



Okinawa: The History of an Island People

George H. Kerr

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"The first full-length monograph on the history of the Ryukyu Islands in any Western language...a standard work."—*Pacific Affairs*

This book is the definitive work on Okinawan History and an important scholarly work in the fields of Japanese studies and Japanese history.

Few people can point to Okinawa on a map, yet this tiny island sitting between China and Japan was and continues to be one of the most crucial Asian nerve centers in all U.S. strategic defense. Ninety percent of all U.S. military forces in Japan are located on Okinawa, one of the Ryukyu Islands, and it was through these troops that the martial art of karate was exported to the United States.

In *Okinawa: History of an Island People*, noted Eastern affairs specialist George Kerr recounts the fascinating history of the island and its environs, from 1314 A.D. to the late twentieth century. The histories of Japan, Okinawa and the entire Pacific region are crucially intertwined so the study of this fascinating chain of islands is crucial to understanding all of East Asia.

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