Book of Ninja

For Ninja 101 Beginners

 

 **History**

**Despite many popular folktales, historical accounts of the ninja are scarce. Historian** [**Stephen Turnbull**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Turnbull) **asserts that the ninja were mostly recruited from the lower class, and therefore little literary interest was taken in them.**[**[12]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_5-11) **Instead, war epics such as the** [***Tale of Hōgen***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tale_of_H%C5%8Dgen) ***(Hōgen Monogatari)* and the** [***Tale of the Heike***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tale_of_the_Heike) ***(Heike Monogatari)* focus mainly on the aristocratic samurai, whose deeds were apparently more appealing to the audience.**[**[10]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_6-9) **Historian** [**Kiyoshi Watatani**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Kiyoshi_Watatani&action=edit&redlink=1) **states that the ninja were trained to be particularly secretive about their actions and existence:**

**"So-called *ninjutsu* techniques, in short are the skills of *shinobi-no-jutsu* and *shinobijutsu*, which have the aims of ensuring that one's opponent does not know of one's existence, and for which there was special training."**[**[13]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2007_144-12)

**Origins**

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**Yamato Takeru dressed as a maidservant, preparing to kill the Kumaso leaders. Woodblock print on paper.** [**Yoshitoshi**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tsukioka_Yoshitoshi)**, 1886.**

**The origin of the ninja is based on the spies and assassins that have existed throughout** [**Japanese history**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_history)**. The title *ninja* has sometimes been attributed to the semi-legendary 4th century prince** [**Yamato Takeru**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yamato_Takeru)**.**[**[14]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Waterhouse_1996_34-13) **In the** [***Kojiki***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kojiki)**, the young Yamato Takeru disguised himself as a charming maiden, and assassinated two chiefs of the** [**Kumaso**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kumaso) **people.**[**[15]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Chamberlain_2005_249-253-14) **However, these records take place at a very early stage of Japanese history, and is unlikely to be connected to the *shinobi* of later accounts.**

**The first recorded use of espionage was under the employment of** [**Prince Shōtoku**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince_Sh%C5%8Dtoku) **in the 6th century.**[**[1]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-ratti_1991_325-0) **Such tactics were considered unsavory even in early times, when, according to the 10th century *Shōmonki*, the boy spy** [**Koharumaru**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Koharumaru) **was killed for spying against the insurgent** [**Taira no Masakado**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taira_no_Masakado)**.**[**[16]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-friday_2007_58_60-15) **Later, the 14th century war chronicle** [***Taiheiki***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taiheiki) **contained many references to *shinobi*,**[**[14]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Waterhouse_1996_34-13) **and credited the destruction of a castle by fire to an unnamed but "highly skilled *shinobi*".**[**[17]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_7-16)

**However, it was not until the 15th century that spies were specially trained for their purpose.**[**[12]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_5-11) **It was around this time that the word *shinobi* appeared to define and clearly identify ninjas as a secretive group of agents. Evidence for this can be seen in historical documents, which began to refer to stealthy soldiers as *shinobi* during the** [**Sengoku period**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sengoku_period)**.**[**[18]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_9-17) **Later manuals regarding espionage are often grounded in Chinese** [**military strategy**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_strategy)**, quoting works such as** [***The Art of War***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Art_of_War) ***(Sunzi Bingfa)*, by** [**Sun Tzu**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sun_Tzu)**.**[**[19]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-ratti_1991_324-18)

**Development**

**The ninja emerged as mercenaries in the 15th century, where they were recruited as spies, raiders,** [**arsonists**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arson) **and even** [**terrorists**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorism)**. Amongst the samurai, a sense of ritual and** [**decorum**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decorum) **was observed, where one was expected to fight or** [**duel**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duel) **openly. Combined with the unrest of the** [**Sengoku era**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sengoku_era)**, these factors created a demand for men willing to commit deeds considered not respectable for conventional warriors.**[**[1]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-ratti_1991_325-0)[**[2]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_5_6-1) **By the Sengoku period, the *shinobi* had several roles, including** [**spy**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spy) **(*kanchō*),** [**scout**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scout) **(*teisatsu*), surprise attacker (*kisho*), and agitator (*koran*).**[**[18]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_9-17) **The ninja families were organized into larger** [**guilds**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guild)**, each with their own territories.**[**[20]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-ratti_1991_327-19) **A system of rank existed. A *jōnin* ("upper man") was the highest rank, representing the group and hiring out mercenaries. This is followed by the *chūnin* ("middle man"), assistants to the *jōnin*. At the bottom was the *genin* ("lower man"), field agents drawn from the lower class and assigned to carry out actual missions.**[**[21]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-draeger_smith_1981_121-20)

**Iga and Kōga clans**

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**The plains of Iga, nested in secluded mountains, gave rise to villages specialized in the training of ninjas.**

**The Iga and Kōga clans have come to describe families living in the province of** [**Iga**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iga_Province) **(modern** [**Mie Prefecture**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mie_Prefecture)**) and the adjacent region of** [**Kōka**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/K%C5%8Dka%2C_Shiga) **(later written as *Kōga*), named after a village in what is now** [**Shiga Prefecture**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shiga_Prefecture)**. From these regions, villages devoted to the training of ninjas first appeared.**[**[22]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Deal_2007_165-21) **The remoteness and inaccessibility of the surrounding mountains may have had a role in the ninja's secretive development.**[**[21]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-draeger_smith_1981_121-20) **Historical documents regarding the ninja's origins in these mountainous regions are considered generally correct.**[**[23]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_23-22) **The chronicle *Go Kagami Furoku* writes, of the two clans' origins:**

**"There was a retainer of the family of Kawai Aki-no-kami of Iga, of pre-eminent skill in *shinobi*, and consequently for generations the name of people from Iga became established. Another tradition grew in Kōga".**[**[23]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_23-22)

**Likewise, a supplement to the *Nochi Kagami*, a record of the** [**Ashikaga shogunate**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashikaga_shogunate)**, confirms the same Iga origin:**

**"Inside the camp at Magari of the** [**Shogun**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shogun) **[Ashikaga]** [**Yoshihisa**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashikaga_Yoshihisa) **there were *shinobi* whose names were famous throughout the land. When Yoshihisa attacked** [**Rokkaku Takayori**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Rokkaku_Takayori&action=edit&redlink=1)**, the family of Kawai Aki-no-kami of Iga, who served him at Magari, earned considerable merit as *shinobi* in front of the great army of the Shogun. Since then successive generations of Iga men have been admired. This is the origin of the fame of the men of Iga."**[**[24]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_27-23)

