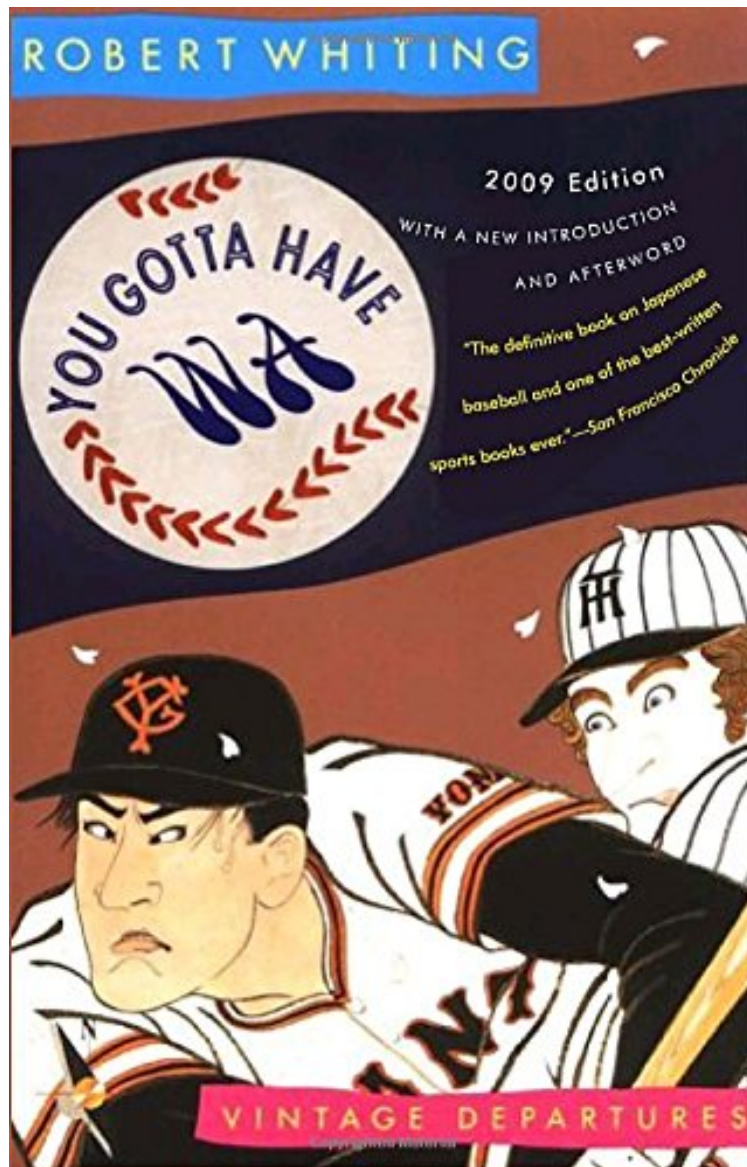


(Library ebook) You Gotta Have Wa

You Gotta Have Wa

Robert Whiting

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#149223 in Books Whiting, Robert 2009-03-24 2009-03-24 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.98 x .86 x 5.151, .86 #File Name: 0307455971416 pages | File size: 39.Mb

Robert Whiting : You Gotta Have Wa before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised You Gotta Have Wa:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. not as funny as people make it out to be--though it is ...By Jason Goetz This was an interesting read, not as funny as people make it out to be--though it is amusing at times--but well worth it as an intro to Japanese baseball. I read it for one of my own books, part of the Essays on the Classics! series,

