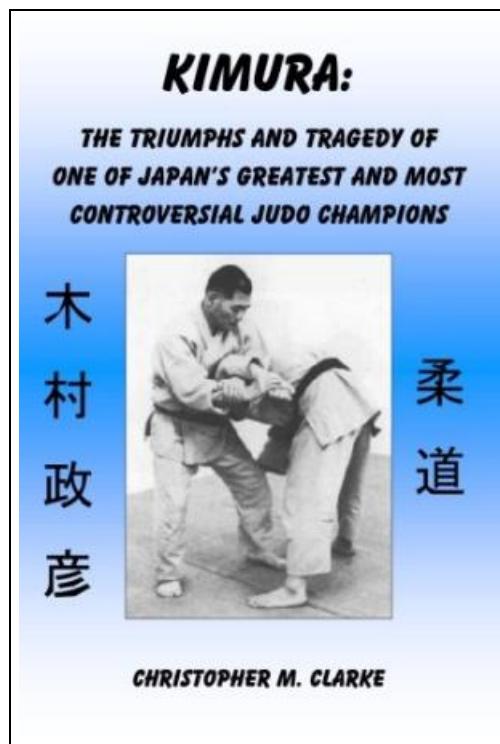


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KIMURA: THE TRIUMPHS AND TRAGEDY OF ONE OF JUDO'S GREATEST AND MOST CONTROVERSIAL JUDO CHAMPIONS

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Createspace, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 228 x 154 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Everyone who has watched a Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) match or tournament has heard of the kimura, a specialized arm lock that many people try to use, but few are successful in applying. Few, even among jujutsu and MMA aficionados, however, know what the lock called a kimura was derived from an early link to karate as well as judo and jujutsu. The story is at once fascinating, inspiring, and tragic. The kimura is named after perhaps the best judo competitor who ever lived, Kimura Masahiko (1917-1993). In an age before weight lifting became an integral part of judo practice, Kimura was an avid weight lifter and body builder. He was, and remained, one of the strongest judo competitors throughout the 1930s and 1940s-strongest in both its senses. A judo prodigy in high school, he reportedly lost only four formal judo matches in his entire career, all during his freshman year in college. In 1935, shortly after entering college, he defeated eight fourth-dan opponents in a row, losing only to the ninth man he faced. For this performance he became the youngest fifth dan in Japan.Through the late 1930s and early 1940s, Kimura dominated the judo competition circuit, repeatedly winning the All-Japan championship; he resumed his winning ways after judo was reinstated in 1947. Financially stretched trying to pay for his wife's medical care on a teacher's salary, in 1951, Kimura accepted an invitation to travel to Brazil to teach and compete with the increasingly famous Helio Gracie in Brazilian-rules competition. His bout became legendary: after exhausting minutes of scuffling for position and successful throws, Kimura finally downed Gracie and followed up with an attempt to...

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