**A distinction is to be made between the ninja from these areas, and commoners or samurai hired as spies or mercenaries. Unlike their counterparts, the Iga and Kōga clans produced professional ninja, specifically trained for their roles.**[**[18]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_9-17) **These professional ninja were actively hired by** [**daimyos**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daimyo) **between 1485 and 1581,[[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-Turnbull_2003_9-17) until** [**Oda Nobunaga**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oda_Nobunaga) **invaded Iga province and wiped out the organized clans.**[**[25]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Green_2001_357-24) **Survivors were forced to flee, some to the mountains of** [**Kii**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kii_Mountains)**, but others arrived before** [**Tokugawa Ieyasu**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokugawa_Ieyasu)**, where they were well treated.**[**[26]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_9_10-25) **Some former Iga clan members, including** [**Hattori Hanzō**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hattori_Hanz%C5%8D)**, would later serve as Tokugawa's bodyguards.**[**[27]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Adams_1970_43-26)

**Following the** [**Battle of Okehazama**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Okehazama) **in 1560, Tokugawa employed a group of eighty Kōga ninja, lead by Tomo Sukesada. They were tasked to raid an outpost of the** [**Imagawa clan**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imagawa_clan)**. The account of this assault is given in the *Mikawa Go Fudoki*, where it was written that Kōga ninja infiltrated the castle, set fire to its towers, and killed the** [**castellan**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castellan) **along with two hundred of the garrison.**[**[28]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_44_46-27) **The Kōga ninjas are said to have played a role in the later** [**Battle of Sekigahara**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Sekigahara) **(1600), where several hundred Kōga assisted soldiers under** [**Torii Mototada**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torii_Mototada) **in the defence of** [**Fushimi Castle**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fushimi_Castle)**.**[**[29]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_47-28) **After Tokugawa's victory at Sekigahara, the Iga acted as guards for the inner compounds of** [**Edo Castle**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edo_Castle)**, while the Kōga acted as a police force and assisted in guarding the outer gate.**[**[27]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Adams_1970_43-26) **In 1614, the initial "winter campaign" at the** [**Siege of Osaka**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Osaka) **saw the ninja in use once again. Miura Yoemon, a ninja in Tokugawa's service, recruited *shinobi* from the Iga region, and sent ten ninjas into** [**Osaka Castle**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Osaka_Castle) **in an effort to foster antagonism between enemy commanders.**[**[30]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_50-29) **During the later "summer campaign", these hired ninjas fought alongside regular troops at the** [**Battle of Tennōji**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Tenn%C5%8Dji)**.**[**[30]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_50-29)

**Shimabara rebellion**

**A final but detailed record of ninjas employed in open warfare occurred during the** [**Shimabara Rebellion**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shimabara_Rebellion) **(1637–1638).**[**[31]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_55-30) **The Kōga ninja were recruited by** [**shogun**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shogun)[**Tokugawa Iemitsu**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokugawa_Iemitsu) **against** [**Christian**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian) **rebels led by** [**Amakusa Shirō**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amakusa_Shir%C5%8D)**, who made a final stand at** [**Hara Castle**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hara_Castle)**, in** [**Hizen Province**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hizen_Province)**. A diary kept by a member of the** [**Matsudaira clan**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matsudaira_clan)**, the *Amakusa Gunki*, relates: "Men from Kōga in** [**Omi Province**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omi_Province) **who concealed their appearance would steal up to the castle every night and go inside as they pleased."**[**[32]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_51-31)

**The Ukai diary, written by a descendant of Ukai Kanemon, has several entries describing the reconnaissance actions taken by the Kōga.**

**"They [the Kōga] were ordered to reconnoitre the plan of construction of** [**Hara Castle**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hara_Castle)**, and surveyed the distance from the defensive** [**moat**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moat) **to the *ni-no-maru* (second** [**bailey**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motte-and-bailey)**), the depth of the moat, the conditions of roads, the height of the wall, and the shape of the loopholes."**[**[32]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_51-31) **— Entry: 6th day of the 1st month**

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**The ruins of Hara castle.**

**Suspecting that the castle's supplies may be running low, the siege commander** [**Matsudaira Nobutsuna**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matsudaira_Nobutsuna) **ordered a raid on the castle's provisions. Here, the Kōga captured bags of enemy provisions, and infiltrated the castle by night, obtaining secret passwords.**[**[33]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_52-32) **Days later, Nobutsuna ordered an intelligence gathering mission to determine the castle's supplies. Several Kōga ninja — some apparently descended from those involved in the 1562 assault on an** [**Imagawa clan**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imagawa_clan) **castle — volunteered despite being warned that chances of survival were slim.**[**[34]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_53-33) **A volley of shots were fired into the sky, causing the defenders to extinguish the castle lights in preparation. Under the cloak of darkness, ninja disguised as defenders infiltrated the castle, capturing a banner of the** [**Christian cross**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_cross)**.**[**[34]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_53-33) **The Ukai diary writes,**

**"We dispersed spies who were prepared to die inside Hara castle. ...those who went on the reconnaissance in force captured an enemy flag; both Arakawa Shichirobei and Mochizuki Yo'emon met extreme resistance and suffered from their serious wounds for forty days."**[**[34]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_53-33) **— Entry: 27th day of the 1st month**

**As the siege went on, the extreme shortage of food later reduced the defenders to eating** [**moss**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moss) **and grass.**[**[35]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_54-34) **This desperation would mount to futile charges by the rebels, where they were eventually defeated by the shogunate army. The Kōga would later take part in conquering the castle:**

**"More and more general raids were begun, the Kōga ninja band under the direct control of Matsudaira Nobutsuna captured the *ni-no-maru* and the *san-no-maru* (outer bailey)..."**[**[36]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_54_55-35) **— Entry: 24th day of the 2nd month**

**With the fall of** [**Hara Castle**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hara_Castle)**, the Shimbara Rebellion came to an end, and** [**Christianity**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity) **in Japan was forced** [**underground**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kakure_Kirishitan)**.**[**[37]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Morton_Olenik_2004_122-36) **These written accounts are the last mention of ninjas in war.**[**[38]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Crowdy_2006_52-37)

**Oniwaban**

**In the early 18th century, shogun** [**Tokugawa Yoshimune**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokugawa_Yoshimune) **founded the *oniwaban*, an** [**intelligence agency**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intelligence_agency) **and** [**secret service**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secret_service)**. Members of this office, the** [***oniwabanshū***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oniwabansh%C5%AB) **("garden keeper"), were agents involved in collecting information on daimyos and government officials.**[**[39]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Tatusya_1991_443-38) **The secretive nature of the *oniwaban* — along with the earlier tradition of using Iga and Kōga clan members as palace guards — have lead some sources to define the *oniwabanshū* as "ninjas".**[**[40]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Kawaguchi_2008_215-39) **This portrayal is also common in later novels and** [***jidaigeki***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jidaigeki)**. However, there is no written link between the earlier *shinobi* and the later *oniwabanshū*.**

