

# Samurai William: The Englishman Who Opened Japan

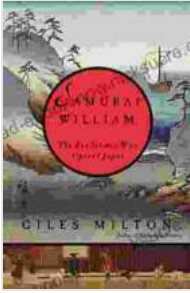


## Samurai William: The Englishman Who Opened Japan

by Giles Milton

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 12472 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 373 pages



In the early 17th century, a young English navigator named William Adams embarked on a daring voyage to the East Indies. His ship was caught in a storm and blown off course, eventually landing in Japan. Adams was the first Westerner to live in Japan for an extended period of time, and he went on to become a samurai and a trusted advisor to the shogun, Tokugawa Ieyasu.

Adams' story is one of adventure, courage, and cultural exchange. He was a skilled navigator and shipbuilder, and he played a key role in introducing Western technology and knowledge to Japan. He also helped to establish trade relations between England and Japan, which would have a lasting impact on both countries.

## **Early Life and Career**

William Adams was born in Gillingham, Kent, England, in 1564. His father was a shipwright, and Adams learned the trade from him. At the age of 12, he went to sea as a cabin boy on a merchant ship. He quickly rose through the ranks, and by the age of 24, he was the captain of his own ship.

In 1598, Adams was hired by the Dutch East India Company to lead a fleet of five ships to the East Indies. The expedition was a disaster. Two of the

ships were lost in storms, and the other three were captured by the Portuguese. Adams and his crew were imprisoned in Macau, but they eventually managed to escape and make their way to Japan.

## **Arrival in Japan**

Adams and his crew arrived in Japan in 1600. They were immediately taken prisoner by the local authorities, but they were eventually released after Adams demonstrated his skills as a shipbuilder. Adams was impressed by Japan, and he decided to stay there. He soon became a trusted advisor to the shogun, Tokugawa Ieyasu.

Adams played a key role in the development of Japan. He introduced Western technology and knowledge to the country, and he helped to establish trade relations between England and Japan. He also became a samurai, and he fought alongside the Japanese in several battles.

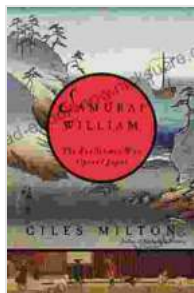
## **Legacy**

William Adams died in Japan in 1620. He was buried in Hirado, Nagasaki, and his grave is still there today. Adams is remembered as one of the most important figures in Japanese history. He was a pioneer who helped to open Japan to the West, and he played a key role in the development of the country.

Adams' story is still told in Japan today. He is a symbol of the friendship between England and Japan, and he is an inspiration to people all over the world.

William Adams was a remarkable man. He was a skilled navigator, a shipbuilder, and a samurai. He was also a trusted advisor to the shogun,

and he played a key role in the development of Japan. Adams' story is one of adventure, courage, and cultural exchange. He was a pioneer who helped to open Japan to the West, and he is an inspiration to people all over the world.

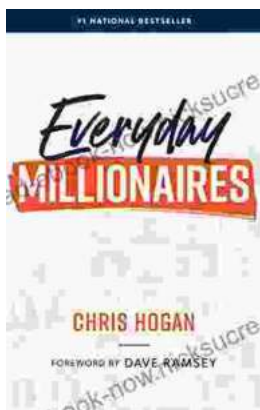


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