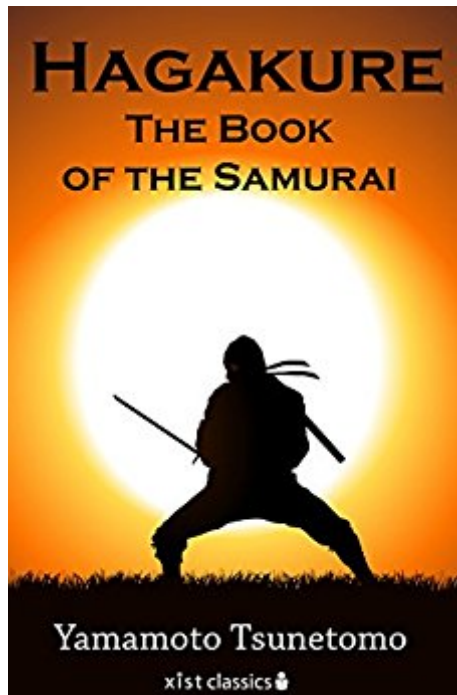




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Hagakure: The Book Of The Samurai (Xist Classics)



Synopsis

A Collection of Thoughts, Sayings and Meditations on the Way of the Samurai "It is said that what is called "the spirit of an age" is something to which one cannot return. That this spirit gradually dissipates is due to the world's coming to an end. For this reason, although one would like to change today's world back to the spirit of one hundred years or more ago, it cannot be done. Thus it is important to make the best out of every generation." ~ Tsunetomo Yamamoto, Hagakure: The Book of the Samurai A formerly secret text known only to the Samurai, Hagakure is a classic text on Bushido--the Way of the Warrior. More than just a handbook for battle, Hagakure is a text that filled with teachings that still apply in business, political and social situations today. This Xist Classics edition has been professionally formatted for e-readers with a linked table of contents. This ebook also contains a bonus book club leadership guide and discussion questions. We hope you'll share this book with your friends, neighbors and colleagues and can't wait to hear what you have to say about it.

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Customer Reviews

Didn't realize before I ordered that it was a small pocket version. Maybe I missed it in the descriptions but its weird that a book like this is sold in the mini form, Personal issue more than the companies issue.

This is a book of reflections on life written by a rather unremarkable samurai just after Japan entered into an era of peace under the Tokugawa shogunate. This made the warrior class into a class of armed civil servants - not an easy transition, begging the question what to do with the two very sharp objects tucked into their belts every waking moment of their lives. The interesting thing about this book is that as someone who has been doing business in Japan for over 15 years, I wish I had read it much earlier. That is because the current Japanese business mentality is very much a product of the two and a half centuries in which the country was run by a class of people who were armed to the teeth and had to follow bushido as a way of life, but in reality had desk jobs and administered things like rice production. Some parts of the book will sound exceedingly misogynistic and weird to our ears, but those are the parts you should pay attention to if you deal with the Japanese. Others are rather entertaining, and yet other are off the wall. In summary, if you are interested in an unfiltered glimpse into the mind of a samurai turned clerk and in getting some insight into the way the Japanese view the world to this day, Hagakure is definitely worth your time!

I didn't realize this was a literal pocket book. It's the size of a credit card, but about 1.5 inches thick.

I really enjoy this book! But just a few things to keep in mind. It is translated to English, so that can always bring out the possibility of different interpretations from the original text. That being said, the translator for this version is very well educated in Japanese, and did a great job with this book. Also note, as stated in the front of the book, this is not the entire Hagakure, but I am not even sure if there is any full version, at least as far as English translations go. But this has many many quotes and readings for you to enjoy. If you read the entire thing in one day, you are not reading it correctly or as intended. With these types of books it is wise to read a passage, and sit there and think on what you just read. What it truly means. All in all, this is a great book, especially for the price! Enjoy!

At times, I found this a difficult read, but in all fairness I'm approaching this from a Western point of view. It gives insight into what it means to be a samurai, and I think it would be helpful to those are curious about the culture.

The book is really interesting and highly recommended for any fan of feudal Japan. It's a collection of advice and stories, the central theme being the role of a samurai and how he must be devoted to his master above all else. The book can get grisly, deep and sometimes even absurd, making it an unpredictable book and very entertaining. The length is perfect. Just don't expect the kind of quotable material you get from a book like *The Unfettered Mind* by Takuan Soho or *Bushido* by Inazo Nitobe. The reason I'm giving this edition of *Hagakure* 3 stars instead of 4 or 5 is that it has a lot of typos and translation errors. Adding to that it seems to lack any footnotes to explain the more obscure terms used within the book. The upside is, of course, the extremely low price. If you can look past the problems I mentioned above you should still have a good time. If anything it might convince you to get one of the more polished editions.

I received the book just fine -- well ahead of the estimated arrival date. However, they should let you know in advance that the book is really a mini-book, about 2.5 inches in height!

Product was exactly as described ... Delivery was great and I would highly recommend this product and service. Thank You! A Must Read for Everyone

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