 **Roles**

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**A page from the *Shōninki* (1681), detailing a list of possible disguises.**

**The ninja were stealth soldiers and mercenaries hired mostly by** [**daimyos**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daimyo)**.**[**[41]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_29-40) **Their primary roles were those of espionage and sabotage, although assassinations were also attributed to ninjas. In battle, the ninja could also be used to cause confusion amongst the enemy.**[**[42]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_42-41) **A degree of psychological warfare in the capturing of enemy banners can be seen illustrated in the *Ōu Eikei Gunki*, composed between the 16th and 17th centuries:**

**"Within Hataya castle there was a glorious *shinobi* whose skill was renowned, and one night he entered the enemy camp secretly. He took the flag from Naoe Kanetsugu's guard ...and returned and stood it on a high place on the front gate of the castle."**[**[43]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2007_149-42)

**Espionage**

**Espionage was the chief role of the ninja. With the aid of disguises, the ninja gathered information on enemy terrain, building specifications, as well as obtaining passwords and communiques. The aforementioned supplement to the *Nochi Kagami* briefly describes the ninja's role in espionage:**

**"Concerning ninja, they were said to be from Iga and Kōga, and went freely into enemy castles in secret. They observed hidden things, and were taken as being friends"**[**[24]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_27-23)

**Later in history, the Kōga ninja would become regarded as agents of the** [**Tokugawa**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokugawa)[***bakufu***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bakufu)**, at a time when the *bakufu* used the ninjas in an intelligence network to monitor regional daimyos as well as the** [**Imperial court**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperial_Court_in_Kyoto)**.**[**[20]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-ratti_1991_327-19)

**Sabotage**

[**Arson**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arson) **was the primary form of sabotage practiced by the ninja, who targeted castles and camps.**

**The 16th century diary of abbot Eishun (*Tamon-in Nikki*) at *Tamon-in* monastery in** [**Kōfuku-ji**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/K%C5%8Dfuku-ji) **describes an arson attack on a castle by men of the Iga clans.**

**"This morning, the sixth day of the 11th month of** [**Tembun**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tembun) **10, the Iga-*shu* entered Kasagi castle in secret and set fire to a few of the priests' quarters. They also set fire to outbuildings in various places inside the *San-no-maru*. They captured the *Ichi-no-maru* (inner** [**bailey**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motte-and-bailey)**) and the *Ni-no-maru*."**[**[44]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_28-43)

**—Entry: 26th day of the 11th month of the 10th Year of** [**Tenbun**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tenbun) **(1541)**

**In 1558,** [**Rokkaku Yoshitaka**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rokkaku_Yoshitaka) **employed a team of ninja to set fire to** [**Sawayama Castle**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sawayama_Castle)**. A *chunin* captain led a force of forty-eight ninja into the castle by means of deception. In a technique dubbed *bakemono-jutsu* ("ghost technique"), his men stole a lantern bearing the enemy's family crest (*[mon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mon_%28crest%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Mon%20%28crest%29)*), and proceeded to make replicas with the same *mon*. By wielding these lanterns, they were allowed to enter the castle without a fight. Once inside, the ninjas set fire to the castle, and Yoshitaka's army would later emerge victorious.**[**[45]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_43-44) **The mercenary nature of the *shinobi* is demonstrated in another arson attack soon after the burning of Sawayama Castle. In 1561, commanders acting under** [**Kizawa Nagamasa**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Kizawa_Nagamasa&action=edit&redlink=1) **hired three Iga ninja of *genin* rank to assist the conquest of a fortress in** [**Maibara**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maibara%2C_Shiga)**. Rokakku Yoshitaka, the same man who had hired Iga ninja just years earlier, was the fortress holder — and target of attack. The *Asai Sandaiki* writes of their plans: "We employed *shinobi-no-mono* of Iga. ...They were contracted to set fire to the castle".**[**[46]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_43_44-45) **However, the mercenary *shinobi* were unwilling to take commands. When the fire attack did not begin as scheduled, the Iga men told the commanders, who were not from the region, that they could not possibly understand the tactics of the *shinobi*. They then threatened to abandon the operation if they were not allowed to act on their own strategy. The fire was eventually set, allowing Nagamasa's army to capture the fortress in a chaotic rush.**[**[46]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_43_44-45)

**Assassination**

**The most well-known cases of assassination attempts involve famous historical figures. Deaths of famous persons have sometimes been attributed to assassination by ninjas, but the secretive nature of these scenarios have been difficult to prove.**[**[12]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_5-11) **Assassins were often identified as ninjas later on, but there is no evidence to prove whether some were specially trained for the task or simply a hired mercenary.**

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**Portrait of Oda Nobunaga, by** [**Jesuit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesuit) **painter** [**Giovanni Niccolo**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giovanni_Niccolo)**, 1583-1590.**

**The warlord** [**Oda Nobunaga**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oda_Nobunaga)**'s notorious reputation led to several attempts on his life. In 1571, a Kōga ninja and** [**sharpshooter**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharpshooter) **by the name of Sugitani Zenjubō was hired to assassinate Nobunaga. Using two** [**arquebuses**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arquebus)**, he fired two consecutive shots at Nobunaga, but was unable to inflict mortal injury through Nobunaga's armor.**[**[47]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_31-46) **Sugitani managed to escape, but was caught four years later and put to death by torture.**[**[47]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_31-46) **In 1573, Manabe Rokurō, a vassal of daimyo** [**Hatano Hideharu**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hatano_Hideharu)**, attempted to infiltrate** [**Azuchi Castle**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azuchi_Castle) **and assassinate a sleeping Nobunaga. However, this also ended in failure, and Manabe was forced to commit suicide, after which his body was openly displayed in public.**[**[47]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_31-46) **According to a document, the *Iranki*, when Nobunaga was inspecting Iga province — which his army had devastated — a group of three ninjas shot at him with large-caliber firearms. The shots flew wide of Nobunaga, however, and instead killed seven of his surrounding companions.**[**[48]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_31_32-47)

**The ninja Hachisuka Tenzō was sent by Nobunaga to assassinate the powerful daimyo** [**Takeda Shingen**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Takeda_Shingen)**, but ultimately failed in his attempts. Hiding in the shadow of a tree, he avoided being seen under the moonlight, and later concealed himself in a hole he had prepared beforehand, thus escaping capture.**[**[49]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_30-48)

**An assassination attempt on** [**Toyotomi Hideyoshi**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toyotomi_Hideyoshi) **was also thwarted. A ninja named** [**Kirigakure Saizō**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kirigakure_Saiz%C5%8D) **(possibly Kirigakure Shikaemon) thrust a spear through the floorboards to kill Hideyoshi, but was unsuccessful. He was "smoked out" of his hiding place by another ninja working for Hideyoshi, who apparently used a sort of primitive "**[**flamethrower**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flamethrower)**".**[**[50]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_32-49) **Unfortunately, the veracity of this account has been clouded by later fictional publications depicting Saizō as one of the legendary** [**Sanada Ten Braves**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanada_Ten_Braves)**.**

