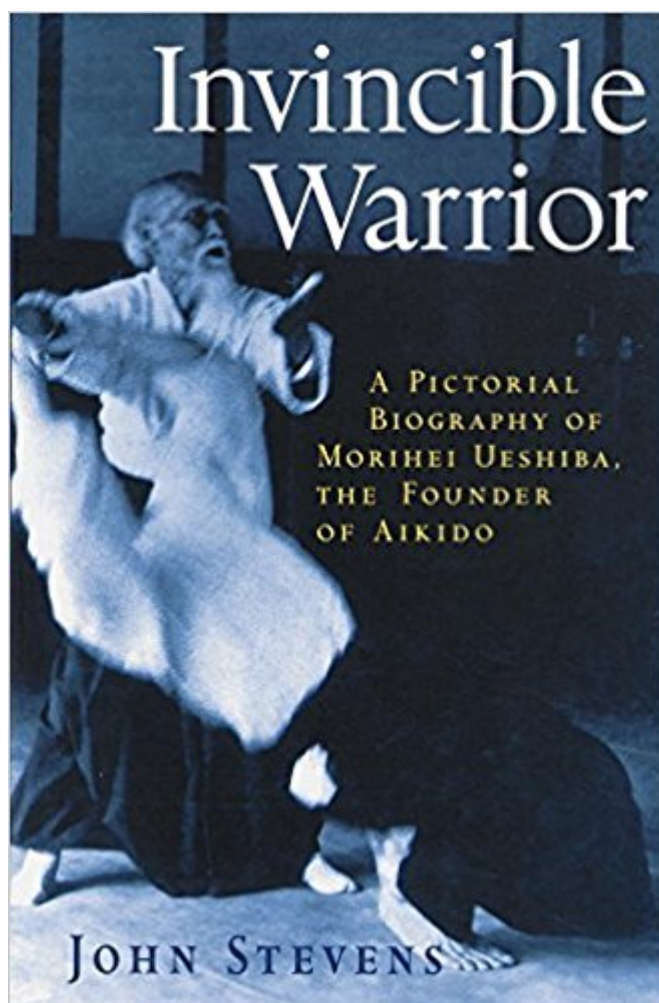


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Invincible Warrior: A Pictorial Biography Of Morihei Ueshiba, The Founder Of Aikido



Synopsis

Invincible Warrior tells the fascinating story of the life of Morihei Ueshiba (1883-1969), whose quest for the true meaning of warriorship led to the creation of the martial art called Aikido, "The Art of Peace." Ueshiba's name means "abundant peace" and is considered by many to be one of the greatest martial artists who ever lived. His documented ability to disarm any attacker, throw a dozen men simultaneously, and down and pin opponents without touching them has accorded him legendary status. *Invincible Warrior* presents the real story behind Morihei's achievement, illuminating the man and his message. Stevens describes the people, events, and ideas that influenced Ueshiba's lifelong spiritual quest, which culminated in the development of unique teachings of Aikido. Illustrated with two hundred photographs of Morihei in action and filled with revealing anecdotes about his life and times, *Invincible Warrior* also offers valuable discussion of the Founder's conception of Aikido as a path of harmony and love, unifying body and mind, self and others, humans and the universe.

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Customer Reviews

John Stevens is Professor of Buddhist Studies and Aikido instructor at Tohoku Fukushi University in Sendai, Japan. He is the author or translator of over twenty books on Buddhism, Zen, Aikido, and Asian culture. He has practiced and taught Aikido all over the world.

