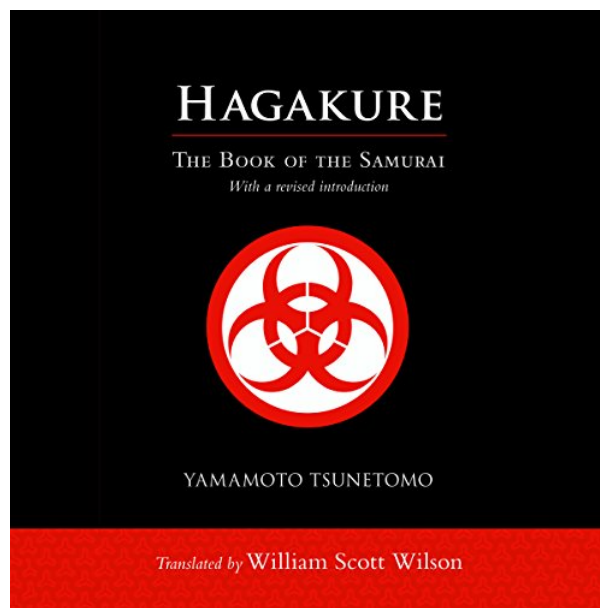
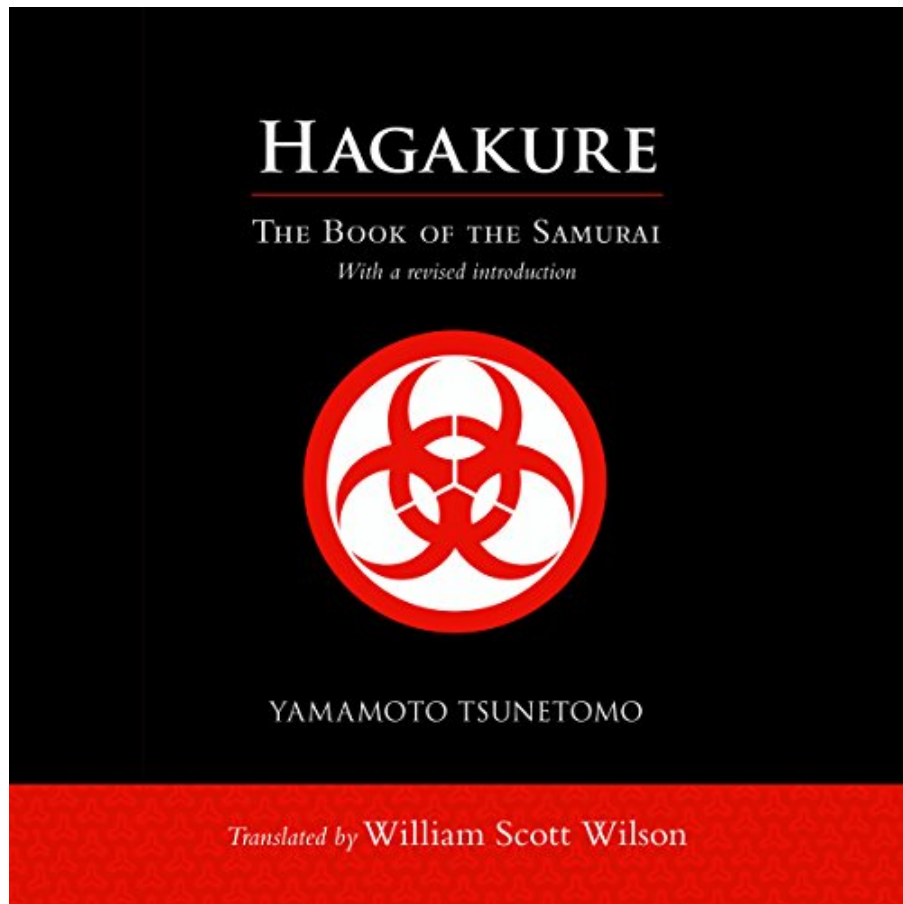


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# **HAGAKURE: THE BOOK OF THE SAMURAI BY YAMAMOTO TSUNETOMO, WILLIAM SCOTT WILSON (TRANSLATOR) PDF**

Living and dying with bravery and honor is at the heart of Hagakure, a series of texts written by an 18th-century samurai, Yamamoto Tsunetomo. It is a window into the samurai mind, illuminating the concept of bushido (the Way of the Warrior), which dictated how samurai were expected to behave, conduct themselves, live, and die. While Hagakure was for many years a secret text known only to the warrior vassals of the Nabeshima clan to which the author belonged, it later came to be recognized as a classic exposition of samurai thought. The original Hagakure consists of over 1,300 short texts that Tsunetomo dictated to a younger samurai over a seven-year period. William Scott Wilson has selected and translated here 300 of the most representative of those texts to create an accessible distillation of this guide for samurai. No other translator has so thoroughly and eruditely rendered this text into English.

For this edition, Wilson has added a new introduction that casts Hagakure in a different light than ever before. Tsunetomo refers to bushido as "the Way of death", a description that has held a morbid fascination for readers over the years. But in Tsunetomo's time, bushido was a nuanced concept that related heavily to the Zen concept of muga, the "death" of the ego. Wilson's revised introduction gives the historical and philosophical background for that more metaphorical reading of Hagakure, and through this lens, the classic takes on a fresh and nuanced appeal.

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- Original language: English
- Running time: 307 minutes

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4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

You get what you're paying for

By Joaquín Pineda

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.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Ghost Dog!

By W. Matthew Wilson

This is the book that Forest Whitaker quotes from in Ghost Dog. Really fun to read.

Here's the puzzle at the heart of the samurai code: is it correct to serve an evil master?

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Overall a great book!

By Kerry Lawson

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 Hagajure, 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!

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