[**Uesugi Kenshin**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uesugi_Kenshin)**, the famous daimyo of** [**Echigo province**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Echigo_province) **was rumored to have been killed by a ninja. The legend credits his death to an assassin, who is said to have hid in Kenshin's lavatory, and gravely injured Kenshin by thrusting a blade or spear into his** [**anus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anus)**.**[**[51]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-50) **While historical records showed that Kenshin suffered abdominal problems, modern historians have usually attributed his death to** [**stomach cancer**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stomach_cancer)**,** [**esophageal cancer**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esophageal_cancer) **or** [**cerebrovascular disease**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cerebrovascular_disease)**.**[**[52]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-51)

**Countermeasures**

**A variety of countermeasures were taken to prevent the activities of the ninja. Precautions were often taken against assassinations, such as weapons concealed in the lavatory, or under a removable floorboard.**[**[53]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_26-52) **Buildings were constructed with traps and trip wires attached to alarm bells.**[**[54]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-draeger_smith_1981_128-129-53)

**Japanese castles were designed to be difficult to navigate, with winding routes leading to the inner compound. Blind spots and holes in walls provided constant surveillance of these labyrinthine paths, as exemplified in** [**Himeji Castle**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Himeji_Castle)**.** [**Nijō Castle**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nij%C5%8D_Castle) **in** [**Kyoto**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyoto) **is constructed with long** [**"nightingale" floors**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nightingale_floors)**, which rested on metal hinges (*uguisu-bari*) specifically designed to squeak loudly when walked over.**[**[55]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_29_30-54) **Grounds covered with** [**gravel**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gravel) **also provided early notice of unwanted intruders, and segregated buildings allowed fires to be better contained.**[**[56]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-fieve_2003_116-55)

 **Training**

***See also:*** [***Ninjutsu***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninjutsu)

**The skills required of the ninja has come to be known in modern times as** [***ninjutsu***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninjutsu)**, but it is unlikely they were previously named under a single discipline. Modern misconceptions have identified ninjutsu as a form of combat art, but historically, ninjutsu largely covered espionage and** [**survival skills**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Survival_skills)**. Some lineage styles (*[ryūha](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ry%C5%ABha%22%20%5Co%20%22Ry%C5%ABha)*) of ninjutsu such as** [**Togakure-ryū**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Togakure-ry%C5%AB) **were known in the past.**

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**This diagram from the *Bansenshukai* uses** [**divination**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divination) **and esoteric cosmology (*[onmyōdō](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Onmy%C5%8Dd%C5%8D%22%20%5Co%20%22Onmy%C5%8Dd%C5%8D)*) to instruct on the ideal time for taking certain actions.**

**The first specialized training began in the mid-15th century, when certain samurai families started to focus on covert warfare, including espionage and assassination.**[**[57]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_12-56) **Like the samurai, ninja were born into the profession, where traditions were kept in, and passed down through the family.**[**[20]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-ratti_1991_327-19) **According to Turnbull, the ninja was trained from childhood, as was also common in samurai families. Outside the expected martial art disciplines, a youth studied survival and scouting techniques, as well as information regarding poisons and explosives.**[**[58]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_14_15-57) **Physical training was also important, which involved long distance runs, climbing, stealth methods of walking[[59]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-Green_2001_359-360-58) and swimming.**[**[60]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Deal_2007_156-59) **A certain degree of knowledge regarding common professions was also required if one was expected to take their form in disguise.**[**[58]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_14_15-57) **Some evidence of medical training can be derived from one account, where an Iga ninja provided first-aid to** [**Ii Naomasa**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ii_Naomasa)**, who was injured by gunfire in the** [**Battle of Sekigahara**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Sekigahara)**. Here the ninja reportedly gave Naomasa a "black medicine" meant to stop bleeding.**[**[61]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_48-60)

**With the fall of the Iga and Kōga clans,** [**daimyos**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daimyo) **could no longer recruit professional ninjas, and were forced to train their own *shinobi*. The *shinobi* was considered a real profession, as demonstrated in the** [**bakufu**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bakufu)**'s 1649 law on military service, which declared that only daimyos with an income of over 10,000** [***koku***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Koku) **were allowed to retain *shinobi*.**[**[62]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_13-61) **In the two centuries that followed, a number of *ninjutsu* manuals were written by descendants of Hattori Hanzō as well as members of the Fujibayashi clan, an offshoot of the Hattori. Major examples include the *Ninpiden* (1655), the** [***Bansenshukai***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bansenshukai) **(1675), and the *Shōninki* (1681).**[**[6]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Green_2001_358-5)

**Some practitioners of modern ninjutsu include** [**Stephen K. Hayes**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_K._Hayes) **and** [**Masaaki Hatsumi**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masaaki_Hatsumi)**, who is the head (*[sōke](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C5%8Dke%22%20%5Co%20%22S%C5%8Dke)*) of** [**Bujinkan**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bujinkan)**, a martial arts organization based in Japan. However, the link between modern interpretations of ninjutsu and historical practices is a matter of debate.**

**Tactics**

**The ninja did not always work alone. Teamwork techniques exist: for example, in order to scale a wall, a group of ninja may carry each other on their backs, or provide a human platform to assist an individual in reaching greater heights.**[**[63]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_22-62) **The *Mikawa Go Fudoki* gives an account where a coordinated team of attackers used** [**passwords**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Password) **to communicate. The account also gives a case of deception, where the attackers dressed in the same clothes as the defenders, causing much confusion.**[**[28]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_44_46-27) **When a retreat was needed during the** [**Siege of Osaka**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Osaka)**, ninja were commanded to fire upon friendly troops from behind, causing the troops to charge backwards in order to attack a perceived enemy. This tactic was used again later on as a method of crowd dispersal.**[**[30]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_50-29)

**Most *ninjutsu* techniques recorded in scrolls and manuals revolve around ways to avoid detection, and methods of escape.**[**[6]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Green_2001_358-5) **These techniques were loosely grouped under corresponding natural elements. Some examples are:**

