

# Jigoro Kano, The Founding, History & Evolution Of Judo

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Part 4

## **Kodokan Judo's Founding And International Growth**

Again the Kodokan moved premises from Kano's 20 mat house, and formed at the residence of Yajiro Shinagawa, an ambassador of the new Meiji Period, in Fujimi-cho, Tokyo. Shinagawa was a very broad minded man and very generous, as well as being a student of Judo. This new dojo held an area of 40 mats. It was from this Dojo, that for the next 3 years Judo excelled over all other rival Jujutsu school in contests.

1887 saw the categorisation of Judo complete. The Kodokan had three broad aims: physical education, contest proficiency and mental training. Its structure as a martial art was such that it could be practiced as a competitive sport. Blows, kicks, certain joint locks, and other techniques too dangerous for competition, were taught only to the higher ranks. "Atemi" or striking techniques were not fully eliminated from Judo per se except in competition, but were retained in the practice of Kata, taught at the time only to higher graded students. These "Atemi" techniques are still to be found today in Judo's Kata.

To accommodate yet again the ever increasing numbers of Judo students, the Kodokan moved to the Hongo-ku in Masaga-cho, Tokyo which could hold 60 mats in 1890.

By now Kano's vision of Judo becoming a world sport had started and he took his first trip abroad to Europe and the US to give lectures and teach Judo in 1889. He would travel another eight times to other countries to propagate Judo in his lifetime.

Several of his senior students were also beginning to do the same and travel the globe lecturing and teaching Judo. In 1892, Takashima Shidachi lectured the Japan Society in London on the history and development of Judo. In 1904, Yoshitsugu (Yoshiaki) Yamashita, one of Kano's most senior students, travelled to the US and taught this Japanese sport to president Theodore Roosevelt and the West Point military cadets. In 1904, Tsunejiro Tomita and Mitsuyo Maeda followed Yamashita to America. Tomita taught at Columbia University, while Maeda travelled to Europe, and Central and South America. 1924 saw a young Judoka named Takagi open the first dojo in Canada.

Europe received its first exposure to jujutsu in 1899, when Yukio Tani (1881-1951) and his brother arrived in England to teach jujutsu at the request of a Mr. B.B. Barton-

Wright. More Japanese arrived at the turn of the century, and through numerous demonstrations and exhibitions, jujutsu became very popular in Britain. In May 1906, Gunji Koizumi arrived in England and began teaching jujutsu in Liverpool, before opening the London Budokwai in 1918. Koizumi, who is often referred to as the "Father of British judo", was born in Ibaraki prefecture, some twenty miles north of Tokyo. The London Budokwai was the first official Judo club founded in Europe. The Budokwai was originally a Japanese community centre and was frequented by members of the Japanese Imperial Army and Navy and their families who were stationed in London. Although the Budokwai was a Judo club, Judo was still often referred to as Jujutsu in the early 1900's. It was not until 1920, that the word 'Judo' became widespread.

Mikinosuke Kawaishi, 7th Dan, one of the world's foremost experts on Judo kata, went to France in 1922. Also in France, the arrival of Hikoichi Aida and Keishichi Ishiguro in 1924 began one of Judo's most successful international transplants. Yoshisaburo Sasaki took Judo to Hungary in 1906. Aida introduced Judo to Germany along with his efforts in France, but it only became popular there after visits by Kazuzo Kudo and Sumio Imai in 1926. The Italian Judo Federation was founded in 1924, mainly based on the efforts of the Japanese ambassador to Italy, Youtarou Sugimura, who was a Judoka. In Asia, Shinzo Takagaki took Judo to India, Nepal and Afghanistan in 1929.

In the 1890's Judo expanded rapidly and the Kodokan Dojo moved several more times to accommodate the increase in student numbers. 1894 saw the move to Koishikawa-cho, in Shimotomisaka-cho, Tokyo to an area of 107 mats. Another move in Koishikawa to an area of 217 mats in 1897 and a further move to Otsuka Sakashita-cho, Tokyo only a year later, to a mat area of 314 mats in 1898. Only one more time in Kano's life did the Kodokan move, this was to 1-Chome Kasuga-cho, Bunko-ku, Tokyo covering a vast area of 514 mats. Today the Kodokan is situated at 2-Chome, Kasuga-cho, Bunko-ku, Tokyo in an 8 storey building with a total mat area of 986 mats.

It was in August of 1891 Jigoro Kano married Sumako, the eldest daughter of Seisei Takezoe, onetime ambassador to Korea. They had nine children, six daughters and three sons, including Risei, who later was to become head of the Kodokan and the All Japan Judo Federation.

Management of the Kodokan was handled by Kano himself until 1894 when a consultative body, the Kodokan Council, was set up. The Kodokan was now getting so large that Kano could not cope with its running on his own and he was assisted by his senior students. Until now Kano had also financed the Kodokan entirely by himself. This he found he could no longer do due the large number of students and he started to charge training fees and grading fees.

1895 Kano systematized the important techniques of Judo into the *Gokyo no Waza*, which contained only throwing techniques. However Kodokan Judo underwent an evaluation by its members in 1920. The Go Kyo No Waza was revised to include only 40 throws. Eight throws from the previous classification were discarded. For more than sixty years the structure of Kodokan Judo had not changed. However in 1982 the Kodokan again revised the Go Kyo No Waza by reintroducing the 8 techniques that

were discarded in 1920 and by adding 17 new techniques. These sixty-five techniques became known as "The 65 Techniques of Kodokan Judo."

The technical aspects of Judo came into full maturity in 1900 with the founding of the Kodokan Yudanshakai (Association of Black Belt Holders).

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