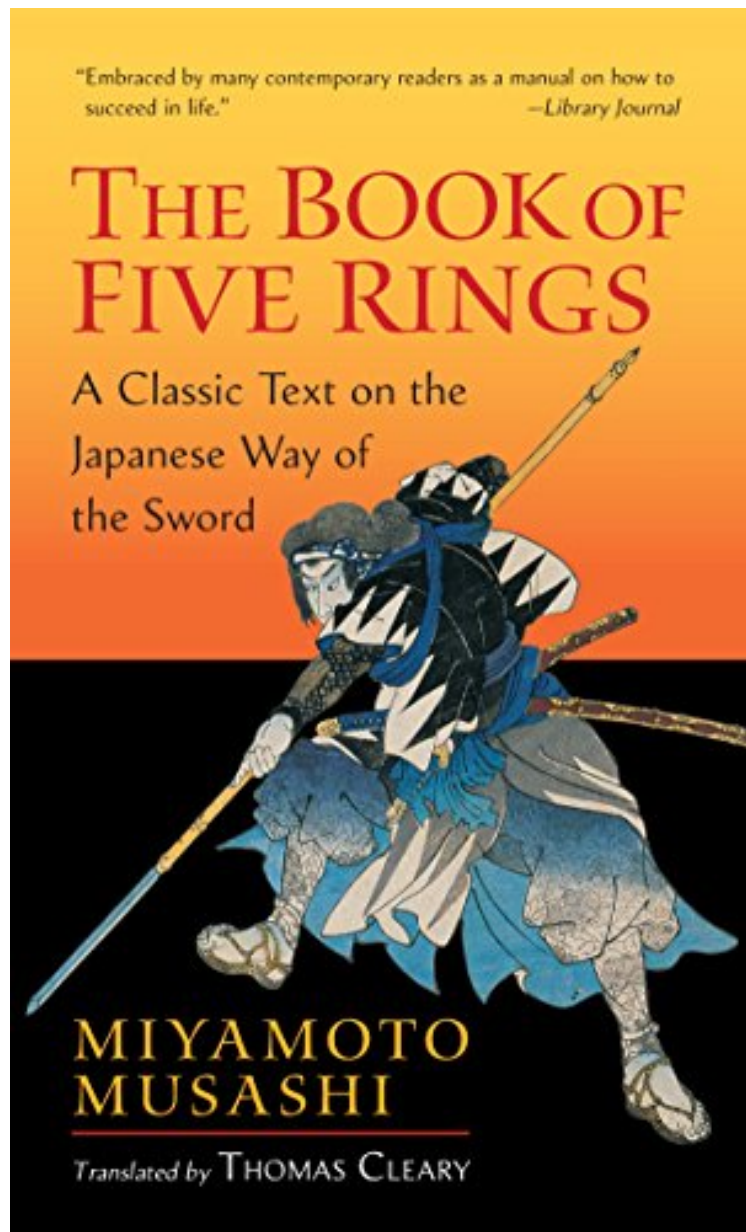


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The Book of Five Rings: A Classic Text on the Japanese Way of the Sword (Shambhala Library)

Miyamoto Musashi

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Miyamoto Musashi : The Book of Five Rings: A Classic Text on the Japanese Way of the Sword (Shambhala Library) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Book of Five Rings: A Classic Text on the Japanese Way of the Sword (Shambhala Library):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Universal Principles of Strategy By Donald P. Kane This is for the Kindle version upgraded to audio. This is the first time I have listened to this classic Japanese work having read it twice before this audio version. I must say that it is much better listening to an excellent narration than to the voice in my head. The principles applied in this book explained through the use of the samurai sword has stood the test of time. These principles have been successfully adopted and applied in Japanese business in the modern age. It is a wonderful little book that I will probably listen to again sometime in the future.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A classical translation on the Zen and Tao mindset of the martial art combatant. By K. J. Christopoulos The reader must first understand that this is a translation of a historical writing. The translation is hard for me to rate since I am no expert, but my view is that it is likely a good one that doesn't interfere with bringing the writing into English. The author's concepts cover many aspects of Zen and Tao focus during combat that range from one on one to multiples. He discusses the mindset of the martial art combatant and uses metaphors and direct descriptions to get his points across to the reader. The state of mind to focus is covered well, along with what to observe to a lesser degree. He does not intend the text to be a sword method tutorial, but more of a guide to the level of focus and state of mind along with some comments on the engagements. It is known to be a classic and one of the few from that era that gets consideration for the reputation of the author.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A timeless classic with great relevance to the past and the present. By Shadow N An excellent book teaching Miyamoto Musashi art of strategy that could be applied not only to martial arts but also to daily life. This version though is very clear and to the point and written in a plain language that is easy to understand to the lay reader.

The Book of Five Rings is one of the most insightful texts on the subtle arts of confrontation and victory to emerge from Asian culture. Written not only for martial artists but for anyone who wants to apply the timeless principles of this text to their life, the book analyzes the process of struggle and mastery over conflict that underlies every level of human interaction. The Book of Five Rings was composed in 1643 by the famed duelist and undefeated samurai Miyamoto Musashi. Thomas Cleary's translation is immediately accessible, with an introduction that presents the spiritual background of the warrior tradition. Along with Musashi's text, Cleary translates here another important Japanese classic on leadership and strategy, The Book of Family Traditions on the Art of War by Yagyu Munenori, which highlights the ethical and spiritual insights of Taoism and Zen as they apply to the way of the warrior.

From Library Journal Written by legendary Japanese swordsman Musashi, this 17th-century exposition of sword-fighting strategy and Zen philosophy has been embraced by many contemporary readers, especially business school students, as a manual on how to succeed in life. There are many English translations, but every one, including this one, suffers from inadequate cultural, literary, and philosophical commentary. Musashi's work should be studied, not simply read, and Cleary's translation lacks commentary; it also makes the prose seem flat and the philosophy simplistic. Yet what makes this new translation worthwhile is the second text, buried deep in the back like an appendix: Yagyu Munenori's The Book of Family Traditions on the Art of War. This text, also an exposition on sword fighting and Zen philosophy, is difficult to find in an English translation, and its availability is welcome. Recommended for academic libraries generally. - Glenn Masuchika, Chaminade Univ. Lib., Honolulu Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Embraced by many contemporary readers as a manual on how to succeed in life." - Library Journal Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: Japanese