

June 2019

JAPANESE SWORD FIGHTING

Secrets of the Samurai

MASAAKI HATSUMI

THE AUTHOR OF
THE WAY OF THE NINJA
AND STICK FIGHTING

JAPANESE SWORD FIGHTING

Secrets of the Samurai

Masaaki Hatsumi

Author of *The Way of the Ninja*, *Unarmed Fighting Techniques of the Samurai* and *The Complete Ninja*

£23 pb; isbn 978-1-56836-592-3

240 pages; 254 x 178mm; 450 b/w photos
20 illustrations. Published by Kodansha USA.

Renowned *budō-ka* (martial artist) and ninja grandmaster Hatsumi explains how Japanese sword fighting embodies the essence of all martial arts and the spirit of the samurai. By learning and understanding the philosophy and techniques found in these pages practitioners will enter the path of Mastery, whatever their chosen discipline might be.

For centuries sword masters such as Miyamoto Musashi have been revered, and have fascinated and inspired people everywhere. In this definitive work the world's most renowned living budo and ninja grandmaster shares his vast knowledge of Japanese sword fighting as it's been practised through the ages: its history, techniques, styles, and core philosophies. In doing so, he reveals some of the deepest secrets of this venerable martial art, hitherto preserved only among the highly secretive ninja in their mountain lairs.

Train hard to master the techniques. You must be dedicated. Learn patience. Understand not only *How*, but also *Why*: the underlying philosophy is essential to right breathing, to relaxing and allowing body and mind to be as one. Let muscle memory become instinct guided by calmness of mind. You cannot lose.

As with all Grandmaster Hatsumi's books, this one offers a guiding template to life fulfilment not only for those in potentially physically challenging environments, such as the military, police force or security firms, but also for those in any walk of life seeking fitness and unity in body and mind.



 **TURNAROUND
PUBLISHER SERVICES**

講談社

Kodansha Europe Ltd.
40 Stockwell Street, Greenwich, London SE10 8EY, U.K.
www.kodansha.eu / info@kodansha.eu


KODANSHA



JAPANESE SWORD FIGHTING

Secrets of the Samurai

Masaaki Hatsumi

June 2019

£23 pb; isbn 978-1-56836-592-3

Grandmaster Hatsumi covers a variety of classical techniques, including ninja kenpō and two-sword fighting, and also demonstrates multiple methods and applications using the stick, spear, *naginata* (bladed pole weapon), and *kusarigama* (sickle and chain).

He then explores such secret techniques as those involving armour, and the *mutōdori* (no-sword) forms, considered the ultimate samurai skill. Detailed demonstration photos, works of calligraphy by famous samurai artists, historical scrolls, and illustrations enhance the text.

Within Hatsumi's technical descriptions and musings on the history of bushidō (the way of the warrior) are sections in which he places budō and sword fighting in their cultural context, discusses their practical applications, and conveys his personal mission of promoting a world of peace and tolerance.

All that Hatsumi conveys in this book is richly supported by, and arguably driven by, the hundreds of photographs contained –including many sequential– which serve to very clearly demonstrate how the kata and the techniques should be learned and performed.

SALES

- * Continuing fascination with and reverence for Japanese swords and swordsman like Musashi, and the mystique which has grown around it.
- * Sword-mastery is considered by martial artists of all other disciplines (such as karate, aikidō, jūjutsu, jūdō, bōjutsu and others) as being both complementary and expedient.
- * Hatsumi is an internationally famous budō and ninja grandmaster, with a huge following.
- * At 86, he still teaches, runs workshops, and operates his Bujinkan Dōjō in Chiba, Japan.
- * In addition to teaching martial arts students, he's taught numerous classes to police forces around the world.
- * A lower-priced paperback will make the work more accessible to younger and price conscious readers.
- * The book will appeal not only to martial artists, but also to those interested in Japanese history and the legions of devotees of Japanese popular culture, in particular Manga and Anime, in which martial arts feature very large indeed.
- * There is obvious appeal also among the armed services, police and security personnel.
- * Hatsumi will add new material explaining the relevances of this traditional martial art in today's world.

Born in 1931, **Masaaki Hatsumi** progressed through various martial arts before meeting his mentor, Takamatsu Toshitsugu, Head of the Togakure sect of ninjutsu. He studied ninja techniques with Toshitsugu and other members of the Takamatsu family for fifteen years. On attaining the highest level of ninpō, Hatsumi became the 34th Grandmaster (Sōke) of Togakure-ryū Ninjutsu and eight other arts, which Hatsumi unified into the **Bujinkan** system. While travelling the world, teaching thousands of individual students as well as classes of law enforcement professionals, he received numerous accolades from politicians and spiritual leaders of many nationalities. Hatsumi continues to teach and hold workshops on ninjutsu at Bujinkan, just outside of Tokyo. He remains head of the 900-year-old Togakure school of *ninpō*, the ninja fighting arts.



講談社

Kodansha Europe Ltd.

40 Stockwell Street, Greenwich, London SE10 8EY, U.K.

www.kodansha.eu / info@kodansha.eu