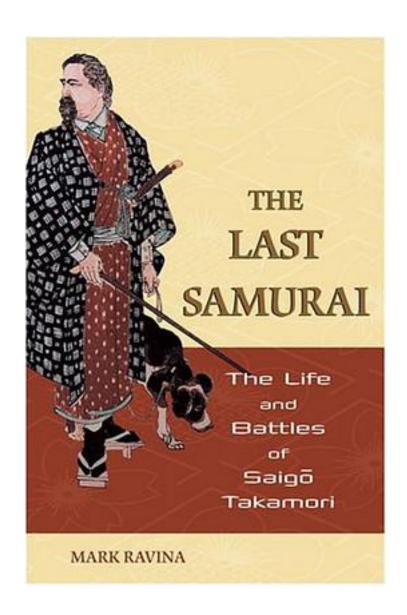
The Last Samurai



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The dramatic arc of Saigo Takamori's life, from his humble origins as a lowly samurai, to national leadership, to his death as a rebel leader, has captivated generations of Japanese readers and now Americans as well - his life is the inspiration for a major Hollywood film, The Last Samurai, starring Tom Cruise and Ken Watanabe. In this vibrant new biography, Mark Ravina, professor of history and Director of East Asian Studies at Emory University, explores the facts behind Hollywood storytelling and Japanese legends, and explains the passion and poignancy of Saigo's life. Known both for his scholarly research and his appearances on The History Channel, Ravina recreates the world in which Saigo lived and died, the last days of the samurai. The Last Samurai traces Saigo's life from his early days as a tax clerk in far southwestern Japan, through his rise to national prominence ás a fierce imperial loyalist. Saigo was twice exiled for his political activities -- sent to Japan's remote southwestern islands where he fully expected to die. But exile only increased his reputation for loyalty, and in 1864 he was brought back to the capital to help his lord fight for the restoration of the emperor. In 1868, Saigo commanded his lord's forces in the battles which toppled the shogunate and he became and leader in the emperor Meiji's new government. But Saigo found only anguish in national leadership. He understood the need for a modern conscript army but longed for the days of the traditional warrior. Saigo hoped to die in service to the emperor. In 1873, he sought appointment as envoy to Korea, where he planned to demaind that the Korean king show deference to the Japanese emperor, drawing his sword, if necessary, top defend imperial honor. Denied this chance to show his courage and loyalty, he retreated to his homeland and spent his last years as a schoolteacher, training samurai boys in frugality, honesty, and courage. In 1876, when the government stripped samurai of their swords, Saigo's followers rose in rebellion and Saigo became their reluctant leader. His insurrection became the bloodiest war Japan had seen in centuries, killing over 12,000 men on both sides and nearly bankrupting the new imperial government. The imperial government denounced Saigo as a rebel and a traitor, but their propaganda could not overcome his fame and in 1889, twelve years after his death, the government relented, pardoned Saigo of all crimes, and posthumously restored him to imperial court rank. In THE LAST SAMURAI, Saigo is as compelling a character as Robert E. Lee was to Americans-a great and noble warrior who followed the dictates of honor and loyalty, even though it meant civil war in a country to which he'd devoted his life. Saigo's life is a fascinating look into Japanese feudal society and a history of a country as it struggled between its long traditions and the dictates of a modern future.

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最后的武士

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标签

历史

英文原版

武士

日本史

传记

西郷隆盛

评论

西乡对明治维新的贡献包括促成第一次长州征讨较为和平的解决,指挥戊辰战争,促进废藩置县、武士特权废除etc.

他在征韩论战中的表现让人哭笑不得,最终成为西南战争中反政府军头子,为武士阶级殉葬,既是因为坚持自己的道德标准,也是因为被追随者惯坏了坑了。英文原版读起来蛮好,不过①很多罗马字拼写的名称要是配上汉字就更好了(对汉字文化圈读者来说);②西乡那句"しまった"译作"Oh, what a mess"似乎力道太轻。

全面又结构清晰的传记,按萨摩童年、幕末江户、岛流、倒幕、明治初政府、西南战争划分了六部分,以西南战争战后西乡的头颅在哪里以及为何重要这一问题开篇引入。行文对英语读者很友好——尤其是开头详细的历法人名地名度量衡的体例介绍(但此外要能有个对照汉字人名地名的表就更好了)。不乏有意思的论断,如西乡以道德为中心的政治观,儒家普世主义等等,揭示了西乡在对朝鲜问题中的矛盾,以及在西南战争中的模糊立场。区分了史料的西乡和传说的西乡,并特别介绍了当时大众文化与传媒对西乡的塑造与影响(如报纸创造的"新政厚德"、浮世绘中的"西乡星")。结尾谈到江藤淳对西乡的民族主义阐释,反对仅将西乡看做右翼的象征(这个结束部分稍显仓促)。

对西乡隆盛的一生做了总结。上次看samurai invasion的时候说熊本城挡住了使用欧式武器的士兵进攻,我以为是被欧洲人攻打了, 现在发现原来指的是西南战争时叛军久攻不下。

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书评

男儿立志出乡关, 学不成名誓不还。埋骨何须桑梓地, 人生无处不青山! 这首改编自相传为西乡南洲所作的铭志诗,充满了青年人远大的抱负和决然的豪情,其 作者是中国近代一位立志走向革命之路的湖南青年,他名叫毛润之,该诗题为《七绝・ 改西乡隆盛诗赠父亲》。西乡...

看完坂本龙马就想找一本西乡的传记来读,遗憾的是司马辽太郎没有写过他的传记……日本人写的国内也没有译作,而这本书是一个美国人写的,作者是研究亚洲文化的这书的宣传打出的口号是"稻盛和夫的精神偶像",由此看出国内对历史人文的忽视和对经济发展和企业家的过分重视。...

一个老美,能够对幕末的萨摩藩的政治有着如此细致的描述。 幕末是一段很有意思的历史, 而中国方面对这段历史的研究和书籍,实在匮乏,令人遗憾。。。。。。。 抱歉,你的评论太短了抱歉,你的评论太短了

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