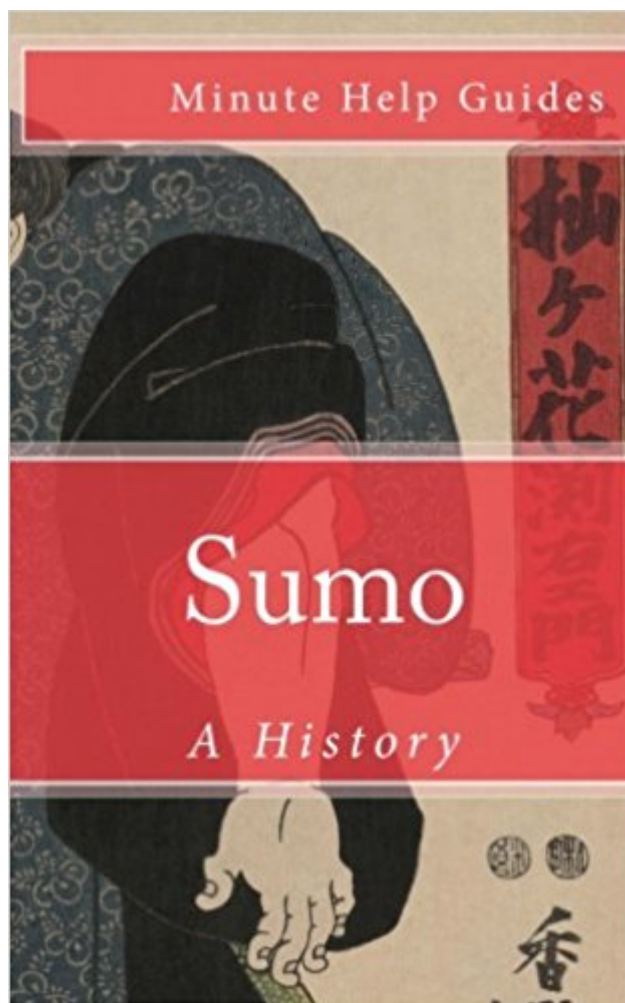


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# Sumo: A History



## Synopsis

Sumo is the official national sport of Japan, as recognized by the country's government. It is built around the simple concept of two nigh-naked men battling within a small roped ring, but actually has a far deeper meaning, which encompasses both Shinto beliefs and Japan's most subtle cultural nuances. Historical records have the sport dating back at least 1500 years, with popular myths linking the sport to events even further back than that. Professionalized in the 18th century, sumo continues to thrive in the present-day, staging six tournaments a year with the average weight of competitors around 140 kilograms (308 lbs).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It's an OK book for beginners, but wastes too much space on scandals and controversies for its page count.

Concise, pedantic book (60 actual pages with a few black-and-white photos). A history of sumo, from its obscure origins (The Kojiki and Nomi no Sukune) to the 21st century. Sumo is interwoven with Shinto rituals, which may not be everyone's cup of tea. Since 1964, Hawaiians, Eastern Europeans, Mongolians, and other foreigners have entered the hierarchy of professional Japanese sumo.

Well worth the low kindle price. It's a bit less than a book, but it's more than a pamphlet. Its 64 pages deliver a heavy dose of facts and knowledge in a clean and simple narrative voice. Great buy.

## Good brief history

This pamphlet presents a basic and cursory history of the sport, good through 2011; good to read during the junior matches on a tournament day.

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