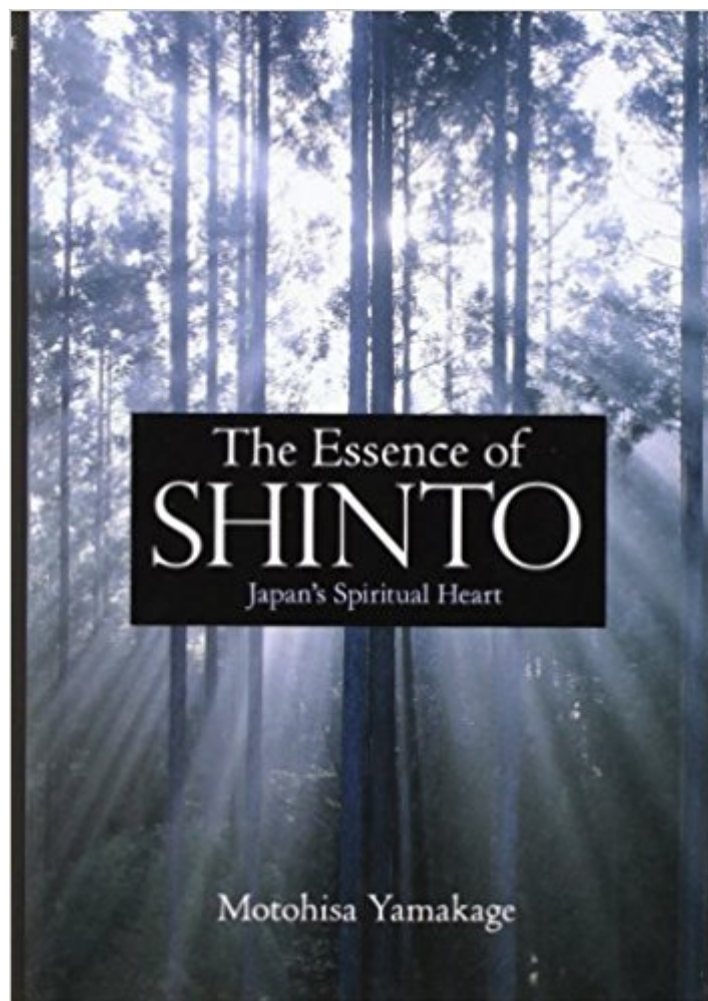


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The Essence Of Shinto: Japan's Spiritual Heart



Synopsis

In *The Essence of Shinto*, revered Shinto master Motohisa Yamakage explains the core values of Shinto and explores both basic tenets and its more esoteric points in terms readily accessible to the modern Western reader. He shows how the long history of Shintoism is deeply woven into the fabric of Japanese spirituality and mythology--indeed, it is regarded as Japan's very spiritual roots--and discusses its role in modern Japan and the world. He also carefully analyzes the relationship of the spirit and the soul, which will provide informed and invaluable insight into how spirituality affects our daily existence. Through the author's emphasis on the universality of Shinto and its prevalence in the natural world, the book will appeal to all readers with an appreciation of humanity's place in nature and the individual's role in the larger society.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I chose this book as part of a research effort to understand how the Toyota Production System (TPS) was influenced by societal aspects found in Japan. One thing that is "uniquely Japanese" is Shintoism, and so a working hypothesis was that it provided unconscious bias ("intuition") in how this manufacturing system was created and refined. This book provides a wealth of tantalizing clues useful in my study, and hope that there is enough commentary here to be useful to others seeking to satisfy curiosity or other forms of knowledge/enlightenment.

Pro: + This book, to the novice that I am, appears complete enough to be called "The Essence of Shinto" + Complete, yet relative short and to the point + Corrects the view that Shinto is a religion, rather it is better described as a value system that reveres "the Great Nature" + Well written and easy to understand... with a better

translation into English than other Japanese texts I have read+ Contains some interesting statements that might explain motivations behind "taking a long view" in cellular manufacturing: cell shape, 5s systems, kaizen, hansei, and "Ohno Circle" as well as why despite strong beliefs in standardization why separate factories often do not share these standards+ Also helped me explain why additional TPS-like systems are not emerging from Japan...

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