

KARATE - THE WAY OF THE EMPTY HAND

When Crown Prince Hirohito viewed a demonstration of Okinawa Te, he was so impressed that a complete report of this art was prepared in Japan. In 1916, Gichin Funakoshi, a practitioner of Shuri Te, gave a demonstration at the Butoku-den in Kyoto. The demonstration was well received and in 1923 Funakoshi moved to Japan to take on the job of introducing the art to the Japanese people. In 1924, karate was accepted into the curriculum of several of the major Japanese universities.

In 1930, Kenwa Mabuni, another karate master, came to Osaka, Japan. Both Funakoshi and Mabuni had been students of Master Itosu. Funakoshi went on to study under Master Azato and Mabuni studied under Master Higaonna. Going there separate ways, Funakoshi established the Shotokan in Tokyo and Mabuni named his school Shito Ryu.

Chojun Miyagi established the Goju Ryu school in Okinawa. Also a student of Higaonna's, Miyagi's school closely resembled Shito Ryu.

Sometime around 1932, the "kara" in "karate" was changed from meaning "Chinese" to mean "to lose or empty oneself to gain serenity of mind". By this time all Japanese universities had karate dojos.

The Japanese Karate Association (JKA) was formed in 1948 under the leadership of Funakoshi. After his death in 1957, his top student, Masatoshi Nakayama took over his duties as JKA president. Nakayama was a strong leader. He organized the first All-Japan Championships in 1957 and helped to establish the rules of kumite (sparring) as we know them today. Nakayama passed away in 1987 and his successor has yet to be named.

Karate was introduced to Americans for the first time when our soldiers were in Japan after WWII. The first dojo in the United States was opened in 1946 by Robert Trias in Phoenix, Arizona.

Since that time, karate has taken on many different faces in the United States. With over 600 different styles in the United States, many different philosophies have emerged. Some styles remain very traditional in their beliefs and teachings, others have turned karate into a professional sport, and others practice it merely as a form of self defense.

STYLES OF KARATE DO

<u>STYLE</u>	<u>FOUNDER</u>	<u>MEANING OF THE STYLE</u>
TOUSHI KAN	SHIGEKI UMEMOTO	HOUSE OF THE FIGHTING SPIRIT
SHOTOKAN	GICHIN FUNAKOSHI	HOUSE OF WIND THROUGH PINES
GOJU RYU	CHOJUN MIYAGE	SCHOOL OF HARD AND SOFT
SHITO RYU	KENWA MABUNI	SCHOOL OF ITOSU AND HIGAONNA
SHORIN RYU	DARUMA TAISHI	SCHOOL OF YOUNG FOREST
WADO RYU	HIDENORI OTSUKA	SCHOOL OF THE WAY OF PEACE
KYOKUSHINKAI KAN	MASUTATSU OYAMA	HOUSE OF THE ULTIMATE TRUTH
ISSHIN RYU	TATSUO SHIMABUKU	SCHOOL OF ONE SPIRIT