

Storry, Richard. Fig. 1-2 and "The Silent Warrior." *The Way of the Samurai*. London, England: Orbis Books, 1978. ISBN: 9780856134043. pp. 7-17.

The samurai had a huge role to play in Japanese history, and myriad reflections of him still affect Japanese culture. Those images and symbols are deeply imbued with meaning -- even contradictory and misleading significance. Our goal is to combine what we can learn of Japanese culture and the samurai with the special perspective of the ways technological creates and is created by a culture.

- "What is the secret to Japan's success?"
- What do we (the students in this class) know about the samurai, or what impressions do we have?
- What do we know and what impressions do we have of Japanese culture?
- What does it mean for the samurai code to endure, if culture and institutions changed?
- What would it take for 6% of a population to dominate a society for 700 years?
- What is honor? What is a shame culture?

Suzuki, Daisetz. "Zen and Swordmanship I." Chapter V in *Zen and Japanese Culture*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1970. ISBN: 9780691017709. pp. 89-93.

This reading presents a somewhat glorified vision of the role of the sword, painting it as a duality. It almost sounds like an attempt to justify the killing purpose, by emasculating it. But it's a solid starting point.

- What is meant by "The sword is the soul of the samurai"?
- How does the self-sacrificing function of the sword redeem its killing function, and make it a symbol of life?
- How is the sword a work of art?
- What does the sword embody?

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ES.272 Culture Tech
Spring 2003

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