* ***Hitsuke* - The practice of distracting guards by starting a fire away from the ninja's planned point of entry. Falls under "fire techniques" (*katon-no-jutsu*).**[**[64]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-draeger_smith_1981_125-63)
* [***Tanuki***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tanuki)***-gakure* - The practice of climbing a tree and camouflaging oneself within the** [**foliage**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foliage)**. Falls under "wood techniques" (*mokuton-no-jutsu*).**[**[64]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-draeger_smith_1981_125-63)
* ***Ukigusa-gakure* - The practice of throwing** [**duckweed**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duckweed) **over water in order to conceal underwater movement. Falls under "water techniques" (*suiton-no-jutsu*).**[**[64]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-draeger_smith_1981_125-63)
* ***Uzura-gakure* - The practice of curling into a ball and remaining motionless in order to appear like a** [**stone**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_%28geology%29)**. Falls under "earth techniques" (*doton-no-jutsu*).**[**[64]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-draeger_smith_1981_125-63)

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**A** [***komusō***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Komus%C5%8D) **monk is one of many possible disguises.**

**Disguises**

**The use of disguises is common and well documented. Disguises came in the form of priests, entertainers, fortune tellers, merchants,** [***rōnin***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R%C5%8Dnin)**, and monks.**[**[65]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Crowdy_2006_51-64) **The *Buke Myōmokushō* states,**

***Shinobi-monomi* were people used in secret ways, and their duties were to go into the mountains and disguise themselves as firewood gatherers to discover and acquire the news about an enemy's territory ... they were particularly expert at travelling in disguise.**[**[24]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_27-23)

**A mountain ascetic (*[yamabushi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yamabushi%22%20%5Co%20%22Yamabushi)*) attire facilitated travel, as they were common and could travel freely between political boundaries. The loose robes of Buddhist priests also allowed concealed weapons, such as the** [***tantō***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tant%C5%8D)**.**[**[66]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Deal_2007_161-65)[**Minstrel**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minstrel) **or** [***sarugaku***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarugaku) **outfits could have allowed the ninja to spy in enemy buildings without rousing suspicion. Disguises as a** [***komusō***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Komus%C5%8D)**, a mendicant monk known for playing the** [***shakuhachi***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shakuhachi)**, were also effective, as the large "basket" hats traditionally worn by them concealed the head completely.**[**[67]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_18-66)

**Equipment**

**Ninjas utilized a large variety of tools and weaponry, some of which were commonly known, but others were more specialized. Most were tools used in the infiltration of castles. A wide range of specialized equipment is described and illustrated in the 17th century** [***Bansenshukai***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bansenshukai)**,**[**[68]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_19-67) **including climbing equipment, extending spears,**[**[61]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_48-60)[**rocket**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rocket)**-propelled arrows,**[**[69]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_60-68) **and small collapsible boats.**[**[70]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-draeger_smith_1981_128-69)

**Outerwear**

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**A suit of armor purportedly worn by ninjas**

**While the image of a ninja clad in black garbs (*[shinobi shōzoku](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shinobi_sh%C5%8Dzoku%22%20%5Co%20%22Shinobi%20sh%C5%8Dzoku)*) is prevalent in popular media, there is no written evidence for such a costume.**[**[71]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_16-70) **Instead, it was much more common for the ninja to be disguised as civilians. The popular notion of black clothing is likely rooted in artistic convention. Early drawings of ninjas were shown to be dressed in black in order to portray a sense of invisibility.**[**[3]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_17-2) **This convention was an idea borrowed from the puppet handlers of** [***bunraku***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bunraku) **theater, who dressed in total black in an effort to simulate** [**props**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theatrical_property) **moving independently of their controls.**[**[72]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Howell_1999_211-71) **Despite the lack of hard evidence, it has been put forward by some authorities that black robes, perhaps slightly tainted with red to hide bloodstains, was indeed the sensible garment of choice for infiltration.**[**[3]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_17-2)

**Clothing used was similar to that of the** [**samurai**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samurai)**, but loose garments (such as leggings) were tucked into trousers or secured with belts. The** [***tenugui***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tenugui)**, a piece of cloth also used in martial arts, had many functions. It could be used to cover the face, form a belt, or assist in climbing.**

**The historicity of armor specifically made for ninjas cannot be ascertained. While pieces of light armor purportedly worn by ninjas exist and date to the right time, there is no hard evidence of their use in ninja operations. Depictions of famous persons later deemed ninjas often show them in** [**samurai armor**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%8C-yoroi)**. Existing examples of purported ninja armor feature** [**lamellar**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lamellar_armor) **or** [**ring mail**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ring_mail)**, and were designed to be worn under the regular garb. Shin and arm guards, along with metal-reinforced hoods are also speculated to make up the ninja's armor.**[**[3]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_17-2)

**Tools**

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**A page from the *Ninpiden*, showing a tool for breaking locks.**

**Tools used for infiltration and espionage are some of the most abundant artifacts related to the ninja. Ropes and** [**grappling hooks**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grappling_hook) **were common, and were tied to the belt.**[**[68]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_19-67) **A collapsible ladder is illustrated in the *Bansenshukai*, featuring spikes at both ends to anchor the ladder.**[**[73]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_20-72) **Spiked or hooked climbing gear worn on the hands and feet also doubled as weapons.**[**[74]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Mol_2003_121-73) **Other implements include** [**chisels**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chisel)**,** [**hammers**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hammer)**,** [**drills**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drill)**,** [**picks**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pickaxe) **and so forth.**

**The** [***kunai***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kunai) **was a heavy pointed tool, possibly derived from the Japanese** [**masonry**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masonry)[**trowel**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trowel)**, to which it closely resembles. Although it is often portrayed in popular culture as a weapon, the *kunai* was primarily used for gouging holes in walls.**[**[75]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_61-74) **Knives and small saws (*hamagari*) were also used to create holes in buildings, where they served as a foothold or a passage of entry.**[**[76]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_20_21-75) **A portable listening device (*saoto hikigane*) was used to eavesdrop on conversations and detect sounds.**[**[77]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_21-76)

**The** [***mizugumo***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mizugumo) **was a set of wooden shoes supposedly allowing the ninja to walk on water.**[**[70]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-draeger_smith_1981_128-69) **They were meant to work by distributing the wearer's weight over the shoes' wide bottom surface. The word *mizugumo* is derived from the native name for the** [**Japanese water spider**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_water_spider) **(*Argyroneta aquatica japonica*). The *mizugumo* was featured on the show** [**Mythbusters**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mythbusters)**, where it was demonstrated unfit for walking on water. The *ukidari*, a similar footwear for walking on water, also existed in the form of a round** [**bucket**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bucket)**, but was probably quite unstable.**[**[78]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_62-77) **Inflatable skins and breathing tubes allowed the ninja stay underwater for longer periods of time.**[**[79]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-ratti_1991_329-78)

**Despite the large array of tools available to the ninja, the *Bansenshukai* warns one not to be overburdened with equipment, stating "...a successful ninja is one who uses but one tool for multiple tasks".**[**[80]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Green_2001_359-79)

