

Contributions the Samurai Made to Japanese Society

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Samurai is the famous Japanese historical and cultural phenomenon.

According to the dictionary, a samurai is “a member of the hereditary” warrior class in feudal Japan (“Samurai”, 2015 ).The Japanese Samurai were the warrior caste that existed from the eleventh to the nineteenth centuries (“Samurai”, 2015 ).

The significance of samurai contributions to Japanese society is grounded on the several centuries of their existence in Japan as the ruling class. Samurai originated as provincial warriors. Later, with the establishing of the shogunate, the first military dictatorship in Japan, the samurai came to power. These warriors served the daimyos, strengthened the authority of the shogun and his privilege position over the emperor, the Mikado. The samurai were banned as the sole armed class by Emperor Meiji. He replaced them by modern army following the Western style.

The impact of the samurai in the Japanese culture is immense. In fact, the cultural aspect of their contribution is more significant than their war achievements. The samurai were skilled warriors, used a great range of weapons. They developed the unique rituals and promoted the isolation of Japan.

The samurai could read and write. They knew mathematics and understood arts. Moreover, many these warriors had skills in literature and music, poetry, and tea.

The samurai culture rooted from a Spartan culture, greatly influenced by Zen Buddhism. They developed the unique philosophy and the code of conduct that could not be broken.

Taking into account all the above-mentioned information, one can see that the contribution of the samurai is unique.

## References

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