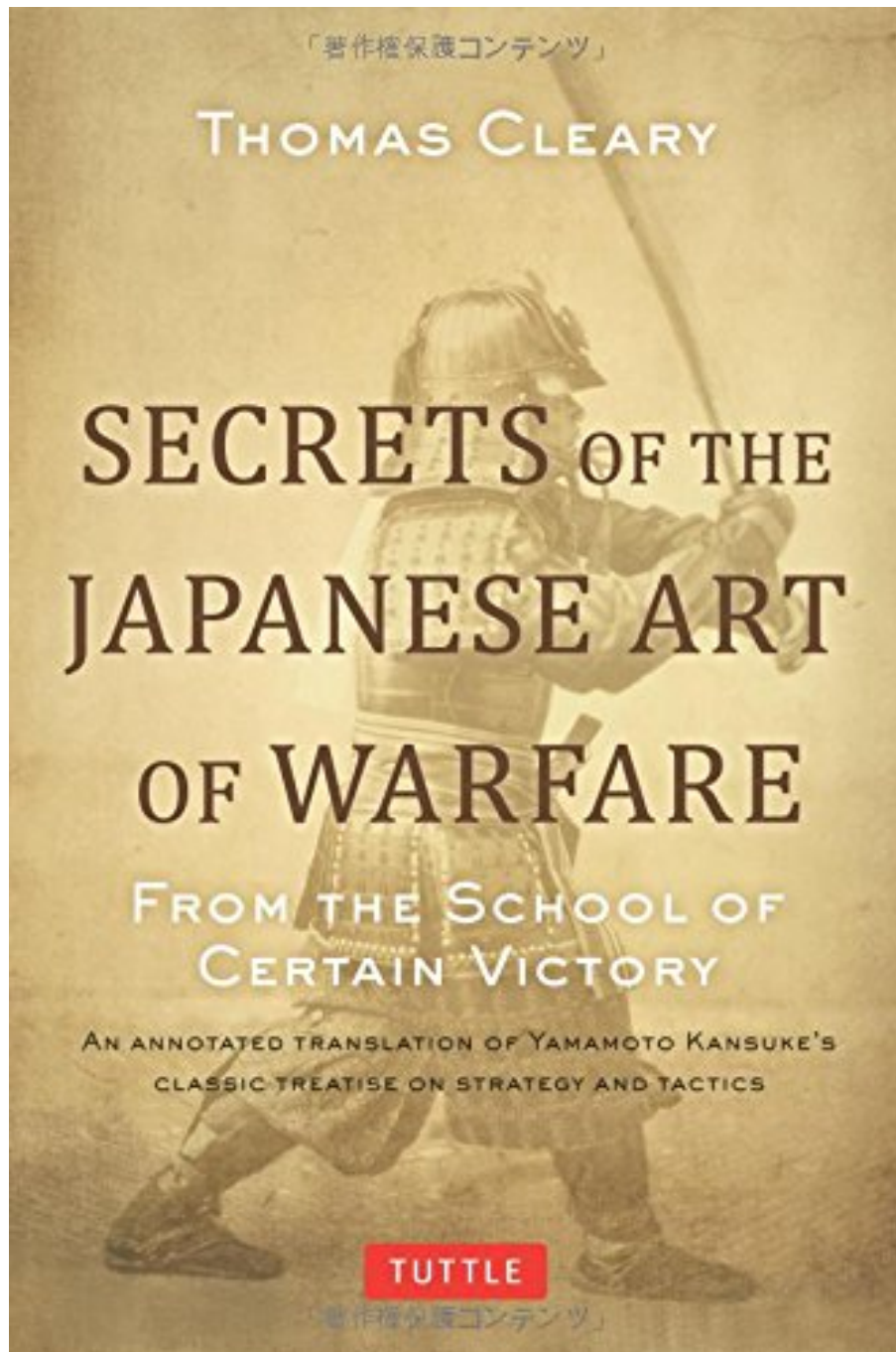


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Review

Praise for Thomas Cleary: "One of the foremost contemporary translators of classical Buddhist and Taoist literature,...[Cleary's] translations shine with clarity and express the insights of these great teachers with beauty and understanding." —Library Journal

About the Author

Thomas Cleary is one of the best known and most accomplished translators of the wisdom of Asia. He holds a doctorate in East Asian Languages and Civilizations from Harvard University. Cleary has translated *Code of the Samurai*, *Soul of the Samurai*, *Samurai Wisdom* and *The Art of War*, as well as over 70 other titles on martial arts philosophy, Buddhism, Taoism and religion.