which is a collection of essays on baseball, first from the management side of things and then in terms of its on the field manifestations. What I wanted to look at was how value systems shape sports--rather than the other way around--and so I looked at both this and *Only the Ball Was White*, about the old Negro Leagues. I have to admit that while I intended to focus on the on-the-field aspects of value system shaping sport, I found more about how value systems shape the outlook of ownership and management, which is then reflected on the field. I would say that given what I was looking for, I was definitely satisfied with what I read. I came away with a lot to say. I took Japanese in high school and have looked at a few other books about Japan, and it fit in with those. And then I watched *Mr. Baseball*, which was largely taken from this. Now THAT is laugh-out-loud funny! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. If you're curious about baseball in Japan, you gotta read *You Gotta Have Wa*. Even casual American baseball fans are aware that they play what we call "our national pastime" in Japan. We see players such as Ichiro, Dice-K, Godzilla (Hideki Matsui) and Kosuke Fukudome join the rosters of some of the best-known MLB teams and, especially in the case of Ichiro, do well. Casual fans also know of the great Japanese home run king, Sadaharu Oh, who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (but they are aware of the differences in the level of play and the dimensions of the ballparks). White Sox fans will never forget the contributions made by second baseman Tadahito Iguchi to the White Sox's 2005 World Series championship. And most casual fans are also aware that occasionally middle-of-the-road American ballplayers, or older players on the downside of their careers, decide to play in Japan for whatever reason. This creates curiosity about the state of baseball in Japan: what is the game like there? How does it compare to the American game? What is it like to play baseball in Japan? "You Gotta Have Wa" does an admirable job of answering these questions and more. As portrayed in "You Gotta Have Wa", there are some very significant differences in baseball as played in the United States and Japan. Japanese baseball apparently draws upon the martial arts and samurai warrior tradition in Japan. The culture and work ethic of a Japanese baseball team, whether at the high school, college or professional level, is a product of the hard-working, self-sacrificing, master/pupil culture of the Japanese people. The most interesting aspect of "You Gotta Have Wa" is how it uses Japanese baseball to illustrate aspects of Japanese culture. "You Gotta Have Wa" should appeal to more than just baseball fans - it also should appeal to readers interested in modern-day Japanese culture. My only complaint about "You Gotta Have Wa" is that I was hoping the book would be a bit more in-depth and slightly less sensational. The chapters read like a series of magazine articles, and I have a hard time believing that the Japanese fans are quite as fanatical as portrayed in the book, or the coaches as demanding. I suspect Robert Whiting exaggerated a bit for maximum effect. The book also could have benefited from an index, as the chapters are organized by topic, and many players and story lines appear in multiple chapters - hence an index would have helped the reader chase down everything about a particular player or incident. Those minor flaws aside, "You Gotta Have Wa" is definitely worth reading if you at all interested in Japanese baseball or Japanese culture. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Its about Japanese Baseball and WA. But mostly about WA. By Dani Richard This book is about Japanese Baseball and WA. But it is mostly about WA. The book examines the conflict between "American individualism" and Japanese WA in the crucible of Japanese baseball. As a non traveling Western, Southern actually, I doubt I will experience WA. As a Japanophile, WA is of keen interest to me. WA defies single word or concept translation. The author has example after example of different adaptations or non-adaptations of MBL players with the WA in Japanese baseball. I am not a baseball fan. But I found this book was engrossing, educational, entertaining, and at times funny. It helped me get a little more understanding of Japanese culture. This book was a great read. I will be looking for more of his books in English and in Japanese.

A hilarious, informative, and riveting account of Japanese baseball and the cultural clashes that ensued when Americans began playing there professionally. In Japan, baseball is a way of life. It is a philosophy. It is *besuboru*. Its most important element is *wagroup harmony* embodied in the proverb "The nail that sticks up shall be hammered down." In this witty and incisive book, Robert Whiting gives us a close-up look at *besuboru's* teams, obsessive ritualism, and history, as seen through the eyes of American players who found the Japanese approach rigorous pregame practices, the tolerance for tie games, injured pitchers encouraged to pitch through the pain completely baffling. With vivid accounts of East meeting West, involving Babe Ruth, Ichiro Suzuki, Bobby Valentine, Japanese home run king Sadaharu Oh, and many others, this lively and completely unique book is an utter gem and baseball classic.

From Publishers Weekly The "wa" one must have is the group harmony that is the essence of Japanese baseball. According to PW, "this interesting comparative study of the sport as it is played on both sides of the Pacific concentrates on the American stars who have gone to play in Japan." Photos. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal "Wa," Japanese for "team spirit," is the creed of Japanese baseball, played since the 1850s and professionally since 1935. Whiting, a long-time Japan resident, concentrates on the two pro leagues. The Japanese leagues, he reports, believe their severely coached game to be superior to the U.S. game. They discourage Japanese from entering U.S. leagues. A few Americans, usually older ones, have been accepted on Japanese teams, but they meet with resentment, criticism, and discrimination. The book updates Whiting's earlier *The*

Chrysanthemum and the Bat (LJ 10/1/76) and contrasts with Sadaharu Oh and David Falkner's Sadaharu Oh (LJ 6/1/84; o.p.). A revealing and disturbing account that is heartily recommended for adult and YA collections.- Morey Berger, Monmouth Cty. Lib., Manalapan, N.J. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. The definitive book on Japanese baseball and one of the best-written sports books ever. San Francisco Chronicle Run, or at least jog, to the nearest bookstore and buy You Gotta Have Wa. New York Times Book Far more than a sports book. David Halberstam Bob Whiting has done it again! . . . A book that will please baseball fans and enlighten anyone interested in Japanese-American relations. James Fallows, Atlantic Monthly