

Keenan Chandler

12/29/19

Mrs. Fink

## The Bushido

The Bushido was a very strict and sacred code developed by Nitobe Inazō in Ancient Japan. The reason for this was because Nitobe thought that the Samurai needed “guidelines”, or rules to keep them in line. It influenced the Japanese culture and the Samurai by keeping law, order, loyalty, and responsibility within Ancient Japan.

The Bushido was created in Ancient Japan and was written by Nitobe Inazō in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Inazō was born on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1862, and grew up in Morioka, (present day Iwate Prefecture in Japan.) He was an agricultural economist, author, educator, diplomat, politician, and Christian during the pre-World War II. His parents were Nitobe Jūjirō, (father), and his mother was unknown. He attended Sapporo Agricultural College in the second class, and was converted to Christianity under the strong legacy left by Dr. William S. Clark. Then in 1883, Nitobe transferred to the Imperial Tokyo University, but after being disappointed by the level of research there, he left and went to America in 1884 to attend Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. There he studied economics and political science. He stayed there for three years, and while there, met his wife Mary Patterson Elkinton.

Nitobe was a very efficient writer and wrote many newspaper articles, books, and articles. One of his greatest books was “Bushido; the soul of Japan.”, which was a very important document published in the 1900’s, and was one of the first major works on the ethics of Samurai and

Japan's culture. Sadly, he died on October 15, 1933 in Victoria British Columbia at the age of 71.

The Bushido is the code of the Samurai in Ancient Japan, stressing unquestioning loyalty and obedience and value honor above life. The Bushido was created around the 19th century by Inazō Nitobe, and had a great effect on the Samurai. The Bushido was used by the Samurai of the Edo period and was very important. It consisted of several laws and codes saying things about such things as honour until death, loyalty, martial arts, sincerity, and frugality. The Bushido consisted of seven virtues that consisted of righteousness, courage, benevolence, respect, honesty, honor, and loyalty. By following these rules, the Samurai gained both honor and political power.

The Bushido had a very important role during WWII when Japan used suicide bombers to attack the enemy. Although this didn't always work, Japan thought of it as a way of fighting for their country with honor and royalty. The soldiers also committed suicide, or seppuku when they were about to be captured by the enemy. The reason for this was because they would rather die than disobey their God or bring shame to themselves or their family. At the end of WWII, when the U.S dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan was reluctant to surrender, until the second bomb was dropped, Japan finally surrendered. This shows how royal and honourous Japan is, and this is all because of the Bushido.

Not only did the Bushido make the Samurai loyal, it also created law and order throughout Japan. The Samurai were the police of Japan and kept the law and order for the Government. They arrested anyone who they thought was disobeying the law. They also were a higher class than peasants and were treated well with respect, honor, and responsibility.

If a Samurai ever disobeyed the code, and lost his honor, or felt that he would lose his honor, he would commit suicide in a special way. The way he would commit suicide was by impaling himself in the stomach with a sword, then cut his belly open. This ritual suicide was named “seppuku”, and was considered an honorable death. The Bushido has been around for about two-hundred years, it is still used today in modern Japan. Although, some of the rules have changed, but they still consist of loyalty, honor, and respect, and are very important to their countries, family, and the Imperial House. The Bushido had a huge effect on the Samurai of Japan, and on Japan’s culture as well. It is almost like Japan’s own version of the ten commandments.

### **Works cited.**

History.com History.com editors. August 21, 2018. January 6, 2020.

<<https://www.history.com/topics/japan/samurai-and-bushido>>.

Skoss, Diane. "Bushido." *New Dictionary of the History of Ideas*, edited by Maryanne Cline Horowitz, vol. 1, Charles Scribner's Sons, 2005, pp. 251-253. *Gale In Context: World History*, [https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3424300090/WHIC?u=aacpl\\_itweb&sid=WHIC&xid=1d37eceb](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3424300090/WHIC?u=aacpl_itweb&sid=WHIC&xid=1d37eceb). Accessed 6 Jan. 2020.