**Weaponry**

**Although shorter swords and daggers were used, the** [***katana***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katana) **was probably the ninja's weapon of choice, and was sometimes carried on the back.**[**[67]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_18-66) **The katana had several uses beyond normal combat. In dark places, the scabbard could be extended out of the sword, and used as a long probing device.**[**[81]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Adams_1970_52-80) **The sword could also be laid against the wall, where the ninja could use the sword guard (*[tsuba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tsuba%22%20%5Co%20%22Tsuba)*) to gain an higher foothold.**[**[82]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Adams_1970_49-81) **While straightswords were used before the invention of the katana,[[83]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-Reed_1880_269_270-82) the straight** [***ninjatō***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninjat%C5%8D) **has no historical precedent and is likely a modern invention.**

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**A pair of *kusarigama*, on display in** [**Iwakuni Castle**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iwakuni_Castle)**.**

**An array of** [**darts**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darts)**, spikes, knives, and sharp,** [**star**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star)**-shaped discs were known collectively as** [***shuriken***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shuriken)**. While not exclusive to the ninja,[[84]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-Mol_2003_119-83) they were an important part of the arsenal, where they could be thrown in any direction.**[**[85]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-ratti_1991_328_329-84) **Bow were used for sharpshooting, and some ninjas bows were intentionally made smaller than the traditional** [***yumi***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yumi) **(longbow).**[**[86]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-ratti_1991_328-85) **The chain and sickle (*[kusarigama](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kusarigama%22%20%5Co%20%22Kusarigama)*) was also used by the ninja.**[**[87]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Adams_1970_55-86) **This weapon consisted of a weight on one end of a chain, and a sickle (*[kama](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kama_%28weapon%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Kama%20%28weapon%29)*) on the other. The weight was swung to injure or disable an opponent, and the sickle used to kill at close range.**

**Explosives introduced from** [**China**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China) **were known in Japan by the time of the** [**Mongol Invasions**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mongol_Invasions_of_Japan) **(13th century).**[**[88]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Bunch_Hellemans2004_161-87) **Later, explosives such as hand-held bombs and grenades were adopted by the ninja.**[**[79]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-ratti_1991_329-78) **Soft-cased bombs were designed to release smoke or poison gas, along with fragmentation explosives packed with iron or pottery** [**shrapnel**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shrapnel)**.**[**[63]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_22-62)

**Along with common weapons, a large assortment of miscellaneous arms were associated with the ninja. Some examples include poison,**[**[68]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_19-67)[**caltrops**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caltrop)**,**[**[89]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Mol_2003_176-88) **cane swords (*[shikomizue](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shikomizue%22%20%5Co%20%22Shikomizue)*),**[**[90]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Mol_2003_195-89) **land mines,**[**[91]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-draeger_smith_1981_127-90)[**blowguns**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fukiya)**, poisoned darts,** [**acid**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acid)**-spurting tubes, and firearms.**[**[79]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-ratti_1991_329-78) **The *happō*, a small eggshell filled with blinding powder (*[metsubushi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metsubushi%22%20%5Co%20%22Metsubushi)*), was also used to facilitate escape.**[**[92]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Mol_2003_124-91)

**Legendary abilities**

[**Superhuman**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superhuman) **or** [**supernatural**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supernatural) **powers were often associated with the ninja. Some legends include flight,** [**invisibility**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invisibility)**,** [**shapeshifting**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shapeshifting)**, the ability to "split" into multiple bodies, the summoning of animals, and control over the** [**five classical elements**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five_elements_%28Japanese_philosophy%29)**. These fabulous notions have stemmed from popular imagination regarding the ninja's mysterious status, as well as romantic ideas found in later Japanese arts of the** [**Edo period**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edo_period)**. Magical powers were sometimes rooted in the ninja's own efforts to disseminate fanciful information. For example, Nakagawa Shoshujin, the 17th century founder of Nakagawa-ryū, claimed in his own writings (*Okufuji Monogatari*) that he had the ability to transform into birds and animals.**[**[62]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_13-61)

**Perceived control over the elements may be grounded in real tactics, which were categorized by association with forces of nature. For example, the practice of starting fires in order to cover a ninja's trail falls under *katon-no-jutsu* ("fire techniques").**[**[89]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Mol_2003_176-88)

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**Actor portraying Nikki Danjō, a villain from the kabuki play *Sendai Hagi*. Shown with hands in a** [***kuji-in***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuji-in) **seal, which allows him to transform into a giant** [**rat**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rat)**. Woodblock print on paper.** [**Kunisada**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kunisada)**, 1857.**

**The ninja's adaption of** [**kites**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kite) **in espionage and warfare is another subject of legends. Accounts exist of ninjas being lifted into the air by kites, where they flew over hostile terrain and descended into, or dropped bombs on enemy territory.**[**[70]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-draeger_smith_1981_128-69) **Kites were indeed used in Japanese warfare, but mostly for the purpose of sending messages and relaying signals.**[**[93]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Buckley_2002_257-92) **Turnbull suggests that kites lifting a man into midair might have been technically feasible, but states that the use of kites to form a human "**[**hang glider**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hang_gliding)**" falls squarely in the realm of fantasy.**[**[94]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_22_23-93)

**Kuji-kiri**

[***Kuji-kiri***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuji-kiri) **is an esoteric practice which, when performed with an array of hand "seals" (*[kuji-in](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuji-in%22%20%5Co%20%22Kuji-in)*), was meant to allow the ninja to enact superhuman feats.**

**The *kuji* ("nine characters") is a concept originating from** [**Taoism**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taoism)**, where it was a string of nine words used in charms and incantations.**[**[95]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Waterhouse_1996_2_3-94) **In** [**China**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China)**, this tradition mixed with** [**Buddhist**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhism) **beliefs, assigning each of the nine words to a Buddhist deity. The *kuji* may have arrived in Japan via Buddhism,[[96]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-Waterhouse_1996_8_11-95) where it flourished within** [**Shugendō**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shugend%C5%8D)**.**[**[97]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Waterhouse_1996_13-96) **Here too, each word in the *kuji* was associated with Buddhist deities, animals from Taoist mythology, and later, Shinto** [**kami**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kami)**.**[**[98]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Waterhouse_1996_24_27-97) **The** [***mudrā***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mudr%C4%81)**, a series of hand symbols representing different Buddhas, was applied to the *kuji* by Buddhists, possibly through the esoteric** [***Mikkyō***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikky%C5%8D) **teachings.**[**[99]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Waterhouse_1996_24_25-98) **The** [***yamabushi***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yamabushi) **ascetics of Shugendō adopted this practice, using the hand gestures in spiritual, healing, and** [**exorcism**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exorcism) **rituals.**[**[100]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Teeuwen_Rambelli_2002_327-99) **Later, the use of *kuji* passed onto certain** [***bujutsu***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bujutsu) **(martial arts) and** [***ninjutsu***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninjutsu) **schools, where it was said to have many purposes.**[**[101]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Waterhouse_1996_31_33-100) **The application of *kuji* to produce a desired effect was called "cutting" (*kiri*) the *kuji*. Intended effects range from physical and mental concentration, to more incredible claims about rendering an opponent immobile, or even the casting of magical spells.**[**[102]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Adams_1970_29-101) **These legends were captured in popular culture, which interpreted the *kuji-kiri* as a precursor to magical acts.**

