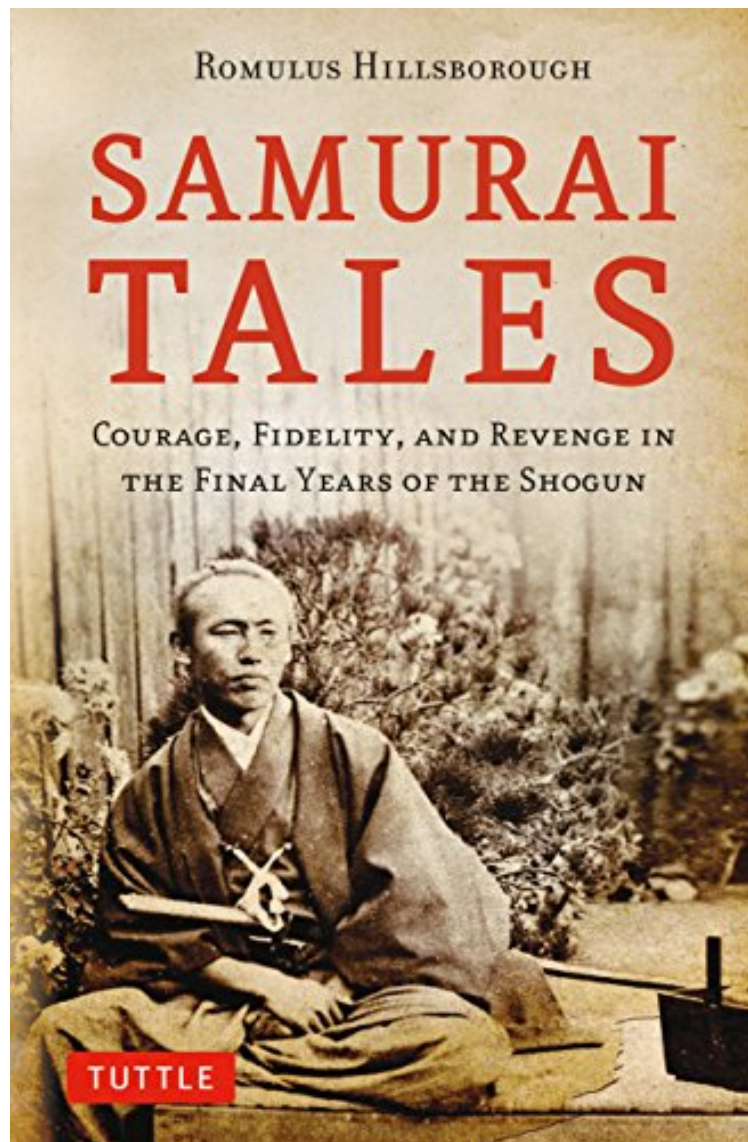


(Mobile ebook) Samurai Tales: Courage, Fidelity, and Revenge in the Final Years of the Shogun

## Samurai Tales: Courage, Fidelity, and Revenge in the Final Years of the Shogun

*Romulus Hillsborough*

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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Samurai Tales: Courage, Fidelity, and Revenge in the Final Years of the Shogun:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ... the samurai I find this book illustrative and very good. It's preety much a group of naratives of ...By Alejandro GonzalezAs I am not studied in the story of the samurai I find this book

illustrative and very good. It's pretty much a group of narratives of stories set in the same time, with pretty much the same actors. I personally did not feel any romantic approach to samurai factions (shinsengumi or revolutionaries), the tales wander between the good, the bad and the ugly samurai, and their actions. I would recommend this reading to anyone who wants to know a little bit more of history of Japan and their most famous characters: the samurai.<sup>3</sup> of 3 people found the following review helpful. Samurai Tales (short stories from the feudal Japan years) By Kim Woolaway This is a well researched book extolling the lives of those Samurai who were especially influential during that period of historical significance where Shogun vs Daimyo saw "Overthrow" and internal war of great extent from Edo Shogunate (Tokyo) southwest Honshu to Kyoto's Imperial Court, Shikoku and Kyushu, covering 17 short stories with archive photos and 2 additional chapters to round out the book of 221 pages. To say this is just a recount of Samurai clashes would be like saying the dictionary is merely a list of commonly used words. This is history with a capital "H" including the "why, where who" in all detail. An excellent read and history lesson.<sup>1</sup> of 1 people found the following review helpful. The book gives you a snapshot of the Japanese culture ... By Frank Dominguez The book gives you a snapshot of the Japanese culture, on why they acted the way during world war 2 and how they are now as a nation.

