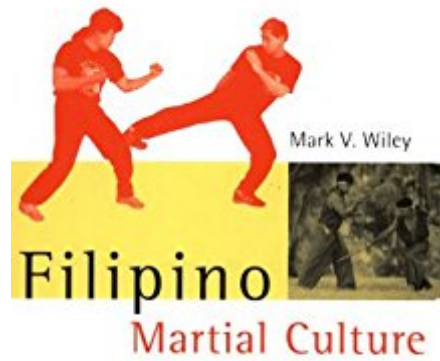


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Filipino Martial Culture (Martial Culture Series)

"Filipino Martial Culture is an incomparable masterpiece. For anyone who has searched for reliable information on the topic, this book is simply the best."
—Michael A. DeMaree, Journal of Asian Martial Arts



Synopsis

Widely practiced but not always understood, the Filipino martial arts have a rich history and distinctive character that have not fully been documented until now. Written in the context of Philippine history and culture, *Filipino Martial Culture* uncovers the esoteric components of the Filipino martial arts and the life histories of the men who perpetuate them. Included are: the history of turbulence and war in the Philippines from prehistoric times to the present day; the culture of the Filipino martial arts, including warrior ethos and worldview, spirituality, folklore, and weaponry; biographical sketches of eighteen Filipino masters and descriptions of their respective fighting styles; and a comparative study of the ethos, ideology, and development of the Filipino martial arts in relation to the considerable martial traditions of India, China, and Japan. In the course of his research, internationally renowned martial arts master and scholar Mark V. Wiley traveled the globe, interviewing top masters and recording their life histories, thoughts, and anecdotes. In addition, he collected 320 historical photographs and illustrations, including step-by-step sequences of the masters demonstrating the distinctive techniques of their particular martial styles. A classic reference for practitioners and researchers alike, this Filipino martial arts book is an informative read.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

You know 'em when you see 'em...shelves upon shelves of how-to martial arts titles at your local book superstore -- all presented by humorless thugs posing in grainy black-and white photos. Like a well-rounded Alsatian farmer's wife, they grab you by the neck and begin stuffing junk down your throat until you put the book down, none the wiser, but with the feeling that your liver justgot a step closer to becoming kung fu foie gras...There are exceptions, of course. But few martial arts authors have the cultural awareness and sensitivity to put their art into a larger picture, one that transcends the stances, blocks, and hits -- positions it as part of a living, three-dimensional cultural phenomenon. One writer who was able to live up to the task was the late Donn Draeger. Of course, any Westerner who attempts to create a competent comprehensive appreciation of an Oriental martial culture not only requires the appropriate amount of expertise in the subject matter he chooses. He also has to have guts to face the "my-kung-fu-is-better-than-your-kung-fu" and "my-facts-are better-than-your facts" pundits (mostly Westerners, too) who know everything better in the first place, and then believe their particular sub-system was not represented to their liking. (Or that their edition of Baedeker's Manila represents a better reference than the research of original data in sources and translations of the respective author...) Mark Wiley has guts -- and the discipline, humility, perseverance and expertise to create a trail-blazing work on the ins and outs of Filipino Martial Culture. Rivaling, and often even surpassing Donn Draeger in scope, his book is probably the most important martial arts title to hit the stores this decade.

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