**Famous people**

**Many famous people in Japanese history have been associated or identified as ninjas, but their status as ninja are difficult to prove and may be the product of later imagination. Rumors surrounding famous warriors, such as** [**Kusunoki Masashige**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kusunoki_Masashige) **or** [**Minamoto no Yoshitsune**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minamoto_no_Yoshitsune) **sometimes describe them as ninjas, but there is little evidence for these claims. Some well known examples include:**

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**Kumawakamaru escapes his pursuers by swinging across the moat on a** [**bamboo**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bamboo)**.**[**[103]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-McCullough_2004_49-102) **Woodblock print on paper.** [**Kuniyoshi**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuniyoshi)**, 1842-1843.**

* [**Mochizuki Chiyome**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mochizuki_Chiyome) **(16th cent.) - The wife of Mochizuke Moritoki. Chiyome created a school for girls, which taught skills required of** [**geisha**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geisha)**, as well as espionage skills.**[**[104]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Green_2001_671-103)
* [**Fujibayashi Nagato**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Fujibayashi_Nagato&action=edit&redlink=1) **(16th cent.) - Considered to be one of three "greatest" Iga *jōnin*, the other two being Hattori Hanzō and Momochi Sandayū. Fujibayashi's descendents wrote and edited the *Bansenshukai*.**
* [**Fūma Kotarō**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F%C5%ABma_Kotar%C5%8D) **(d. 1603) - A ninja rumored to have killed Hattori Hanzō, with whom he was supposedly rivals. The fictional weapon** [***Fūma shuriken***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F%C5%ABma_shuriken) **is named after him.**
* [**Hattori Hanzō**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hattori_Hanz%C5%8D) **(1542-1596) - A samurai serving under** [**Tokugawa Ieyasu**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokugawa_Ieyasu)**. His ancestry in Iga province, along with *ninjutsu* manuals published by his descendants have led some sources to define him as a ninja.**[**[105]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Adams_1970_34-104) **This depiction is also common in popular culture.**
* [**Ishikawa Goemon**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ishikawa_Goemon) **(1558-1594) - Goemon reputedly tried to drip poison from a thread into** [**Oda Nobunaga**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oda_Nobunaga)**'s mouth through a hiding spot in the ceiling,**[**[106]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Adams_1970_160-105) **but many fanciful tales exist about Goemon, and this story cannot be confirmed.**
* [**Kumawakamaru**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kumawakamaru) **(13th-14th cent.) - A youth whose exiled father was ordered to death by the monk Homma Saburō. Kumakawa took his revenge by sneaking into Homma's room while he was asleep, and assassinating Homma with his own sword.**[**[107]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-McCullough_2004_48-106)
* [**Momochi Sandayū**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Momochi_Sanday%C5%AB&action=edit&redlink=1) **(16th cent.) - A leader of the Iga ninja clans, who supposedly perished during Oda Nobunaga's attack on Iga province. There is some belief that he escaped death and lived as a farmer in** [**Kii Province**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kii_Province)**.**[**[108]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Adams_1970_42-107) **Momochi is also a branch of the Hattori clan.**
* [**Yagyū Muneyoshi**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yagy%C5%AB_Muneyoshi) **(1529-1606) - A renown swordsman of the** [**Shinkage-ryū**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shinkage-ry%C5%AB) **school. Muneyoshi's grandson, Jubei Muneyoshi, told tales of his grandfather's status as a ninja.**[**[41]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_29-40)

**In popular culture**

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[**Jiraiya**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jiraiya) **battles a giant snake with the help of his summoned** [**toad**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_Common_Toad)**. Woodblock print on paper.** [**Kuniyoshi**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuniyoshi)**, c. 1843.**

***Main article:*** [***Ninja in popular culture***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja_in_popular_culture)

**The image of the ninja entered popular culture in the** [**Edo period**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edo_period)**, when** [**folktales**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_folklore) **and plays about ninjas were conceived. Stories about the ninja are usually based around historical figures. For instance, many similar tales exist about a daimyo challenging a ninja to prove his worth, usually by stealing his pillow or weapon while he slept.**[**[109]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-Turnbull_2003_14-108) **Novels were written about the ninja, such as** [***Jiraiya Gōketsu Monogatari***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jiraiya_G%C5%8Dketsu_Monogatari)**, which was also made into a** [**kabuki**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kabuki) **play. Fictional figures such as** [**Sarutobi Sasuke**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarutobi_Sasuke) **would eventually make way into comics and television, where they have come to enjoy a** [**culture hero**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture_hero) **status outside of their original mediums.**

**Ninja appear in many forms of Japanese and Western popular media, including books (*[Kōga Ninpōchō](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kouga_Ninja_Scrolls%22%20%5Co%20%22The%20Kouga%20Ninja%20Scrolls)*), television (**[***Ninja Warrior***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sasuke_%28TV_series%29)**), movies (**[***Ninja Assassin***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja_Assassin)**),** [**Satire**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satire) **(**[***REAL Ultimate Power***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/REAL_Ultimate_Power)***: The Official Ninja Book*)** [**video games**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Video_games) **(*[Tenchu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tenchu%22%20%5Co%20%22Tenchu)*),** [**anime**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anime) **(*[Naruto](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naruto%22%20%5Co%20%22Naruto)*),** [**manga**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manga) **(**[***Basilisk***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basilisk_%28manga%29)**) and Western** [**comic books**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comic_book) **(**[***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teenage_Mutant_Ninja_Turtles)**). Depictions range from realistic to the fantastically exaggerated, both fundamentally and aesthetically, and often portray ninja in non-factual ways for humor or entertainment.**

**Self-styled modern groups**

* **The** [**Santomean**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santomean) **special police forces are a** [**paramilitary**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paramilitary) **police force officially referred to as the Emergency Police, but popularly known as “Ninjas”.**[**[110]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-109)
* **Rebels in the** [**Pool Region**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pool_Region) **of the** [**Republic of the Congo**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_the_Congo) **also called themselves "**[**Ninja**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja_%28militia%29)**".**[**[111]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-110)
* **Red Berets, a** [**Serb**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serbs) **paramilitary group of** [**Dragan Vasiljković**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dragan_Vasiljkovi%C4%87) **based in** [**Knin**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knin)**,** [**Croatia**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croatia)**, called themselves "Kninjas".**[**[112]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-111)
* **Some** [**death squad**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_squad)**-type armed groups active under** [**Indonesian**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indonesia) **rule in** [**East Timor**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Timor) **called themselves "Ninja". The name seems to have been borrowed from the movies rather than being directly influenced by the Japanese model.**[**[113]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_note-112) **The "ninja" gangs were also active elsewhere**

