

= Raiden ( Metal Gear ) =

Raiden ( Japanese : ?? ) , real name Jack ( ???? , Jakku ) , is a fictional character and protagonist from Konami 's Metal Gear series . Created by Hideo Kojima and designed by Yoji Shinkawa , Raiden was introduced in the series as the main player character of Metal Gear Solid 2 : Sons of Liberty . In Metal Gear Solid 2 , he appears to be a member of the U.S. special operations unit FOXHOUND , participating in his first mission . Despite coming across as rookie , he is a young soldier who is later revealed to have been a Liberian child soldier . Raiden reappears as a supporting character in Metal Gear Solid 4 : Guns of the Patriots and returns as the main character of Metal Gear Rising : Revengeance dealing both with his past and his present life as a combatant .

The idea of creating Raiden originated from Hideo Kojima 's desire to view the Metal Gear series protagonist Solid Snake from a different point of view , inspired by the Sherlock Holmes stories . Raiden 's inclusion remained a secret to gamers before his debut ; despite some players ' reactions , the staff liked his character . Raiden 's debut role as the protagonist of Metal Gear Solid 2 became controversial for a reason : the unexpected substitution of the established hero Solid Snake . Some critics have defended the character , stating that fans were merely angered by the former 's removal and that the latter was appealing . Despite this mixed reception , Raiden has been highly praised for his role and Metal Gear Solid 4 redesign and even more for his role and design in Revengeance .

= = Character design = =

= = = Creation and appearance = = =

According to series creator Hideo Kojima , the decision to make a new character replace Solid Snake for most of Metal Gear Solid 2 stemmed from the developer 's desire to develop Snake from a third @-@ person perspective instead . Kojima also stated that Raiden 's character and its perception by the audience were important to the overall feel of the story . The idea of having a second main character was inspired by the Sherlock Holmes short stories and novels in which the narrator was not the title character , but his friend Dr. Watson . Kojima affirmed that Snake was the game 's protagonist instead of Raiden . Yoshikazu Matsuhana , assistant director for the project , was uncertain about this decision ; he considered Raiden a " weak @-@ looking character " , but decided to follow Kojima . The codename " Raiden " was based on a historical combat aircraft of the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service , the Mitsubishi J2M Raiden . It was initially planned to be written in katakana as " ????? " , but was changed to the kanji form " ?? " because of the original resemblance to Bin Laden 's " Laden " in katakana , " ????? " . The relationship between Raiden and Rosemary was inspired by Kojima 's own experiences ; their names , Jack and Rose , are a reference to characters in the film Titanic . Raiden in Metal Gear Solid 2 is considered to be a representation of the player through the experiences between the player and the character during the game .

Kojima received much fan mail ; one letter was from a girl who stated she did not want to play a game with an old man . He took this into consideration ; he and his team designed a character more appealing to women , resulting in Raiden 's appearance . Designer Yoji Shinkawa noted that he and the other character designers took a great deal of inspiration for Raiden 's appearance from the bish?nen archetype . Because Raiden was a new character the staff designed him carefully , giving him white hair to symbolize his introduction . Shinkawa further noted that Raiden ended up with an overall feminine appearance . His outfit ( the Skull Suit ) was difficult to design until the staff decided on a " bonelike " concept . Shinkawa wanted to make Raiden sexually appealing , emphasizing the tightness of his clothing .

Konami kept Raiden 's starring role in Metal Gear Solid 2 secret until the game 's North American release , going so far as to replace Raiden with Snake in teaser trailers and other preview materials . Although Raiden appeared in several preview trailers in his scuba gear , his presence was not emphasized . Raiden 's appearance in the game was announced to the Japanese press on the day

of the game 's release in North America .

Kojima noted that fan response to Raiden 's character was both positive and negative . While accepting considerable negative feedback , Kojima and his team liked the character . In response to the positive reaction from Japan , the Raikov character was created for Metal Gear Solid 3 : Snake Eater as a parody of Raiden . While noting that Raiden would not be a playable character in Metal Gear Solid 4 Kojima confirmed his appearance in the game to website 1UP.com , stating that fans would like him by the end . For this title , Raiden 's new design was a response to the criticism that only his face remained in his cybernetic body . Shinkawa , himself , was surprised by the way he came to illustrate Raiden . The staff noted that Raiden 's debut in the Metal Gear Solid 4 trailer received notably positive responses ; several video @-@ game magazines promoted the game with Raiden 's screenshots . Kojima echoed similar comments , indicating that he wanted to expand the character with another game . Raiden 's first fight against Vamp in the game caused difficulty to motion and voice actors because of carefully planned movements performed by the two fighters . The staff was nevertheless satisfied with the outcome , considering it one of the best battles in the game .