Samurai Tales is about the legendary men from the samurai class who fought for the helm of power in 19th century Japan. These are stories of courage, honor, fidelity, disgrace, fate, and destiny set in the bloody time of political change and social upheaval in the final years of the Shogun. Samurai Tales is an updated edition of Samurai Sketches. Samurai Tales contains a Forward to the New Edition, and three vignettes at the end of the book which were not published in Samurai Sketches. The final years of the samurai were an age of unprecedented turmoil and bloodletting in Japan. They heralded the end of nearly three centuries of rule under the Tokugawa Shogun. The rule of law was deteriorating, assassination and murder were rampant, and inner-fighting among the warrior class embroiled the nation. After the United States forced an end of over two hundred years of Japanese isolation, two contrasting philosophies were embraced by the samurai. On one side were those who would overthrow the shogun and restore the Imperial monarchy. Opposing the revolutionaries were the allies of the Tokugawa Bakufu, headed by the shogun. While the shogun's men and the revolutionaries clashed violently, as samurai they shared an allegiance to an unwritten code of honor, bushido, which governed the ways they lived and died. Bushido was a stoic system of morals which condoned suicide, vengeance and, in some cases, cold-blooded murder. These Tales are accurate portrayals of the heart and soul of the samurai, the social and political systems of whom have, like the Japanese sword, become relics of a distant age, but the likes of whose nobility shall never again be seen in this world. They combine to tell, in part, the great epic which was the dawn of modern Japan, and through them it has been the author's objective to delve deeply into the psyche of the men of the samurai class.-----

Brought to life are not merely warriors of a distant age and culture, but human beings, both good and bad, who suffer the same pangs of body and mind as all of us. Depicted are:- The unruly swordsman with a propensity for cold-blooded murder, who is also the poet of a profoundly delicate quatrain in the face of his own imminent death.- The executioner who prays at the scaffold for the souls of the condemned, and who performs sword "cutting tests" on their bodies.- The assassin who dies by his own sword rather than violate his self-imposed code of honor.- The brilliant commissioner of the shogun's navy who, refusing to draw his blade, dominates his adversaries by sheer strength of mind.- The notorious commander of the shogun's most dreaded police corps who is captured for execution by the new Imperial government.- The expert swordsman, charismatic revolutionary leader, meticulous planner of cold-blooded murder, and weaver of terror in the hearts of men.- Japan's most beloved samurai who was assassinated shortly after accomplishing his vow to overthrow the Bakufu.- The quintessential samurai, magnanimous revolutionary leader, and commander-in-chief of the forces of the new Imperial government. In each of these thirty historical sketches and vignettes, Hillsborough wields his vivid literary style to bring his readers gripping accounts of real events and people from the final bloody days of the samurai, never before presented in the English language.

A portrayal of Japanese warrior life that is as deliberate, spare, disciplined, and quietly poetic as a tea ceremony. . . . A quiet work of mute precision that brings to life the Hagakure and those who lived by its dictates. Kirkus s Romulus Hillsborough has presented us with a book of historical sketches of samurai life in the 19th century. . . . The style while written similar to short stories provides the reader with an easily readable, and accurate glimpse at the cultural, and historical aspects of this period of Japanese history. newbookreviews.com From the Author I wrote Samurai Tales (originally titled Samurai Sketches) in 2000, the year after I published Ryoma: Life of a Renaissance Samurai. I thought that readers would benefit from a collection of short biographical and historical pieces from the same era, including many of the samurai who appear in Ryoma. My objective in writing these tales was to present accurate portrayals of the heart and soul of the samurai, the social and political systems of whom have, along with their swords, become relics of a distant age, but the likes of whose nobility shall never again be seen in this world. About the Author Romulus Hillsborough lived in Japan for over fifteen years. He has spent decades researching the tumultuous times at the end of the Tokugawa Shogunate. He worked on the editorial staff of a Japanese weekly magazine in

Tokyo, and as a US correspondent for the Japanese press. His other books include *Shinsengumi: The Shogun's Last Samurai Corps*; *Ryoma: Life of a Renaissance Samurai* and *Samurai Revolution: The Dawn of Modern Japan Seen Through the Eyes of the Shogun's Last Samurai*.