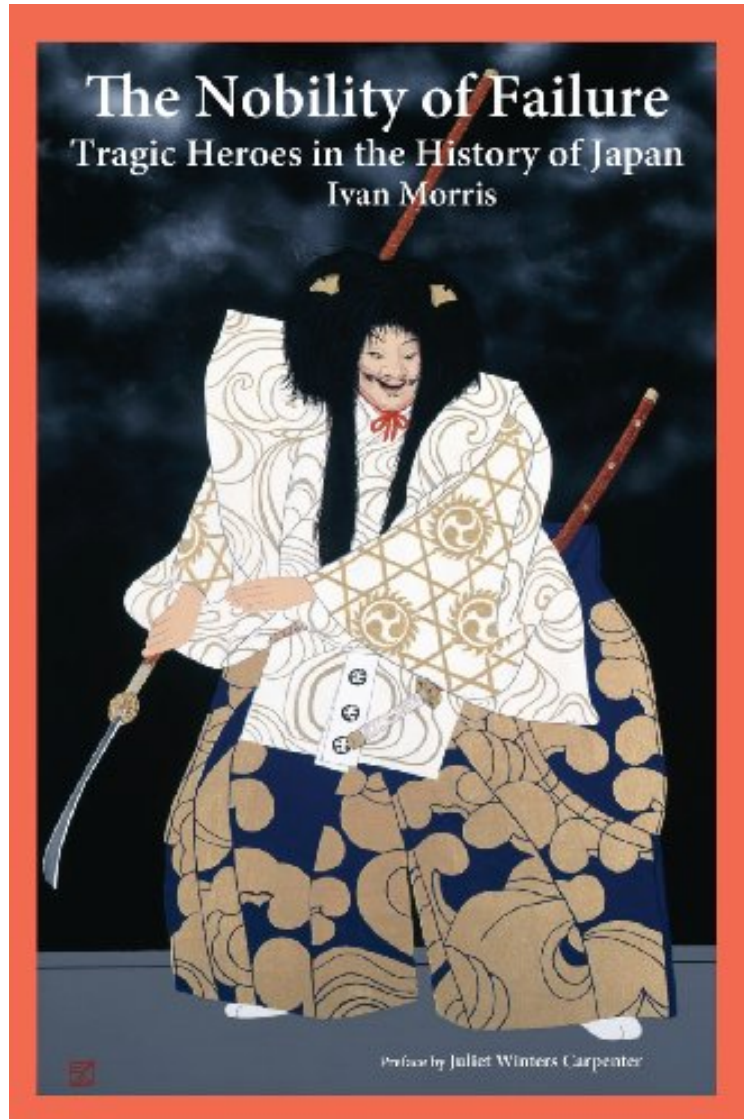


(Download free pdf) The Nobility of Failure

## The Nobility of Failure

*Ivan Morris*

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**Ivan Morris : The Nobility of Failure** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Nobility of Failure:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Better understanding Japan.... and beyondBy jjjA classic, a must for those eager to understand the japanese psyche. But also a lesson for those brainwashing us with their unending propaganda logorhea about "heroes", "success" and other obsessive happy endings. Sometimes, things turn bad and it is as well. Since from failures we learn probably more than from triumph.0 of 0 people found the following review

helpful. The best book on Japan that I have ever read. By Customer One of the greatest books I have ever read. Certainly the best book that I have ever read on Japan. Morris focuses on the concept of *hougan biiki* (sympathy with the loser) and uses this angle to explore some of the most fascinating dichotomies existing in Japanese culture. Not only is it incredibly informative, it is powerful. I broke into tears repeatedly during the life of Saigo Takamori. This is the kind of book I have spent the last ten years searching for. It was well worth the wait. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A unique look at the warrior culture of Japan. By N. Kunka A great book with a good overview of Japanese history explored through its cultural myths and legends. Morris is eloquent and concise, and his work is thoroughly researched (almost half of this study's pages are notes and references - truly a treasure trove for researchers). I find a lot of the myths really compelling, and the conclusions Morris draws are right on the money. His thesis is relatively simple: Japan idolizes and remembers its historic failures much more than successes. There's something about being committed to an ideal or a cause to the bitter end, even if it's wrong, that resonates strongly with the warrior culture of Japan. But not just there, I think that in contemporary American culture, with its attraction to whimsy, instantaneous gratification, and billion channel satellites, there can be found a certain respect for people who can commit themselves solidly to a cause. There's something romantic about lost causes in general that I think people identify with, the almost types of stories get embedded in our culture as well (here I'm thinking of Rudy). A good read for a piece of dense and thorough scholarship.

Long recognized as a core book in any study of Japanese culture and literature, *The Nobility of Failure* examines the lives and deaths of nine historical individuals who faced overwhelming odds, and, realizing they were doomed, accepted their fate--to be killed in battle or by execution, to wither in exile, or to escape through ritual suicide. Morris then turns his attention to the kamikaze pilots of World War II, who gave their lives in defense of their nation in the full realization that their deaths would have little effect on the course of the war. Through detail, crystal-clear prose and unmatched narrative sweep and brilliance, Professor Morris takes you into the innermost hearts of the Japanese people.

About the Author Ivan Ira Esme Morris (b. 1925 d. 1976) was a British author, translator, editor, and teacher in the field of Japanese Studies.