When Metal Gear Rising : Revengeance was known as Metal Gear Solid : Rising , former producer Shigenobu Matsuyama hinted that Raiden 's past as a child soldier would be elaborated and his weaknesses as a human would be explored . Matsuyama wanted Raiden to have as strong a role in the game as in Metal Gear Solid 2 , leading him to become the game 's main character . Director Mineshi Kimura noted that he wanted Raiden to be able to move like he did in the Metal Gear Solid 4 trailers , wanting to show " the stealth of the sword , and the strength of not even losing to the gun , and the fear and power you have with this blade . " Matsuyama stated that they would focus on Raiden 's strong will and physical strength , so he would be enjoyable to control . Raiden 's design was changed during the game 's development , leading to different promotional images of him . Following the game 's reboot into a spin @-@ off , Developers stated that while Raiden " has grown up " in comparison to previous Metal Gear games , he is still conflicted with his life as a child soldier in a past civil war , leading him to be a " dark hero " . Shinkawa designed Raiden 's new body as a way to emphasize him being a dark hero contrasting his Metal Gear Solid 4 persona and later discussed with Platinum Games ' Kenji Saito about including his quasi @-@ human look . Raiden losing an eye also serves to represent his transformation across the story . In response to complaints regarding how Rising appeared to contradict Raiden 's ending in Guns of the Patriots , the Kojima Productions staff explained the game would explain what happened with Raiden 's life .

Raiden is first depicted as a white @-@ haired adult who uses a protective black @-@ and @-@ blue suit for his missions known as a " Skull Suit " ( ?????? , Sukaru S?tsu ) . In Metal Gear Solid 4 : Guns of the Patriots Raiden has had his entire body below the upper jaw replaced with a prototype cybernetic body ; he has also had his blood replaced with a military substitute called " White Blood " ( ?? , Shiro Chi ) , which requires regular maintenance . His original cybernetic body is replaced with a black one for Metal Gear Rising : Revengeance that also covers his left eye . Although proficient at all types of weaponry , Raiden specializes in wielding swords which resonate at high frequencies for the last fights in Sons of Liberty and during Guns of the Patriots and Revengeance .

= = = Personality and portrayal = = =

In his first appearances Raiden is a rookie agent who , as a result of training only in virtual reality , is inexperienced . However , he later reveals that he was feared as a child soldier ? known as " Jack the Ripper " ( ????? ? ? ? ???? , Jakku Za Ripp? ) ? who killed several enemies in a civil war and is ashamed of his past . This affects Raiden 's personality ; he begins to believe he is only useful in the battlefield and his relationship with his girlfriend , Rosemary , would not work . Manipulation by the Patriots causes him to believe he does not have free will . Raiden is encouraged by Solid Snake not to be concerned with what people tell him but to rely on himself to face his problems .

In the Japanese versions of the games Raiden has been voiced by Kenyu Horiuchi , who felt he could understand the character 's pain ; despite becoming a cyborg , Raiden still acted like a human . Quinton Flynn was selected to voice Raiden in the series ' English adaptation by casting director

Kris Zimmerman , who had previously worked with him . Flynn remembers having a long time to develop the character , being instructed by Zimmerman to use an older voice from a character he previously voiced . Flynn stated that Raiden was one of his favorite video @-@ game voice characters , and explained a notable difference between his roles in Metal Gear Solid 2 and Metal Gear Solid 4 .

Kojima Productions have compared Raiden and Solid Snake as to their experiences and ways of thinking . During the game 's climax , Raiden stays handcuffed until his final fight against Solidus Snake ; Snake escapes from his handcuffs to follow Revolver Ocelot , emphasizing Raiden 's lack of freedom . Hideo Kojima compared Raiden and Snake with movie monsters King Kong and Godzilla , respectively ; the former was taken from his home and his nature changed upon meeting Rosemary , whereas the latter will continue fighting against mankind 's menaces . Defeating Solidus , Raiden is encouraged by Snake to trust himself and believe in his own choices . This is further addressed by the staff 's motivation to make a new sequel to Metal Gear without Kojima . Kojima has also likened him with John Rambo from the Rambo series as both characters always find themselves taking part in battles despite their desire for a peaceful resolution .

