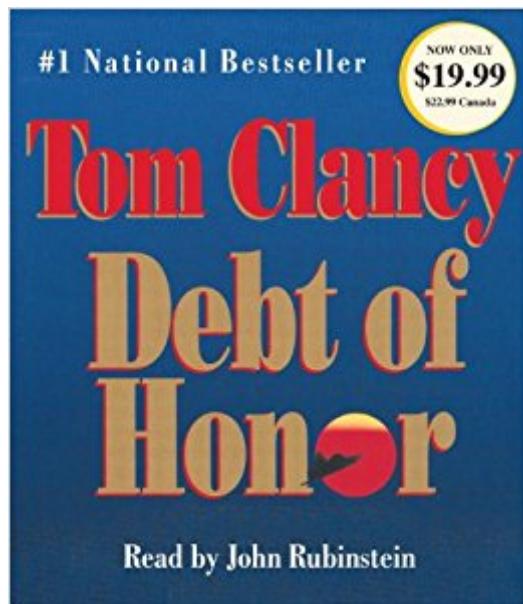


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# Debt Of Honor



## **Synopsis**

Jack Ryan, the new president's National Security Adviser, sees the problems of peace fully as complex as those of war. Enemies have become friends, friends enemies, and even the form of conflict has changed. When one of the new enemies prepares to strike not only American territory but the heart of its economy, Ryan, with the help of CIA officers John Clark and Domingo Chavez, must prepare an untested president to meet the challenge. But how? For there is a debt of honor to be paid -- and the price will be terrifyingly high.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Razio Yamata is one of Japan's most influential industrialists, and part of a relatively small group of authority who wield tremendous authority in the Pacific Rim's economic powerhouse. He has devised a plan to cripple the American greatness, humble the U.S. military, and elevate Japan to a position of dominance on the world stage. Yamata's motivation lies in his desire to pay off a Debt of Honor to his parents and to the country he feels is responsible for their deaths: America. All he needs is a catalyst to set his plan in motion. When the faulty gas tank on one Tennessee family's car leads to their fiery death, an opportunistic U.S. congressman uses the occasion to rush a new trade law through the system. The law is designed to squeeze Japan economically. Instead, it provides Yamata with the leverage he needs to put his plan into action. As Yamata's plan begins to unfold, it becomes clear to the world that someone is launching a fully integrated operation against the United States. There's only one man to find out who the culprit is: Jack Ryan, the new

president's National Security Advisor. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Jack Ryan, now the President's National Security Adviser, finds himself embroiled in the buildup to a new world war-one in which the stock market and national economic policy are as critical as advanced weaponry. A power-hungry Japanese financier, still blaming America for his parents' deaths in WWII, plans to use his immense wealth to purchase his revenge. A fatal auto accident in the U.S., caused by faulty gas tanks in two Japanese cars, leads to the breakdown of U.S.-Japanese trade agreements. Spies track each other; nuclear weapons are built and hidden; Ryan and an assortment of his old colleagues maneuver ships, planes and spies into harm's way. As always, the author of Patriot Games and Clear and Present Danger spins out story threads in a rich but bewildering tangle of plot and setting, then vigorously weaves them together. Here, the heart-stopping climax is unexpected, but oddly appropriate. As always, Clancy instructs (sometimes didactically) as he entertains, teaching us about currency trading, Asian business etiquette and the daily life of an American politician. Without taking up Japan-bashing, as Michael Crichton did in Rising Sun, or partisan politics, Clancy warns that recent downsizing in the defense establishment has so depleted our military resources that the country is vulnerable to aggression that can arise anywhere, anytime. 2 million first printing; BOMC selection. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

This is a weaker Clancy book and quite dated. It reflects the early 1990s fear of economic dominance by Japan and the plot is among Clancy's least probable, although it does serve as a useful cautionary tale on the role of the military in projecting US power in peacetime. It was slow to build but once the action started, it was pure Clancy. This is the second time I've "read" it, this time as an audio book using the Kindle version with 's Whispersync technology (Whispersync is great, I highly recommend it). I had a difficult time with the voice artist. He was fine with dialogue but his narration (the closest thing I can think to call it is recitative) was so wooden that at first, I thought it was an electronic voice transcription. The difference between his narration and dialogue was so great that I wondered if the producers had used two voice artists. While he was good with voices and accents, at times his Indian and Japanese characterizations veered uncomfortably close to racial stereotypes. The audio production was also weak. Clancy constantly shifts among various locales and in this version, locales and chapters run together with no break or audio cue to let you know when you are shifting to a new scene. That made for a disconcerting and sometimes confusing listening experience.

