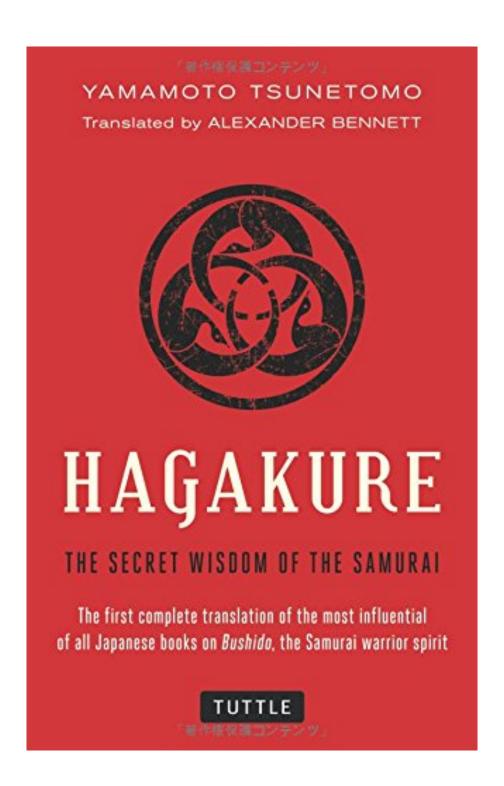


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#### Review

"Alex Bennett has produced the first truly authoritative translation and analysis of Hagakure—perhaps the most famous text ever written about samurai honor—to appear in any Western language. Simultaneously erudite and accessible, this volume belongs on the bookshelves of anyone—scholar or hobbyist alike—interested in samurai culture, or modern perceptions thereof." —Dr. Karl F. Friday, author of Samurai, Warfare and the State in Early Medieval Japan and Japan Emerging: Premodern History to 1850

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"[A] strong point is a scholarly and succinct introduction that grounds the work in historical and social context, equipping the reader with a cultural map of Yamamoto's world. Footnotes provide valuable background and add resonance throughout, keeping names and familial relations straight, highlighting pertinent cross-references and generally rendering the work accessible to contemporary readers." —The Japan Times

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The comprehensive and accurate edition of the Hagakure is a must-have for serious martial artists or fans of samurai and the bushido code.

The Hagakure is one of the most influential of all Japanese texts—written nearly 300 years ago by Yamamoto Tsunetomo to summarize the very essence of the Japanese Samurai bushido ("warrior") spirit. Its influence has been felt throughout the world and yet its existence is scarcely known to many Westerners. This is the first translation to include the complete first two books of the Hagakure and the most reliable and authentic passages contained within the third book; all other English translations published previously have been extremely fragmentary and incomplete.

Alex Bennett's completely new and highly readable translation of this essential work includes extensive footnotes that serve to fill in many cultural and historical gaps in the previous translations. This unique combination of readability and scholarship gives Hagakure: The Secret Wisdom of the Samurai a distinct advantage over all previous English editions.

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Best version of Hagakure

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Hagakure is required reading for anyone seeking to understand the samurai mind, which still influences Japanese culture deeply, even today. Although the book "Bushido" is more famous, it was written long after the samurai had ceased to exist, and distorts the facts to suit a Christian / Western viewpoint. Hagakure, however, is the real deal; it was dictated by a samurai serving a lord during the mid-Edo period, and provides invaluable insight into the values of the Japanese warrior class.

This is the most complete translation of Hagakure yet produced in English; other translations are selected excerpts from the original. Dr Bennett's knowledge of Japanese language and history, and particularly the history of the samurai, helps the reader make sense of the subject matter. If you are going to get one version of the Hagakure, this is the one to get!

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By JMC Osaka

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6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Best translation of Hagakure I've read so far By Love Alm Dr. Alex Bennett's translation of Hagakure is the first version I've come across which manages to both capture the historical context of Yamamoto Tsunetomo's writings and view it through modern perspective. The world described by Tsunetomo can often seem very alien and the underlying meaning of many passages is not obvious to the modern reader. Dr. Bennetts extensive knowledge of Japanese culture and Budo history provides the necessary historical and cultural context required to understand the mindset of a 18th century samurai. This version have made several passages which previously were incomprehensible to me as clear as day and made me re-evaluate my opinions of Hagakure. A must read for anyone who has an interest in the samurai culture and the Tokugawa-era.

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