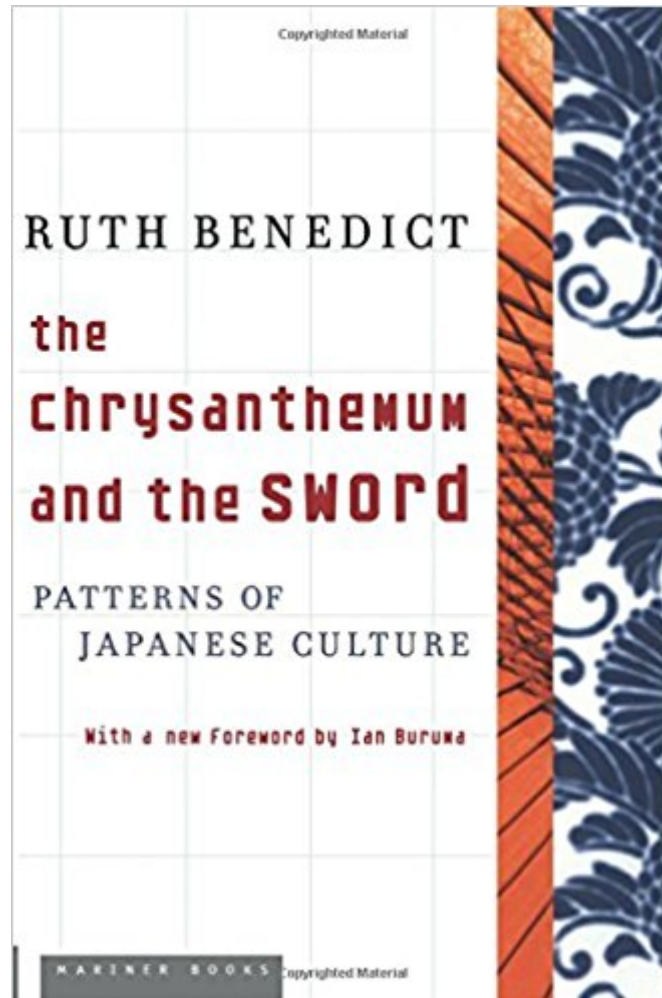




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The Chrysanthemum And The Sword



Synopsis

Essential reading for anyone interested in Japanese culture, this unsurpassed masterwork opens an intriguing window on Japan. Benedict's World War II era study paints an illuminating contrast between the culture of Japan and that of the United States. The Chrysanthemum and the Sword is a revealing look at how and why our cultures differ, making it the perfect introduction to Japanese history and customs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

RUTH BENEDICT (1887-1948) was one of the twentieth century's foremost anthropologists and helped to shape the discipline in the United States and around the world. Benedict was a student and later a colleague of Franz Boas at Columbia, where she taught from 1924. Margaret Mead was one of her students. Benedict's contributions to the field of cultural anthropology are often cited today.

Some things can appear as a little outdated but the core remains. Perhaps it's one of the first books to be read by someone trying to understand people from Japan. Of course, after reading it, some surprises still will be awaiting.

This is a truly wonderful book whichever way you look at it: information, style, and relevance/impact. It was instrumental in determining the successful approach chosen by the US government in designing its policy towards Japan during its occupation (1945-1952) To me, as an enthusiastic

learner of Japanese, a devoted watcher of Japanese films, and reader of Japanese books (still, alas, in translation), this book has given a key to understanding some of the dialogues, scenes... Truly, I recommend reading this book.

The Kindle version contains far too many spelling mistakes and typos which are disturbing while reading. Occurs a few times per page. It is as though someone who does not speak English typed it up from a faded paperback and no-one bothered proof reading it. Thanks for keeping costs down - you might want to pass those savings on in a lower price next time :-).

Despite being written half a century ago, it still rings true and provides much needed insight and understanding into Japanese mentality for someone coming from a Western culture. I read this after 2 years in Japan, and it helped me understand a lot of my experiences. Also, written in an easy-to-read and engaging manner.

I liked especially the descriptions of Zen Buddhism and its basis in the Japanese culture and ethic. I recommend this book for anyone interested in Japan or coming to understand their own culture by contrast with one that is so unique.

Ruth Benedict is the originator of the terms: Guilt and Shame culture. As a fan of George Fenwick Jones, "Honor in German Literature" & "Honor Bright", it was very helpful to go to the source of those concepts.

An excellent overview of history even if written in the 1940s. It is a classic book by an eloquent writer. Examples used to verify points were well chosen. That it was written for U.S. government and military administrators in the WWII era amazes me. As good over a second reading as it was the first one long ago.

An excellent anthropological analysis of the Japanese. Although the book was written in the 1940s', it is still highly relevant in today's understanding of Japanese society and culture.

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