This may very well be Tom Clancy's most complex and satisfying novel. It links the bought-and-sold world of politics, the house-of-cards nature of industrial outsourcing and the pervasive though subtle nature of national history and pride. At the intersection of those 3 elements is the dark and ominous spectre of geopolitical ambition realized by the projection of military force. An entirely believable cast of characters (including some old friends from previous Clancy adventures) breathes life into the complex plot that draws tighter, like a purse-string suture, until all the elements are within view...and the view is nearly cataclysmic. In a final twist (no spoiler here...) the stage is set for yet the next Clancy masterpiece in a shocking but believable conclusion. Get it!

This is one of the best Jack Ryan novels, it starts out what I feel is the heart of the Jack Ryan saga. About every year or so, I start with this book and read straight through - Debt of Honor, Executive Orders, Rainbow Six, Bear and the Dragon, Teeth of the Tiger, Dead or Alive, Locked On, Threat Vector, and now Command Authority. With the sad passing of Tom Clancy, this body of work may be now complete. If you want to experience a master at work - start with Debt of Honor and be ready to read (at least) Executive Orders - which picks up immediately where Debt of Honor leaves off. If you go through the whole progression of these 9 novels you will not be disappointed. The realism of Clancy's work, always rooted in real technologies, agencies and geopolitical dynamics - and his ability to weave together dozens of fully defined characters and sub-plots is a thing of beauty. And if you look for some action in your reads - go no further. He describes real weapons & technology, and how they work mechanically, physically and emotionally on enemies. Tom Clancy will forever be a giant due to this body of work alone. Read Debt of Honor, you will not be disappointed and you will probably jump right into Executive Orders.

I wore out the original audio cassettes I had of this book and was glad to find the CDs. I like the tone of this book. It moves along well and the characters are true to nature of the whole series of books involving Jack Ryan. This is earlier in the life of the character and his work in government, but there would be a huge gap in his growth over the entire story line had this book not been written. It ends on a suspenseful note and is a great lead-in for the next book in the series, Even though I have listened through it many times, I don't seem to get tired of it. Clancy was a masterful writer.

I like the detail in Tom Clancy's books, what I don't like is the time line. His books can be hard to follow at times because the time line is hard to follow because he skips around a lot. He has great

detail and character development, but the only way you know you changed from one character or scene is an extra space between paragraphs. It makes it hard to follow and interrupts the flow of the books. That's my only real criticism

The novel is great, the UNABRIDGED audiobook version is terrific---but unfortunately is only available by download from Audible. Unfortunately RANDOM HOUSE does not identify the 5 CD version they sell as ABRIDGED, and neither did until I alerted . CAUTION beware that Random House sells many other titles this way---with the implication that they are UNABRIDGED, when in fact they are ABRIDGED. In general, if you see a RANDOM HOUSE audiobook for sale with 5 or fewer CDs or you cannot find a statement of how many CDs to expect, then the book is ABRIDGED. I have also been tricked by RANDOM HOUSE into buying ABRIDGED versions of THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM and the DIVINCI CODE which I did not want. I've heard some abridgements which seem fine. In this case (and being familiar with the unabridged version, which I have on cassettes) the abridgement of DEBT OF HONOR is excessive, cutting out all character and plot development and leaving only action---and not even some of the best of that. The narrator of the ABRIDGED audiobook is different from the narrator of the UNABRIDGED audioverion that I have, and not as good. NOT RECOMMENDED: Get the UNABRIDGED verion instead. > Click on [ÃƒÂ¢Ã¢â€šÂ¬Ã¢â€šÂ“StoneyÃƒÂ¢Ã¢â€šÂ¬Ã¢â€šÂ•](#) just below the product title to see my other reviews, or leave a comment to ask a question.

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