

The Truth of the Ancient Ways: A Critical Biography of the Swordsman Yamaoka Tesshu By Anatoliy Anshin Written for martial arts practitioners and those interested in Japanese culture and history.

Anshin draws from his doctoral dissertation to create the first critical biography on Tesshu over 120 years after his death in 1888. Among practitioners of Japanese martial arts both in Japan and overseas there is hardly a person not knowing the name of Tesshu who is also famous for his calligraphy and pursuits of enlightenment in Zen Buddhism. Despite this for over a century Tesshu's figure buried under numerous anecdotes and mythical stories has presented a contrasting combination of broad popularity with the absence of critical biographies and the lack of verified data. Based on scrupulous investigation of primary and secondary sources Anshin's book shows that Tesshu's whole life was an uncompromising quest for the authentic Japanese swordsmanship which had been practically lost by his time. Anshin further analyzes how this quest eventually led Tesshu to play the central role in the bloodless surrender of Edo Castle - one of the most important events in the Meiji Restoration of 1868. Looking at everything from the beginning and development of Tesshu's thoughts and belief systems to establishing his own swordsmanship school called Itto Shoden Muto-ryu Anshin chronologically highlights Tesshu's dramatic life path. The Truth of the Ancient Ways: A Critical Biography of the Swordsman Yamaoka Tesshu Excellent book on a key figure of Japan's transition to modernity a true martial artist and a primer to understanding the historical background of Japanese martial arts as we know them today:

Author of The Truth of the Ancient Ways: A Critical Biography of the Swordsman Yamaoka Tesshu.  
Author of The Truth of the Ancient Ways: A Critical Biography of the Swordsman Yamaoka Tesshu, {site\_link} This book by Anatoliy Anshin documents the life of famous Japanese swordsman Yamaoka Tesshu and his historical role in the end of the Tokugawa era, This path reflects like a mirror centuries-old cultural history of Japanese warrior class the samurai and its martial arts. Independent scholar. PhD in premodern Japanese history. Worked as lecturer at Hanyang University (Seoul). Independent scholar. PhD in premodern Japanese history. Worked as lecturer at Hanyang University (Seoul). History Biographies Memoirs Nonfiction

