



In Praise of Spies : Ninjutsu's Role in Shaping Japan

By

Steven Nojiri

## **SAMPLE**

- **Table of Contents**
- **Excerpt**

Copyright © Steven Nojiri 2012  
All Rights Reserved

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	pg. 5
Purpose of this book .....	pg. 7
Chapter 1 .....	pg. 13
What is a Shinobi-no-mono?	
The Reality During the Warring Periods	
Understanding Shinobi from an Emic perspective	
Shinobi in a time of peace	
Shinobi during the Edo Period	
Historical Example : Inada Conspiracy	
Chapter 2 .....	pg. 26
Naval Shinobi	
Battle Formations	
The Original Eight	
Battle Formations on the High Sea	
Shinobi Formations	
Deeper Points of the Formations	
Army Movements	
The Truth of Flags	
Ambushes	
Chapter 3.....	pg. 57
The Importance of the Nanbokucho on Shinobi History	
The Truth of the Kusunoki Clan	
Masanori's Most Daring Gambit	
Momonoji : The Other Hero of the Southern Court	
Chapter 4 .....	pg.72
Fujii Kogen and the Fujii Clan	
Nojiri Bingo no Kami	
A note on Ronin	
Jisamurai	

Chapter 5..... pg. 94

- Yonin and Innin
- Yonin : Hostage Taking
- Yonin : “Nobody” Methodology
- Yonin : Firefly
- Yonin : Sleeper Cells
- Yonin : The Actual ‘Shadow’ Technique
- Putting it Together
- Innin : Sneaking Inside
- Innin : Torches
- Innin : Lockpicking
- Innin : Ongyo-no-jutsu
- Innin : Traps
- Shinobi Tools
- Shinobi Magic : Fake and Real

Chapter 6..... pg. 123

- Five Types of Spies
- The Importance of both Yonin and Innin

Chapter 7..... pg. 133

- The Social Organization of the Edo Period
- The Shifting Role of the Shinobi
- Historical Example : Hojo Ryu
- Historical Example : Natori Shinobi
- Yonin in the Edo Period
- Vengeance Killings
- Final Days of Ninjutsu
- Boshin War
- Meiji Restoration
- Historical Example : Inada Rebellion
- Historical Example : Demise of Natori Ryu
- Shinobi in Modern Times?
- A Valid Argument (Twist in the Story)

Final Thoughts ..... pg. 159

Appendix 1 13<sup>th</sup> Chapter of the Sun Tzu’s “Tactics

Appendix 2 Naval Manual excerpts

# EXCERPT :

## UNDERSTANDING SHINOBI FROM AN EMIC PERSPECTIVE

For a more in-depth understanding of the samurai spy or shinobi, it is important to see this role “from the eyes of the actual persons themselves” or from an “emic” perspective.

A more accurate and complete understanding is gained when studying the role of shinobi from within their worldview than from without, where a different worldview and personal biases can obscure the truth. Seeing the samurai spy through their own eyes provides a more compelling and more correct understanding of how their role shaped Japanese history. To study the shinobi from an emic perspective, the *Bansenshukai*, the *Fukushima Ryu Shinobi no Maki*, and the *Natori Ryu Shoninki* manuals are the sources of choice.

According to the *Bansenshukai*, *Fukushima Ryu Shinobi no maki*, and *Natori Ryu Gunpo* manuals, a “shinobi” is defined principally as “samurai spy” and secondarily as “thief.” These manuals recount the history of the word “Shinobi-no-mono” as it evolved into two distinct definitions:

- Shinobi written with “blade over heart,” meaning “Spy.” (忍)
- Shinobi written with various kanji meaning a “Special Type of Thief.” (One example : 竊盜)

From these two definitions:

- Spy-Shinobi becomes “Yonin” (shinobi in the light)
- Thief-Shinobi becomes “Innin” (shinobi in the shade)

Prior to the 1300s, the term “shinobi” simply referred to the “Thief”. “Spy” was referred to with “Kanja” and “Yushi,” someone who gathers information covertly. These two terms were imported from China, with “Kanja” (間者) being composed of the characters 間 (gap) and 者 (person). “Yushi” (遊士) is composed from the characters 遊 (to play) and 士 (retainer). After they were imported to Japan, “Kanja” became the generic word for “spy” and “Yushi” became a term that denoted a specialized samurai who, by using conspiracy and unconventional methods, “played” with the enemy. During the Nanbokucho War, the term “Shinobi” (blade over heart) transformed to mean “Spy” as well. Thus, the roles of thief and spy merged as one role known as “shinobi.” In this way, the essence of shinobi is complexly harmonious.