

# Response

[History](#)



History: Response Paper History: Response Paper Introduction War, violence and conflicts are realities of the current world. Conflicts bring death and miseries. History of Japan revealed the country engaged in different wars. The country's physical, spiritual and mental preparation for war was incredible.

#### Response to Article 1

The cornerstone of Japan's culture was Zen Buddhism that focused and emphasized in the reality of existence. The Samurai was cajoled into believing the philosophical teachings regarding the inevitability of death. They were mentally prepared to be ready for death anytime; to believe they are 'already dead' and the only mission they have is to at least die with their targets (enemies). They were trained to embrace death without fear or panic. To ensure they faced their dreadful challenges, as society's militants, they were prepared psychologically to be ready for death by accepting to die when presented with a dilemmatic situation of choosing either life or death. The philosophy that deemed essence of Bushido undoubtedly helped to instill gallantry amongst the Samurai warriors. It was like they were fighting a battle they had nothing to lose. Their only mission was to take down as many enemies as possible. This religion/ philosophy influenced the psych of the warriors making them protect Japan from its foes. However, this philosophical concept is distinctly dissimilar from that Judeo-Christian view of death. In Judeo-Christian, people are alive until they physically die. The unrelenting wars that were seen in Japan during the mid-20th Century can be attributed to these cultural teachings that the fighters had. The Japanese World War II was battled by the philosophical conceptions that significantly motivated the warriors to engage in an unrelenting battle.

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## Response to Article 2

As a matter of fact, the challenge Japan gave America and other nations during the World War was as a result of its deep culture that had saliently spelt out ‘dos’ and ‘don’ts’. As Benedict recounts, it was virtually difficult to understand the real nature of the Japanese culture. It is like the Japanese had a ‘bipolar’ culture that constituted all the extreme features. Its inimitability and unpredictability would confound every rival that sought to challenge Japan. No one knew what to include in the propaganda meant to demoralize the Japanese soldiers. Japan was a mystery. They were invincible; they were a real puzzle to the international community.

The secret to Japan’s tenacity was on their deep cultural philosophy known as ‘Essence of Bushido’. The Japanese soldiers’ mental status was incredible. They fought to their last breath. They did not worry about death. While countries such as the US were busy investing in concrete resources to hit Japan, they (Japan) went for mental nourishment. Soldiers were fed on feelings of faith, belief, determination and attitudes that aimed at gripping them to the fight. This is indeed the reason why Japan fought so hard particularly in Okinawa and Iwo Jima; regions that had deep deeply socialized into the philosophy (Benedict, 2006).

## Conclusion

In conclusion, Japan’s war technique was not extensively based on physical resources. The Samurai soldiers were deeply proselytized into the ‘essence of Bushido’, something that made them fight relentlessly for their nation. As noted by Benedict, the cultural beliefs and philosophies of this society were a success factor for the Japanese during the world war.

## Reference

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Benedict, R. (2006). *The chrysanthemum and the sword: Patterns of Japanese culture*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.