



Ninja: 1,000 Years of the Shadow Warrior (P.S.)

By John Man

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The first major pop history of the Japanese stealth assassins, John Man's *Ninja* is a meticulously researched, entertaining blend of mythology, anthropology, travelogue, and history of the legendary shadow warriors.

Spies, assassins, saboteurs, and secret agents, Ninja have become the subject of countless legends that continue to enthrall us in modern movies, video games, and comics—and their arts are still practiced in our time by dedicated acolytes who study the ancient techniques.

Ninja: 1,000 Years of the Shadow Warrior, by British historian John Man, is as colorful and intriguing as the warriors it so vividly brings to life.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Countless numbers of teens (or even preteens) know ninja warriors only as the masked throwers of star-shaped, razor-edged projectiles, as seen in video games, comic books, graphic novels, or films. Man, a British historian and travel writer who has written extensively on Asia, strives to separate that mythological image from the reality of this mysterious warrior caste. Man traces the origin of the ninja to the fifteenth century, when Japan was wracked by a series of civil wars. To survive, they learned the arts of espionage, disguise, and infiltration of enemy strongholds to gather information and attack opponents. Initially, they formed tight bonds of loyalty to each other; eventually, they became the tools of local rulers, which placed them in opposition to each other. Man effectively demolishes much of the nonsensical romanticism that surrounds views of the ninja in the West. Unfortunately, he comes close to fostering his own counter mythology by suggesting they were valiant, honorable victims of historical change. Still, this is a useful, popular history suitable for general readers. --Jay Freeman

Review

“An **immensely entertaining** history, packed with **splendidly blood-thirsty tales** of derring-do, feats of endurance and self-sacrifice.” (The Guardian)

“*Ninja* is a racy popular history of a difficult and often mythologised subject and should appeal to the armchair warrior in us all.” (Literary Review)

“One could ask for no better storyteller than John Man.” (Simon Sebag Montefiore, author of *Jerusalem: The Biography*)

“An intriguing look at the enigmatic world of the deadly Asian assassin. ... Fascinating. ... A thoroughly researched, appealing examination of the original ‘men in black.’” (Kirkus Reviews)

“As colorful and intriguing as the warriors it so vividly brings to life.” (Bookreporter.com)

From the Back Cover

Out of the violent chaos of medieval Japan, a remarkable band of peasants rose to become the world's most feared warriors—trained to perfect the art of *ninjutsu*, the deadly union of martial arts and deception. Today, however, these real life ninjas are overshadowed by legend and pop culture caricatures. Could they fly? Climb walls? Make themselves invisible?

Drawing on a wealth of historical texts, local Japanese sources, and his own comprehensive treks across Asia, acclaimed author John Man takes us back to the ninjas' origins in China, through to their heyday in the bloody civil wars that ended with the unification of Japan in 1600. Man also illuminates the twentieth-century reemergence of the Japanese tradition of shadow warfare through the Nakano Spy School—the elite military-intelligence academy that operated as an extensive spy network during World War II—and reveals one former Nakano soldier, Onoda Hiroo, who may be the last surviving ninja.

Compelling and absorbing, *Ninja* reveals at last the fascinating true history behind one of the world's most enduring legends.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Asia Haynes:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the e-book entitled Ninja: 1,000 Years of the Shadow Warrior (P.S.). Try to the actual book Ninja: 1,000 Years of the Shadow Warrior (P.S.) as your pal. It means that it can to get your friend when you sense alone and beside those of course make you smarter than ever before. Yeah, it is very fortuned for you. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So , let us make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

Roberta Bourland:

The reason? Because this Ninja: 1,000 Years of the Shadow Warrior (P.S.) is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will jolt you with the secret this inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who also write the book in such wonderful way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book get such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking way. So , still want to delay having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

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Roger Cooper:

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