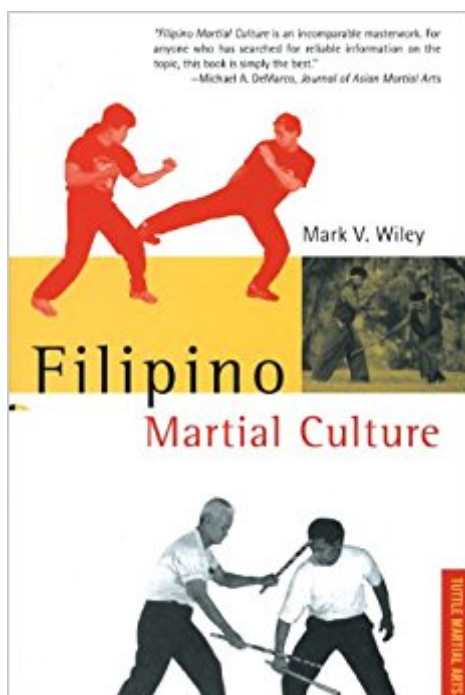


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# Filipino Martial Culture (Martial Culture Series)



## Synopsis

Widely practiced but not always understood, the Filipino martial arts have a rich history and distinctive character that have not fully been documented until now. Written in the context of Philippine history and culture, *Filipino Martial Culture* uncovers the esoteric components of the Filipino martial arts and the life histories of the men who perpetuate them. Included are: the history of turbulence and war in the Philippines from prehistoric times to the present day; the culture of the Filipino martial arts, including warrior ethos and worldview, spirituality, folklore, and weaponry; biographical sketches of eighteen Filipino masters and descriptions of their respective fighting styles; and a comparative study of the ethos, ideology, and development of the Filipino martial arts in relation to the considerable martial traditions of India, China, and Japan. In the course of his research, internationally renowned martial arts master and scholar Mark V. Wiley traveled the globe, interviewing top masters and recording their life histories, thoughts, and anecdotes. In addition, he collected 320 historical photographs and illustrations, including step-by-step sequences of the masters demonstrating the distinctive techniques of their particular martial styles. A classic reference for practitioners and researchers alike, this Filipino martial arts book is as much a definitive anthropological textbook as it is a practical guide to Arnis, Kali, Eskrima, and the other martial arts of the Philippines.

## Book Information

Series: Martial Culture Series

Paperback: 376 pages

Publisher: Tuttle Publishing; Original ed. edition (May 15, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0804820880

ISBN-13: 978-0804820882

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 31 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #389,371 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 in [Books > History > Asia > Philippines](#) #409 in [Books > History > Asia > Southeast Asia](#) #597 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > History of Sports](#)

## Customer Reviews

"Filipino Martial Culture is an incomparable masterwork. For anyone who has searched for reliable

information on the topic, this book is simply the best." — Michael A. DeMarco, Journal of Asian Martial Arts

Mark V. Wiley has written for multiple martial arts and health publications, including Karate-Kung Fu Illustrated and The Journal of Asian Martial Arts. One of the world's foremost martial arts researchers, he is the co-author of Qigong for Health and Well-Being and author of Martial Arts Talk

This is a good book on what may seem as an obscure topic. Filipino martial arts are very popular here in the United States, because of some prominent people involved in their popularization. For example, Dan Inosanto is very well known and have studied with a whole plethora of masters, including Bruce Lee. It was interesting to find out about the amazingly rich variety that the Filipino martial arts present. Although I wasn't completely befuddled from this read as I was from Donn Draeger's book on Indonesia, still it was a good feeling, and I felt more savvy. Filipino fighting arts are mostly on the hard side of the martial arts' equation, with a very pragmatic goal: overcome your opponent and deal with niceties later. That said, some styles are pretty highly ritualistic which cannot be said about the actual fighting: the popular tactics involve small circles, brusque movements and disarmments. The more superstitious of the adepts utilize spells and amulets. The less superstitious will kick your ass for fun. A lot of the older practitioners have been in situations that sound more like movies, than real life, however it doesn't take away from their validity and the lesson: fighting arts are for fighting, which may or may not involve maiming and killing. Which means that efficiency is what counts the most. To that extent, various teachers utilize various combinations of the already well-known skills; some may choose to mix styles and some claim purity that came down through the centuries of resistance to colonialism. But I think we can take it for a fact that most of the Filipino styles are syncretic in their very nature. The word "Grandmaster" figures a lot during the discussion, much more so than in the Chinese circles where it is quite rare, and even than not always considered a good tone. In the Philippines, almost anyone after the age of 55 will acquire this prestigious title, since it is more a denomination of respect rather than of the total mastery of art. The reason I say that is because many Grandmasters out of this book are equally originators of their own styles and schools, which will of course make them Grandmasters by default. To conclude, I think it is a good book on the topic. It was written with the sober eye, devoid of as much prejudice as could be avoided for which we should credit the author.

Let me start by saying that when I study a new art, I like to read about the histories, culture,

personalities and its evolution. This has been reasonably difficult in my pursuit of learning about FMA. Everyone has their own take on it and how it evolved into what it is today. Finding consistency in the histories has proven problematic. This book has given a very broad base to work from. It may not agree with some of what I've read and discussed. It brings up many interesting points and proves their validity throughout. This would not be a quick reference book. I am going to be rereading this book in a year or so to measure my understanding on how far I have studied. As I have shared this around my small training group, they are in the process of buying their own. If you are interested in the Martial Cultural History of the Philippines this book should be in your library!!!!

From a Serrada Eskrima student point of view..... Well written and very informative book from a historical point of view on the Philippines and FMA! I think the Mr. Wiley could have included or mentioned Flor Villibare in the master chapters. Favorite and best chapter is on Angel Cabalas and Serrada; great read!

Currently, I am studying Filipino Martial arts somewhere in Connecticut. I thought this book would help far as understanding the art better. I am happy I purchased this item, I am really enjoying the book.. Thanks!

The book is very well put together. BUT it is not for casual reading or light reading. Very detailed in History, Concepts, Masters, Styles and origins. I would describe it as assigned reading is Anthropology 102 or World Culture 101 at Berkely. A little one sided in that it favors certain masters and styles. But with a Martial Art as vast as the Filipino Martial Culture there may be no other way.

Wiley has done a lot of research and clears up some FMA myths.

very good book well thought out and well written

Very informative material. Great book to add to my library of Filipino martial arts.

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