= = Appearances = =

= = = Main games = = =

Metal Gear Solid 2 : Sons of Liberty introduces the player to Raiden in the Plant chapter ; he is introduced as a newly recruited , virtual reality @-@ trained member of FOXHOUND with no live combat experience before his current mission . Assisted via Codec by the Colonel ( his commanding officer ) and Rosemary ( his girlfriend ) , Raiden 's initial objective is to rescue several hostages from a terrorist group known as the Sons of Liberty . Raiden is helped by mercenary Solid Snake and spy Olga Gurlukovich across his mission . As the story progresses , Jack is revealed as a former child soldier for the Sons of Liberty leader Solidus Snake during the Liberian Civil War . After the war 's end , Raiden was given a normal life and tried to forget his past . A clandestine organization known as The Patriots is revealed to be controlling his actions , however , with his commanding officer revealed as their computer @-@ generated AI , and one of their spies becomes Raiden 's girlfriend , and the two fall in love . Raiden defeats Solidus after being told by the Patriots ' AIs that his death would also trigger the deaths of Olga 's child and Rosemary , the latter of whom was revealed to have been pregnant with Raiden 's child during the mission . He later reunites with Rosemary , and both decide to stay together to raise their unborn child .

Metal Gear Solid 4 : Guns of the Patriots ( set five years after Metal Gear Solid 2 ) features Raiden after rescuing Sunny ( the late Olga 's daughter ) from the Patriots , and searching for Big Boss 's corpse for Big Mama . The trauma of his breakup with Rosemary , coupled with the apparent miscarriage of his child , have made Raiden believe his only place is on the battlefield . Outfitted with a cybernetic exoskeleton as a result of the Patriots ' machinations , Raiden assists Solid Snake in the fight against Liquid Ocelot wanting to obtain the Patriots ' powers . After several encounters with Liquid 's men , Raiden stays in the ship Outer Haven to protect Snake as he shuts down the Patriots ' AIs . In an epilogue , Rosemary reveals to Raiden that their child was not miscarried ; her marriage to Roy Campbell was a hoax to protect her and their son from the Patriots . Upon hearing this news , Raiden reconciles with Rosemary .

Metal Gear Rising : Revengeance ( set four years after Metal Gear Solid 4 ) shows Raiden 's return as the main character . Raiden appears as a member of the private military company ( PMC ) Maverick Security in multiple tasks while raising money for his family . However , they are attacked by a group of terrorists called Desperado Enforcement LLC that kill his protectee and leave Raiden near dead . Saved by Doktor , Raiden starts working with them to fight Desperado . His already vengeful obsession with Desperado becomes even more personal when he discovered , during a mission into Mexico , that Desperado and World Marshal Inc had been kidnapping several children , surgically removing their brains to place them into cybernetic bodies , and were planning to subject

them to VR training modelled after his own training under Solidus during the Liberian Civil War . This results in Raiden abruptly resigning from Maverick to pursue and retrieving the children 's brain casings from World Marshal , having to battle his " Jack the Ripper " persona in the process . Although Raiden is successful in defeating Desperado he learns that Steven Armstrong was using such PMCs to distract Raiden as he attempts to create a new " War on Terror " . Raiden manages to stop Armstrong 's actions and decides not to return to Maverick , having his " own war to fight . "

= = = Other appearances = = =

Although Raiden does not appear in Metal Gear Solid 3 : Snake Eater , his character is the subject of parody throughout the game by debuting character Raikov . Raiden also appears in an early promotional trailer for Metal Gear Solid 4 : Guns of the Patriots , fighting for control of the franchise with Solid Snake in a series of comic scenes . A sequel to the trailer was produced entitled " Metal Gear Raiden : Snake Eraser " in which Raiden travels to the past to assassinate Big Boss but fails comically . In the trailer 's English version , Raiden was voiced by Charlie Schlatter ( the voice actor for Raikov ) instead of Quinton Flynn . Raiden 's Metal Gear Solid 2 version appears in the Metal Gear Solid : Portable Ops Plus expansion pack , where he is an unlockable character . His Metal Gear Solid 4 incarnation appears as a playable character in Metal Gear Online .

