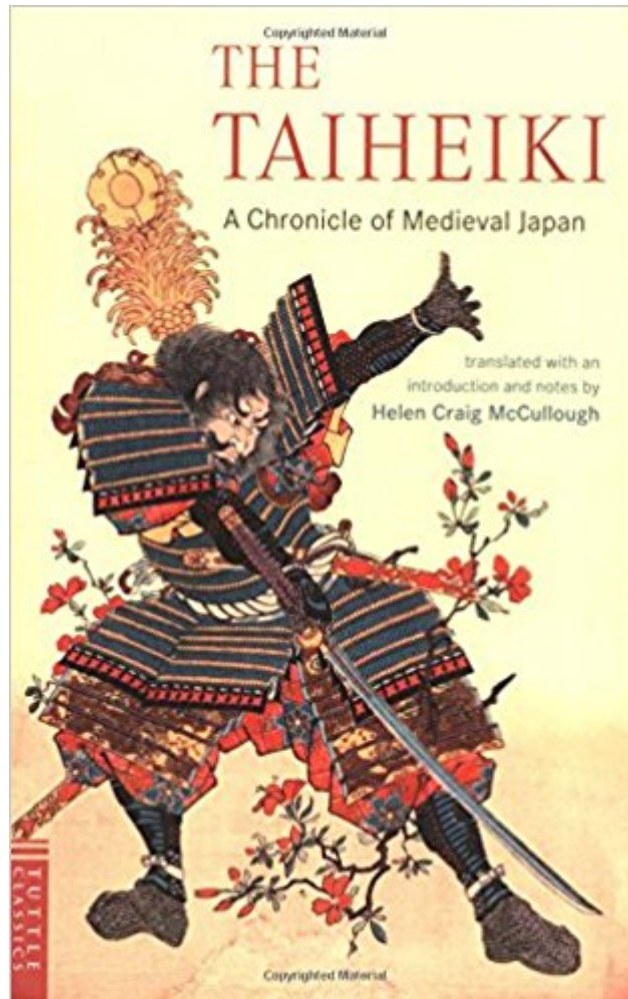


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The Taiheiki: A Chronicle Of Medieval Japan (Tuttle Classics)



Synopsis

An epic saga of samurai warfare in medieval Japan. This celebrated literary classic has delighted generations of Japanese. In its pages, you will find a vivid contemporary description of the fourteenth-century intrigues and battles that led to the destruction of the Hojo family, the military overlords of the nation, and made it possible for the Emperor Go-Daigo (1288-1339), one of Japan's most remarkable sovereigns, to reassert the power of the throne. Go-Daigo's first hesitant attempts to overthrow the Hojo, the early defeats suffered by his supporters, his dethronement and exile, the legendary exploits of his generals, the growing strength of his arms, and his ultimate return to the throne are all recounted in engrossing detail. The anonymous authors of *The Taiheiki* diversify their narrative through skillful use of the rich treasure house of the Chinese dynastic histories, the verse of the Six Dynasties and T'ang, and the Confucian teachings underlying the strict warrior code of loyalty and filial piety. They write with a deep sense of the inevitability of karma—determined fate and the impermanence of man and his works—but the spirit of the age is reflected in their praise of valor and military prowess, their taste for descriptions of the trappings of war, and their frequent irreverent asides. Considered a part of the *gunki monogatari*, or war tales canon in Japan, *The Taiheiki* celebrates martial adventure and can be seen as a prose counterpart to the Homeric epics of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.

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Customer Reviews

The *Taiheiki* covers a period of Japanese history when there was a struggle between the emperor

and the shogun for power. In this tale, the emperor notices that the shogun has amassed more power than he should have, and the emperor laments the days gone by when emperors held power. To remedy this, the emperor starts a rebellion to destroy the shogun's power. However, the shogun controls most of the military, so the emperor's struggles to gain control take on a rebellion or guerilla nature. It's a really fascinating read for those who are interested in samurai, but be warned--there are enough names to make your head spin. If you try to keep up with all of the people in this novel, it could be more of a chore than a pleasure to read. If you just focus on a few of the main characters, then it will be an interesting window into the world of the samurai.

Fantastic story and engrossing characters. This classic is always an entertaining read, and gives a deep dramatic insight to Japanese royalty and the samurai who follow them. If you like books similar to the tale of Genji, then this action packed tale will fit beautifully in your collection.

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