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North Bound

TODAY IN HISTORY 852 YEARS AGO

The Northern Crusade campaigns undertaken by Catholic Christian military orders and kingdoms, primarily against the pagan Baltic, Finnic and West Slavic peoples around the southern and eastern shores of the Baltic Sea.

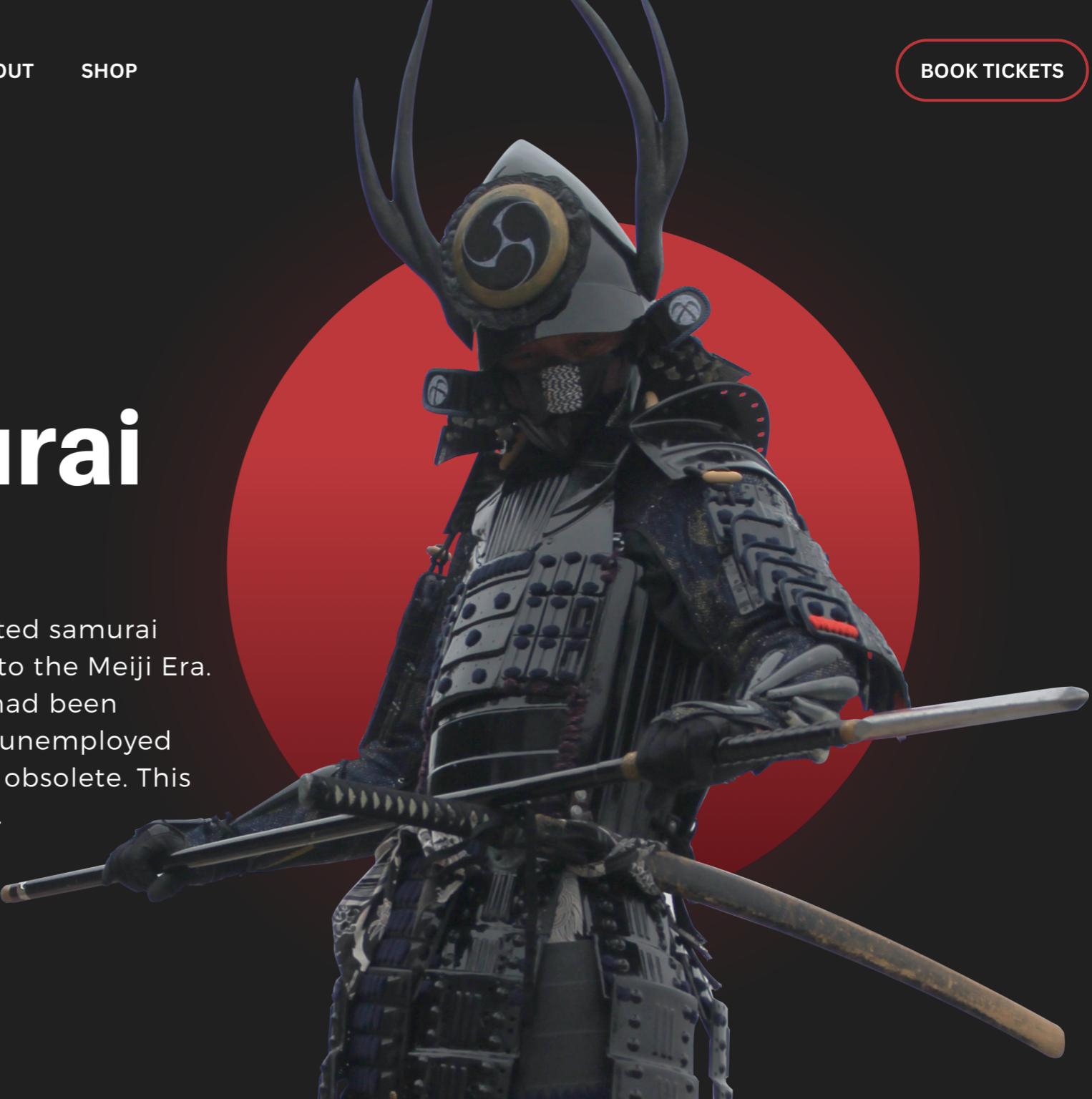
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The Last Samurai

TODAY IN HISTORY 146 YEARS AGO

The 1877 Satsuma Rebellion was a revolt of disaffected samurai against the new imperial government, nine years into the Meiji Era. Its name comes from the Satsuma Domain, which had been influential in the Restoration and became home to unemployed samurai after military reforms rendered their status obsolete. This was the event used in the movie "The Last Samurai".

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French Cavalry

TODAY IN HISTORY 423 YEARS AGO

A gendarme was a heavy cavalryman of noble birth, heirs to the knights of French medieval feudal armies. French Gendarmes also enjoyed a stellar reputation and were regarded as the finest European heavy cavalry force. In spite of its rich decoration, this armor was intended for use in battle. It was made at a time when the lance had been abandoned by the heavily armored cavalry in favor of a pair of pistols kept in holsters at the front of the saddle. The presence of hand firearms on the battlefield led to the increasing weight of armors such as this and the gradual discarding of elements like the defenses for the lower legs.

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