

[Pdf free] Shinsengumi: The Shogun's Last Samurai Corps

Shinsengumi: The Shogun's Last Samurai Corps

Von Romulus Hillsborough

ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

Produktinformation -Verkaufsrang: #481588 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2013-06-25Erscheinungsdatum: 2013-06-25File Name: B00DKMWOWM | File size: 75.Mb

Von Romulus Hillsborough : Shinsengumi: The Shogun's Last Samurai Corps before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shinsengumi: The Shogun's Last Samurai Corps:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. very good research bookVon LisaI bought this book because I've taken a historical interest in the Bakumatsu and especially in the Shinsengumi. The content mainly covers the years 1863-1868 and is well-researched thanks to Hillsborough

being able to exploit original Japanese sources. He uses a lot of quotes from the surviving testimony of Nagakura, Shimada, Katsu Kaishu and others as well as letters, eyewitness reports, and modern-day publications to create as vivid and accurate a picture of the time and circumstances as possible (he does not deny, though, that his text cannot be entirely non-fictional). The focus is of course on the Shinsengumi, but the author tried his best to explain the historical events surrounding and determining the group's actions. Apart from the fact that the author uses the words "self-importance," "unyielding will to power," and "propensity to kill" a little too often for my taste, I cannot agree with reviews claiming that he particularly disliked the Shinsengumi and purposely portrayed them in an unfavorable light. I rather think that the highly romanticized and fictionalized movies, series, animes, and mangas/comics on the topic make you forget all too easily that the Shinsengumi's business was terrorizing oppression and cold-blooded murder. I found it refreshing that the book elaborated on several inglorious incidents as well as some tragic character changes that seem to inevitably come with money and power. What bothered me, however, was the rather sketchy storytelling toward the end. Hijikata and his Ezo Republic were shoved into the epilog as if their retreat to the north was not part of the actual story anymore. The final words on Okita didn't even cover half a page, Harada's fight at Ueno was only mentioned in a one-sentence side note and information on the survivors and their fate after the revolution was pretty scarce. In my opinion, the author failed to bring his book to a satisfying end. Also, I found it somewhat irritating that several events were depicted in topical rather than chronological order to the effect that characters died in one chapter and then were very much alive again in the next. Also, the text generally lacked dates, so that sometimes it was hard to tell what year exactly the author was talking about. I appreciated all the extra information in the appendixes as well as the source notes, however, I would have wished for bigger and more detailed maps and - if possible - more pictures. I also feel like many questions still have been left unanswered, though I don't want to blame the author for information lost in history. CONCLUSION: Being more or less the only English source on the Shinsengumi, this book totally fulfilled my expectations (4 stars due to my structural criticism). However, be warned, this book is NOT a historical novel but more like a very long wikipedia entry. Don't expect a thrilling storytelling from a book that is clearly meant for research. If you don't have a deep historical interest in the time or the Shinsengumi, you should really keep your fingers off this book. 3 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Warning Von Wilmar Ernst A dry and barren account of the sheer facts. Those who have devoured the Shinsengumi-NHK-Taiga-drama might expect something similar and will be disappointed; the author is a scientific historian but no entertaining narrator. His denouncing attitude towards his subject adds to the boredom, one is tempted to question why the author has picked the theme despite his contempt for the Shinsengumi and what it stood for. The rather precise description WHAT happened does not compensate for the total lack of any explanation WHY it happened. It is reasonable to buy, if at all, the cheaper Paperback, because none will read this book presumably more than twice.

Kurzbeschreibung Shinsengumi: The Shogun's last Samurai Corps is the true story of the notorious samurai corps formed in 1863 to arrest or kill the enemies of the Tokugawa Shogun. The only book in English about the Shinsengumi, it focuses on the corps' two charismatic leaders, Kondo Isami and Hijikata Toshizo, both impeccable swordsmen. It is a history-in-brief of the final years of the Bakufu, which collapsed in 1867 with the restoration of Imperial rule. In writing Shinsengumi, Hillsborough referred mostly to Japanese-language primary sources, including letters, memoirs, journals, interviews, and eyewitness accounts, as well as definitive biographies and histories of the era. The fall of the shogun's government (Tokugawa Bakufu, or simply Bakufu) in 1868, which had ruled Japan for over two and a half centuries, was the greatest event in modern Japanese history. The revolution, known as the Meiji Restoration, began with the violent reaction of samurai to the Bakufu's decision in 1854 to open the theretofore isolated country to "Western barbarians." Though opening the country was unavoidable, it was seen as a sign of weakness by the samurai who clamored to "expel the barbarians." Those samurai plotted to overthrow the shogun and restore the holy emperor to his ancient seat of power. Screaming "heaven's revenge," they wielded their swords with a vengeance upon those loyal to the shogun. They unleashed a wave of terror at the center of the revolution- the emperor's capital of Kyoto. Murder and assassination were rampant. By the end of 1862, hordes of renegade samurai, called ronin, had transformed the streets of the Imperial Capital into a "sea of blood." The shogun's administrators were desperate to stop the terror. A band of expert swordsmen was formed. It was given the name Shinsengumi ("Newly Selected Corps")- and commissioned to eliminate the ronin and other enemies of the Bakufu. With unrestrained brutality bolstered by an official sanction to kill, the Shinsengumi soon became the shogun's most dreaded security force. In this vivid historical narrative of the Shinsengumi, the only one in the English language, author Romulus Hillsborough paints a provocative and thrilling picture of this most fascinating period in Japanese history.