The American Samurai: Blending American and Japanese Managerial Practices

Jon P. Alston

The American Samurai: Blending American and Japanese Managerial Practices. Berlin: de Gruyter, 1986. 369 pp. $29.95. As books on Japanese management practices are proliferating at a rate of 21% annually, Mr. Alston's book is timely. It will be of interest to managers in both the Japanese and American business communities. It is also a valuable tool to help students and educators better understand the philosophy of Japanese management practices.

The book begins with an overview of the differences between American and Japanese business practices, particularly in the area of management. Mr. Alston uses a comparative approach to highlight the similarities and differences between the two cultures. He provides practical insights and case studies that illustrate how these differences manifest in the workplace.

One of the book's most valuable contributions is its focus on the role of management in Japanese culture. It is well known that Japanese management practices are driven by a culture that values harmony, cooperation, and long-term relationships. Mr. Alston provides a deep understanding of this culture and how it influences management practices.

His analysis of Japanese decision-making processes, leadership styles, and team dynamics is particularly insightful. He also discusses the role of women in Japanese management, which is an important aspect of understanding the Japanese business culture.

Mr. Alston's book is written in a clear and accessible style. It is also well-organized, making it easy to follow and understand. Each chapter is divided into sections that are easy to navigate. The book is also well-researched, with references to a wide range of sources.

While the book does not provide a comprehensive overview of all aspects of Japanese management practices, it provides a solid foundation for further exploration. It is an excellent guide for anyone looking to learn more about Japanese management and how to effectively interact with Japanese business partners.

Overall, The American Samurai: Blending American and Japanese Managerial Practices is a valuable resource for managers, educators, and students interested in understanding the management practices of both Japanese and American businesses.