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This samurai strategy books is the first widely available English translation of Yamamoto Kansuke's classic treatise on strategy and tactics.

Secrets of the Japanese Art of Warfare is Thomas Cleary's translation of the seminal writings attributed to Yamamoto Kansuke on Japanese martial arts and military service. A mysterious man of humble origins, Yamamoto distinguished himself in the service of the redoubtable Takeda Shingen. Yamamoto was a career soldier and founder of the so-called "school of certain victory," from which the famous Miyamoto Musashi (The Book of Five Rings) emerged. His school developed the art of discerning situational combat advantage, so that a warrior was able to commit to action only when success was virtually assured.

Translated and accompanied with helpful insights by Thomas Cleary, one of the foremost translators of the martial wisdom of Asia, this book is for all persons engaged in military, law enforcement, or emergency response, as well as for martial artists, athletes, business executives, diplomats and politicians.

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Most helpful customer reviews

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

An excellent book for anyone interested in the martial arts and Asian warrior philosophy.

By Joseph J. Truncala

I have had the pleasure of reading and reviewing several of Thomas Cleary's other books on (Samurai Wisdom, Soul of the Samurai, Code of the Samurai, The Art of War) Asian warrior philosophies. This volume focuses on the translation of Yamamoto Kansuke's (1501-1561) "Secrets of Japanese Art of Warfare." This book covers the strategy and philosophical principles of winning in battle. There are numerous illustrations (drawings) showing the techniques and strategy one should use during a physical confrontation.

This text is organized into ten parts, but some of them are very short sections. Part one introduces the sources of the arts of warfare and numerous other topics. Part two explains wrestling and boxing forms. Part three teaches the various swordsmanship techniques and tactics. Part four deals with the use of the pole (Stick, staff). The basic use of the "king of weapons" the spear is covered in part five. Part six very briefly covers archery. Part seven mentions the role firearms play in the art of war. Part eight deals with the mind (Human Advantages) and strategies to use in various combat situations. Part nine explains the advantages of terrain and the final part covers the advantages of the sky.

In conclusion, if you are into the martial arts and the Asian philosophy of war you will enjoy this book. Keep in mind that even though there are numerous illustrations, you cannot really learn how to perform the techniques by merely reading this book.

Rating: 5 Stars. Joseph J. Truncale (Author: Haiku Moments: How to read, write and enjoy haiku.

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

yamamoto kansuke!!! heiho/strategy of the takeda samurai/shinobi

By sookie

this is a excellent translation of "the school of certain victory" which yamamoto produced many strategy and secret scrolls and densho including the heiho okugisho and the rodanshu

which many claim were main books for the takeda samurai and shinobi (although the sanada ryu shinobi seemed to went on a different path im sure they listened to yamamoto to certain extent as a couple shinobi schools came from this area)

back to the book mr. cleary does a great job of translating putting everything in english even the "fighting parts of the manual" he also adds his own notes which is something the more expensive and harder to find heiho okugisho does not(it stays a tad more traditional) and i have matched them up together that pretty much what this book is with a few adds.

a great buy for any martial artist thats wants more on traditional heiho from a real samurai clan that also employed shinobi no mono. not just samurai ninja troops. hmmm...that word just dont work. but confirmed..samurai from this provice were allowed to learn some ninjutsu. and some of it is in this book. buy it!

-i would also like to add the takeda ryu has been put back together with a 44th headmaster.-

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Very practical fighting advice.

By victor benedicto

Gives an insight of warfare from an actual strategist/warrior.

Nothing "mystical " like those books attributing realistic fighting victories to metaphysical, zen-like reasons. Down to earth book.

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