I have been a serious student of numerous martial arts in my more than 60 years of training (Judo,

Jujitsu, Karate, Boxing, Wrestling, Law Enforcement Defensive Tactics etc), but I had only taken Aikido for a few months many years ago and never achieved any rank in this system. Nevertheless, I have always had great respect for Morihei Ueshiba and his Aikido art. I have read and reviewed hundreds of books on the martial arts, including several on the art of Aikido. This excellent book (Invincible Warrior: A pictorial biography of Morihei Ueshiba, The founder of Aikido) by John Stevens should be in the personal library of every serious student of Aikido. This 255 page volume is organized into three parts. Part one covers "The life and times of Morihei Ueshiba." The second part explains "Morihei Ueshiba and the creation of Aikido." The final section shows in fairly clear black and white photographs, "The marvelous techniques of Morihei Ueshiba." In conclusion, if you are a student of Aikido or are thinking about taking up Aikido, this is a book you will want to read and own. I found it interesting, informative and a good read. Rating: 5 Stars. Joseph J. Truncale (Co-Author: The Monadnock Defensive Tactics System (MDTS))

Very suspicious about the author. Had the feeling he was just trying to sell something, as opposed to stating verifiable facts about Ueshiba.

I've been studying Aikido for about a year now and always heard bits and pieces about O'sensei's life. I'm enjoying this book as it really is nice to fill in the story of his life. Granted, time has a way of exaggerating exploits but, knowing where he lived, and who he trained with and the background information is great. I can understand the motivation of O'sensei and the reasons for his development of Aikido after reading the book. As for the debate on the effectiveness of Aikido by Mark Twain. All I can say is it seems you have a closed mind and have already told yourself what you will learn and what you won't. So how can you learn to make Aikido effective when you're limiting yourself like that? Aikido is one of the hardest martial arts to learn and effectiveness depends on the dojo and sensei as much as the student's willingness to learn. I agree some dojos teach dance, so go elsewhere and find the real Aikido. I find my Aikido to be effective. You apparently did not. So be it. If you need a path to defend yourself fast I agree, Aikido probably isn't the best choice. Muay Thai, or Krav Maga would be my choices. Because a path is difficult, does not mean it should be avoided.

This book was ordered as used and it was brand new and signed by the author!

My Husband was super thrilled to receive this book on his birthday. The condition of the book was

excellent and he is excited to read it.

I have spent a great deal of time reading books and articles on Aikido. None have given me the insight that this book has.. If you enjoy this art and are looking for a deeper understanding of Aikido, you will find it here.

For the student of Aikido or any budding martial artist, John Stevens "Invincible Warrior" is a title worthy of a good read. Stevens chronicles the life of Morihei Ueshiba, the man who re-cultivated the meaning of "Budo" and from this created the art of Aikido. We are taken through a trip that leads us to many "fantastic" places so to speak in this book. From a young, sickly, Morihei, who wished nothing more than to gain physical strength and stature, to a man who is transformed by a flooding of images and feelings in his later life all the way to his passing in the late 1960's. This biography relives the historic and "mythic" events that colored the life of Morihei Ueshiba. For many skeptic readers the more fantastic parts of this book will leave you scratching your head and coming to the conclusion that this old man's flights of fancy are no more than tall tales. My review is in no way attempting to persuade you're opinion either way. But John Stevens does chronicle events such as :Ueshiba killing birds in mid-flight with his voice alone. Dodging bullets. Moving with lightning fast reflexes unmatched by his younger pupils. And Ueshiba battling with invisible beings (Tengu), in sacred Japanese mountains. Albeit, I have outlined a few of these events very cut and dry. Despite whatever you chose to believe, in the end the one thing no critic or follower of Ueshiba's art can deny is the impact he has had on the world of martial arts since the formation of Aikido. Stevens colorful representation of this intriguing man's life at the very best outlines reasons why Morihei Ueshiba became the legend martial arts history has bestowed upon him. He truly walked the path of the Samurai.

I bought this book as I was looking for a reasonably complete (though not necessarily exhaustive) biography of the founder of Aikido, preferably with a good number of photographs as well as text. This book fulfilled those requirements, and exceeded my expectations. The story is fascinating and compelling, and it is told in a very enjoyable and readable way. The author is an American who has lived and taught in Japan for many years. He has developed a deep understanding of Japanese culture which allows him to present this material well to an English-speaking reader. As to charges that this book promotes mythology about Morihei Ueshiba: I'm really not in a position to say for myself, not having had a chance to compare this book with other authors' work on the topic. Until I

do, I will reserve judgment. In any case, I found Stevens' book to be a very worthwhile read.

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