**Footnotes**

1. **^** [***a***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-ratti_1991_325_0-0)[***b***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-ratti_1991_325_0-1)[***c***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-ratti_1991_325_0-2)[**Ratti & Westbrook 1991**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFRattiWestbrook1991)**, p. 325**
2. **^** [***a***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_5_6_1-0)[***b***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_5_6_1-1)[**Turnbull 2003**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFTurnbull2003)**, pp. 5-6**
3. **^** [***a***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_17_2-0)[***b***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_17_2-1)[***c***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_17_2-2)[***d***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_17_2-3)[**Turnbull 2003**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFTurnbull2003)**, p. 17; Turnbull uses the name *Buke Meimokushō*, an alternate reading for the same title. The *Buke Myōmokushō* cited here is a much more common reading.**
4. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Crowdy_2006_50_3-0)[**Crowdy 2006**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFCrowdy2006)**, p. 50**
5. **^** [***a***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Green_2001_355_4-0)[***b***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Green_2001_355_4-1)[**Green 2001**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFGreen2001)**, p. 355**
6. **^** [***a***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Green_2001_358_5-0)[***b***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Green_2001_358_5-1)[***c***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Green_2001_358_5-2)[**Green 2001**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFGreen2001)**, p. 358; based on different readings, *Ninpiden* is also known as *Shinobi Hiden*, and *Bansenshukai* can also be *Mansenshukai*.**
7. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-takagi_6-0)[**Takagi et al. 1962**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFTakagi_et_al.1962)**, p. 191; the full poem is "*Yorozu yo ni / Kokoro ha tokete / Waga seko ga / Tsumishi te mitsutsu / Shinobi kanetsumo*".**
8. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-satake_7-0)[**Satake et al. 2003**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFSatake_et_al.2003)**, p. 108; the** [***Man'yōgana***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Man%27y%C5%8Dgana) **used for "*shinobi*" is 志乃備, its meaning and characters are unrelated to the later mercenary *shinobi*.**
9. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Perkins_1991_241_8-0)[**Perkins 1991**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFPerkins1991)**, p. 241**
10. **^** [***a***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_6_9-0)[***b***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_6_9-1)[**Turnbull 2003**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFTurnbull2003)**, p. 6**
11. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-10)[**Oxford English Dictionary**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxford_English_Dictionary)**, 2nd ed.;** [**American Heritage Dictionary**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Heritage_Dictionary)**, 4th ed.; Dictionary.com Unabridged (v 1.1).**
12. **^** [***a***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_5_11-0)[***b***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_5_11-1)[***c***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_5_11-2)[**Turnbull 2003**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFTurnbull2003)**, p. 5**
13. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2007_144_12-0)[**Turnbull 2007**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFTurnbull2007)**, p. 144.**
14. **^** [***a***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Waterhouse_1996_34_13-0)[***b***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Waterhouse_1996_34_13-1)[**Waterhouse 1996**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFWaterhouse1996)**, pp. 34**
15. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Chamberlain_2005_249-253_14-0)[**Chamberlain 2005**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFChamberlain2005)**, pp. 249-253; Volume 2, section 80**
16. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-friday_2007_58_60_15-0)[**Friday 2007**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFFriday2007)**, pp. 58-60**
17. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_7_16-0)[**Turnbull 2003**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFTurnbull2003)**, p. 7**
18. **^** [***a***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_9_17-0)[***b***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_9_17-1)[***c***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_9_17-2)[***d***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_9_17-3)[**Turnbull 2003**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFTurnbull2003)**, p. 9**
19. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-ratti_1991_324_18-0)[**Ratti & Westbrook 1991**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFRattiWestbrook1991)**, p. 324**
20. **^** [***a***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-ratti_1991_327_19-0)[***b***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-ratti_1991_327_19-1)[***c***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-ratti_1991_327_19-2)[**Ratti & Westbrook 1991**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFRattiWestbrook1991)**, p. 327**
21. **^** [***a***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-draeger_smith_1981_121_20-0)[***b***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-draeger_smith_1981_121_20-1)[**Draeger & Smith 1981**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFDraegerSmith1981)**, p. 121**
22. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Deal_2007_165_21-0)[**Deal 2007**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFDeal2007)**, p. 165**
23. **^** [***a***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_23_22-0)[***b***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_23_22-1)[**Turnbull 2003**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFTurnbull2003)**, p. 23**
24. **^** [***a***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_27_23-0)[***b***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_27_23-1)[***c***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_27_23-2)[**Turnbull 2003**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFTurnbull2003)**, p. 27**
25. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Green_2001_357_24-0)[**Green 2001**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFGreen2001)**, p. 357**
26. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_9_10_25-0)[**Turnbull 2003**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFTurnbull2003)**, p. 9-10**
27. **^** [***a***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Adams_1970_43_26-0)[***b***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Adams_1970_43_26-1)[**Adams 1970**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFAdams1970)**, p. 43**
28. **^** [***a***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_44_46_27-0)[***b***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_44_46_27-1)[**Turnbull 2003**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFTurnbull2003)**, pp. 44-46**
29. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_47_28-0)[**Turnbull 2003**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFTurnbull2003)**, p. 47**
30. **^** [***a***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_50_29-0)[***b***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_50_29-1)[***c***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_50_29-2)[**Turnbull 2003**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFTurnbull2003)**, p. 50**
31. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_55_30-0)[**Turnbull 2003**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFTurnbull2003)**, p. 55**
32. **^** [***a***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_51_31-0)[***b***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_51_31-1)[**Turnbull 2003**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFTurnbull2003)**, p. 51**
33. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_52_32-0)[**Turnbull 2003**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFTurnbull2003)**, p. 52**
34. **^** [***a***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_53_33-0)[***b***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_53_33-1)[***c***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_53_33-2)[**Turnbull 2003**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFTurnbull2003)**, p. 53**
35. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_54_34-0)[**Turnbull 2003**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFTurnbull2003)**, p. 54**
36. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Turnbull_2003_54_55_35-0)[**Turnbull 2003**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFTurnbull2003)**, pp. 54-55**
37. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Morton_Olenik_2004_122_36-0)[**Morton & Olenik 2004**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFMortonOlenik2004)**, p. 122**
38. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#cite_ref-Crowdy_2006_52_37-0)[**Crowdy 2006**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja#CITEREFCrowdy2006)**, p. 52**
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