In Metal Gear Solid V : Ground Zeroes , Raiden stars in a non @-@ canon mission titled " Jamais Vu " . Having time @-@ travelled to the past , he infiltrates Camp Omega under orders from MSF . His mission objective is to incapacitate a group of soldiers known as the " body snatchers " ( a reference to the android replicators in Kojima 's other work Snatcher ) . His appearance in this game is modeled after his Metal Gear Rising design .

The Metal Gear Solid 2 : Sons of Liberty 2007 comic book adaptation by Alex Garner retells Raiden 's role in the series , with few changes made to the story . His relationship with Solidus is explored when he remembers his past ; when about to be killed by Solidus , Raiden is saved by Snake . The game 's novelization by Raymond Benson provides minor modifications to Raiden 's history , except for the moment he receives Olga 's sword , resulting in a change to his battle psyche . When Raiden kills Solidus he cuts the rope on Federal Hall 's flagpole , causing an American flag to fall over his enemy 's body . This scene was deleted from the original game due to the September 11 attacks .

Outside the Metal Gear series , Raiden appears in the game LittleBigPlanet as a sticker and a playable sack @-@ boy character . He may be accessed by buying the Metal Gear Solid 4 downloadable content . In Evolution Skateboarding , Raiden is one of the unlockable characters . He also appears in Super Smash Bros. Brawl as a collectible sticker and in Assassin 's Creed : Brotherhood as an alternate skin for Ezio Auditore da Firenze . Raiden is playable in the video game PlayStation All @-@ Stars Battle Royale using his Metal Gear Rising design .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical reaction = = =

Raiden 's replacement of fan favorite Solid Snake in Metal Gear Solid 2 proved controversial , and GamesRadar considered the event a reason to dislike the series overall . The same site criticized his role in Metal Gear Solid 2 several times , and called his inclusion one of the worst aspects of the game . In 2004 , GameAxis Unwired published a fake interview in which Hideo Kojima expressed regret for creating the character . While calling Metal Gear Solid 2 one of the biggest disappointments in video @-@ game history , UGO Networks ' Marissa Meli cited Raiden 's debut as a key problem with the game . Meli also commented on Raiden 's design , placing him 12th in a list of the most androgynous video game characters . The book Playing with Videogames states that Raiden 's inclusion was to surprise Metal Gear fans who , instead of playing as Snake , played as his opposite . Writer James Newman commented that fans ' reactions were highly negative , as though their expectations had been " betray [ ed ] " by Kojima . He compared Raiden to the

controversial Star Wars character Jar Jar Binks . Trailers for Metal Gear Solid 3 : Snake Eater ( in which Raiden is mocked ) were considered by Newman to be Konami 's comic response to fans ' disapproval . Raiden proved to be more popular in Japan , with Yoji Shinkawa commenting it was because he matched the stereotype of manga hero . In 2012 , manga artist Hiro Mashima drew an illustration of Raiden in anticipation of the series ' following games . He mentioned having had difficulties illustrating the character .

Nevertheless , Eurogamer 's Tom Bramwell enjoyed Raiden 's role , commenting that his interactions with the other characters also helped expand Solid Snake 's character . His introduction was given an award for " Biggest Surprise " by GameSpot in 2001 , while Dave Meikleham from GamesRadar listed his appearance as one of the biggest plot twists in a video game since the trailers did not show him . Meikleham also called Raiden a " surprisingly likeable character " and found his dynamic with Solid Snake appealing . Before joining Kojima Productions Ryan Payton stated that he was not disappointed by Raiden 's introduction , and liked the fact that the Metal Gear Solid 2 team kept his identity a secret . Raiden 's English voice actor Quinton Flynn was surprised by fans ' response to the character , but commented that it also attracted new fans to the series . Regarding response about Raiden replacing Snake as the main character , Flynn thought that fans were angry at the idea that Raiden would replace Snake for all subsequent games . Raiden 's relationship with Rosemary was also listed as the most awkward part of the Metal Gear series by 1UP.com , with writer Scott Sharkey speculating about Hideo Kojima 's life since the director claimed the relationship was autobiographical . PLAY editor Nick Jones listed the scene in which Raiden is nude as his fourth most favorite moment of the franchise , calling it the " one of the funniest moments in gaming history . " Lisa Foiles of The Escapist included him on her 2014 list of top five katana wielders , noting " this is not a popularity contest and Raiden qualifies " even in MGS2 where " he was whiny , an emo , and kind of a bitch . "

