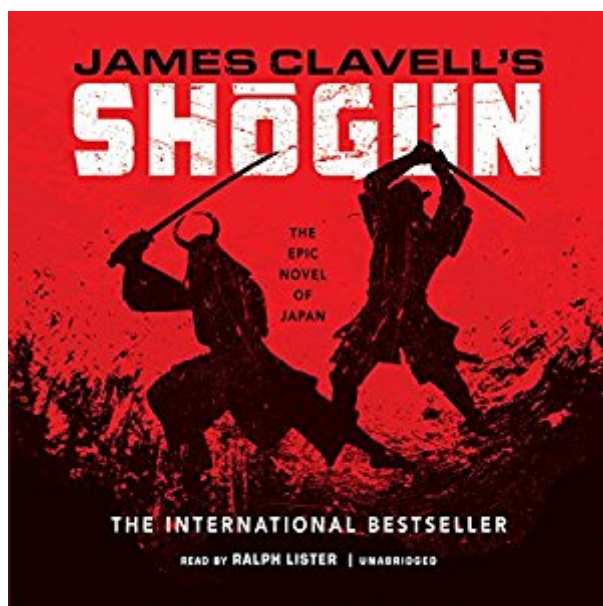


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Shogun: The Epic Novel Of Japan: The Asian Saga, Book 1



Synopsis

A bold English adventurer; an invincible Japanese warlord; a beautiful woman torn between two ways of life, two ways of love - all brought together in an extraordinary saga of a time and a place aflame with conflict, passion, ambition, lust, and the struggle for power. James Clavell's *Shōgun* is a modern classic, a masterpiece of historical fiction that will continue to endure for decades to come.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Epic historical novel that truly sweeps you off of your feet and takes you to a far away land.

Engaging, riveting, gripping, enthralling, powerful, exciting ... and all the other words that fit! I've read and purchased multiple times. So much has already been written here and so many other reviews already -- suffice to say, I love it, will always love it. Instead of detailing more about the story or writing, I'm going to share some of my favorite passages so you can get an idea of how brilliantly this is written. The first quote is one of my all-time most cherished. "Leave the problems of God to God and karma to karma. Today you're here and nothing you do will change that. Today you are alive and here and honored and blessed with good fortune. Look at this sunset, it's beautiful, neh? This sunset exists. Tomorrow does not exist. There is only now. Please look. It is so beautiful and it will never happen ever again, never, not this sunset, never in all infinity. Lose yourself in it, make yourself one with nature and do not worry about karma, yours, mine, or that of the village. How beautiful life is and how sad! How fleeting, with no past and no future, only a limitless now. It's not through laughter that we become one with

the gods and thus can endure life and can overcome all the horror and waste and suffering here on earth? It isn't only through laughter we can stay human? Always remember, child... that to think bad thoughts is really the easiest thing in the world. If you leave your mind to itself it will spiral you down into ever increasing unhappiness. To think good thoughts, however, requires effort. This is one of the things that discipline - training - is about. It's a saying they have, that a man has a false heart in his mouth for the world to see, another in his breast to show to his special friends and his family, and the real one, the true one, the secret one, which is never known to anyone except to himself alone, hidden only God knows where. I highly recommend all of the other novels in James Clavell's Asian Saga, especially Whirlwind and Tai Pan. The entire Saga spans from 1600 to 1970's and is truly an experience to behold.

Probably the best novel I have ever read, and that's saying something. Combines all of the great elements of storytelling that spellbinds the reader no matter how many times it is read, and I can't count the number of times I have re-read this book. There are must-see films, places that a person must-visit, and this book is a must-read. It truly transports you to medieval Japan, and I can thank Mr Clavell for educating me on Japanese customs. As I told my son and daughter, if you ever read a novel, make this the one. You won't be sorry.

I had watched the mini-series many years ago and really liked it. So, I got this chance to read the book and have been delighted with it as well. This story is for anyone who is interested in feudal Japan around 1800s or Samurai culture in general. This is a novel! It took me about 2 weeks to read. (On avg, I read a normal book in 3 days) And if you pay attention you will learn a few Japanese words. (And sometimes that was an issue as I would forget what the word meant)

Somewhat different from the Mini-Series seen decades ago. Some of the sites I went to about Shogun mentioned Clavell's use of Japan's history and that the mini-series only really focused on the the gaijin's point of view rather than the bigger picture. Yes the book certainly gives the bigger picture and the politicking among the Regents . Blackthorne never stood a chance.

James Clavell. The entire Asian Saga by this oddly gifted visionary man realistically follows the similar path traveled by the true men of the Noble House, (Google Jardines) and their predecessors who ventured a new sea route to the Japans, to land on the shores of a brutally

sophisticated Asian society that western Europeans could not have comprehended, and still cannot equate to their perceptions even today. Portugal had found its way to the East at the behest of the Catholic church to expand their beliefs, and thereby enrich and militarily empower themselves through proxy warring governments. The struggle of other nations to share free trade hung in the balance, and the world soon shrank tenfold. War and passion, terror and ungodly beauty and passion previously unimagined by these characters of the salty and unsanitary world of the seafarer; as they crash ashore on a lotus blossom island chain of Pagoda Castle cities; fragrant young goddesses and deadly archers and samurai with gleaming swords; all at the feet of the ultimate leader, - Shogun.

I am unable to review this book that I read thrice and recommended to my grandchildren because I don't have the necessary talent for such a monumental task. Nevertheless, I recommend it to any individual interested not only in the Far Eastern philosophy but also mentality that is reflected from Medieval to present times.

Though the print version is over 1000 pages, the Kindle e-book is more convenient to handle. Clavell weaves a charming tale of romance and intrigue into this first of his books on the historical, western development of Asia. Focusing on medieval Japan, this story has great characters and moves steadily forward to a predictable, but not obvious, conclusion. A 1980 TV miniseries based on the book covers many of the highlights and, if you have seen that, helps to "flesh out" visualization of many of the characters. Enjoy!

Having read this novel enough times to be able to always know what's coming next, the story has never lost its capacity to spellbind me. I have to be careful when I chose to read it, because I know I will spend every spare moment on it once I have begun. James Clavell brings 16th century Japan to life with such clarity that the effect is more of going on a visit than of reading a novel. This book could be a case study in good characterization, as each of the many characters are carved out with exquisite detail. Both the love story and the power play are equally entrancing. I'm always a little bit saddened when I complete the book and return to 21st century America. Without a doubt, Clavell's magnum opus.

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