Response to the character was mainly positive in subsequent games . His new design for Metal Gear Solid 4 was analyzed by GamePro 's Patrick Shaw , who commented that Raiden " was in one hell of a fight " . Raiden 's redesign has been praised for reducing his androgynous appearance , thus making him more appealing . UGO placed Raiden 's design in that game at 18th spot on its 2011 list of " the most stylin ' alternate costumes " , but Gavin Mackenzie from PLAY listed it seventh on his top list of inappropriate outfits , stating that the costume was " cool " but had unnecessary accessories . It has also been compared with Gray Fox 's cybernetic @-@ ninja design in Metal Gear Solid . Similarly , the GameSpot staff stated that Raiden " is definitely the inheritor of the quasi @-@ unkillable Cyborg Ninja inheritance " when he made his first appearance in a Metal Gear Solid 4 trailer . GameSpot applauded his actions in the trailer , calling it " wordlessly awesome " and comparing his stunts with those in the film Casshan : Robot Hunter . Writers from Cheat Code Central referred to his fight against Vamp in another trailer as the " undeniable highlight " that would make player wish to use Raiden in the game . Game Informer placed him on " The Snubbed List " of the best characters of the 2000s in response to his new design since it made fans like the idea of a new Metal Gear game solely focused on his character . Raiden 's encounter with Vamp in this game was also labelled one of the " most memorable cinematics " of the series by GamePro because of Raiden 's change of fighting style from his debut as he " redeems his girlish image " , while IGN listed it as the 80th best moment in video @-@ game history for similar reasons .

IGN 's Jesse Schedeen listed Raiden as one of the " gaming icons " and most valuable players of 2009 , in response to his role in an upcoming Metal Gear title . Dave Meikleham of GamesRadar wrote an article entitled " Why Metal Gear Solid : Rising [ Metal Gear Rising : Revengeance ] will make you love Raiden " , explaining why fans who disliked the character would find his character and role appealing in the game . In a 2010 Famitsu readers ' poll , Raiden was voted the 42nd most popular video game character . In 2013 , Complex ranked Raiden as the 12th greatest soldier in video games , " even as he 's not as cool as Solid Snake , " while GamesRadar called Revengeance " perhaps the greatest cyborg ninja game of all time " and PLAY ranked Raiden as the second top ninja in games .

= = = Analysis = = =

Raiden 's role in Metal Gear Solid 2 has been analyzed by several writers , who emphasized how he is intended to represent the actual player . Early in the game , when Raiden 's virtual reality training is mentioned , the game shows scenes from the previous game Metal Gear Solid where the players took control of Solid Snake . Raiden 's interaction with veteran Solid Snake identify the former as " a Metal Gear fan " . As the game progresses it is stated that Raiden " has become Snake " , having developed skills similar to his from taking part in the Big Shell 's fights which resembled the Metal Gear Solid 's Shadow Moses Island . Later in the game , Raiden is told by a character to " Turn off the console " which confuses both the player and him . While this was first interpreted as a fourth wall @-@ breaking joke , the game 's climax goes deeper into Raiden 's connection with the player . When being forced by his superiors to kill the game 's antagonist , Solidus Snake , the player is told by the designers to finish the game . Both player and Raiden take different paths at the game 's end . The former is told not to waste time playing games ; the latter 's character is expanded with his decision to move on with his life , rejecting his previous identity by discarding the dog tags the player wore in the beginning .

Upon the revelation of the character 's new design as a cyborg ninja , writers noted how Raiden distanced himself from his previous appearance that imitated Solid Snake . They also emphasized how Raiden becomes a different type of game hero with a new , direct fighting style . Since Raiden has become more powerful than Solid Snake in physical strength and weaponry to the point of exaggeration , writers have compared him favorably to other popular game heroes and find his actions still in @-@ character considering the fight scenes throughout the series .