

KYUDO DEVELOPMENT POST WWII

-FOCUSING ON THE RELATIONSHIP WITH “SPORT” IN THE
PROCESS OF POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION (1945-1971)-

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Introduction

Viewpoints & Objective

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- How was Kyudo reconstructed after WWII?
- Why was Kyudo played as a “Sport”?
- What impact does “Sport” have on Kyudo culture?

This presentation will show the history of Kyudo trying to be a “Sport” in the process of post-war reconstruction (1945-1971) . By knowing its history, I would like you to think about the cultural characteristics of Kyudo.

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Postwar Reconstruction (1945–1959)

Democratization and its impact on Budo

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- 15th Aug 1945 : End of the Pacific War
- Under the occupation of the GHQ
- Wartime regime
 - ➡ Pacifism & Democracy national system
- Budo was considered to be linked to militarism and nationalism.

Physical education in the school

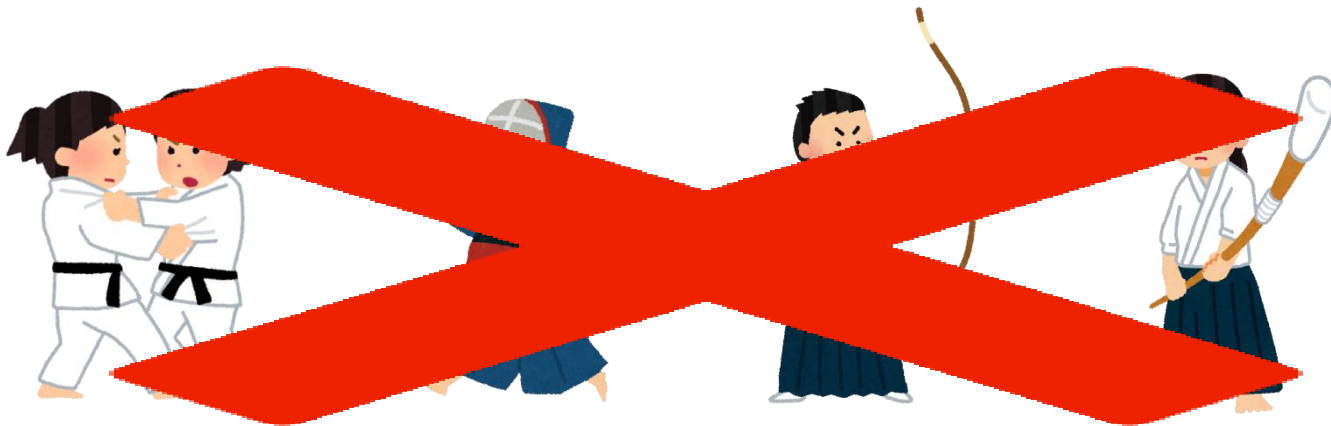
Abolition of military training, Introduction of sport...

Prohibition of Budo

Prohibition of Budo in the school

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Notification from the ministry of education
(6th Nov & 26th Dec 1945)



**All Budo activities
were prohibited in the school**

Prohibition of practicing “Budo”

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“Matters concerning the implementation of social physical education” (Ministry of Education, 25th Aug 1946)

Section 9 : About handling of Kendo, Judo and Kyudo

- ◆ “Budo” (武道) is prohibited from using the term itself.
- ◆ Kendo is prohibited both in public and private.
- ◆ Judo and **Kyudo can be practiced as sports**, as long as they are practiced as personal hobbies for the purpose of cultivating character and training the body.

Dissolution of the Dai Nippon Butoku Kai

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Dai Nippon Butoku Kai

- Established in 1895
- The largest Budo organization in modern Japan.
- Kendo, Judo, Kyudo, Naginata, Jukenjutsu, etc.



Butokuden in Kyoto

**GHQ forcibly dissolved
the Dai Nippon Butoku Kai on 9th Nov 1946**

Post-war Budo resumption policy

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① Pursuing pacifism and democracy
➔ **Carried out as Sports (NOT Budo)**

② Prohibition of Budo in the school
➔ **Conducted outside of the school**

(Kyudo was allowed to be practiced again in the school in 1951)

③ The term “Budo” shall not be used.
DNBK was dissolved.

➔ **Each Budo resumed on its own**

All Nippon Kyudo Federation

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Year	Events
10 th May 1947	“ <i>Zen Nippon Kyudo Renmei</i> ”
22 nd May 1949	“ <i>Nippon Kyudo Renmei</i> ” (Reorganization)
15 th Sep 1953	Incorporated foundation
28 th Jan 1957	“ <i>Zen Nippon Kyudo Renmei</i> ” (ANKF)

Purposes in articles of incorporation

Carrying out projects related to the succession of Kyudo, which is a traditional culture peculiar to Japan, and the promotion of the spread of Kyudo, and will contribute to the improvement of people’s physical strength and the development of **the spirit of sport**, thereby contributing to the development of social culture.

Democratization ➡ Sport ➡ International


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“Kyudo Kyohon” 1st edition (1st Aug 1953)

...After the war, Kyudo became **more sport**, and especially after the independence of the country, kyudo will become even more international... it is the responsibility of Japanese Kyudo-ka to show this to foreign countries...Modern Kyudo must be **democratic, international, and peaceful**.

Nihon Kyudo Renmei (1953) Kyudo Kyohon, Nihon Kyudo Renmei, pp.33-35.

✂ 1952 : the Treaty of Peace with Japan
➡ Restoring Japan's sovereignty



Participation in the international archery competitions (1959–1967)

Archery in the Olympics

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53rd IOC Sessions in Sofia, Bulgaria in 1957



Archery became

an official event in the Olympics



**“ANKF announced participation
in the Olympic Archery”**

➡ 19th Jul 1958 : ANKF joined FITA

1964 Olympics in Tokyo

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55th IOC Sessions in Munich on 26th May 1959



**1964 Olympics in
“Tokyo”**

*Bid committee members received
the news on the decision*

- 1964 Tokyo Olympics became the first Olympics after Archery was adopted.
- Kyudo became the first Budo to join in the Olympics.
- **ANKF aimed for the gold medal for their prestige.**

Opinions on “Kyudo” magazine

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“**Kyudo must win** with the best record in the Olympic events that Japan is currently participating in.”

Murata, Usakichi. 1958. “To participate in the Olympics with Kyudo(2)”. Kyudo (94): 6.

- ➔ Expectations for the Olympics
- ➔ First Budo joining in the Olympics

“In order to develop Kyudo internationally, Kyudo must be “**Sport Kyudo**” which put more importance on the hitting”.

Ban, Kanetaro. 1958. “Regarding the grading exam”. Kyudo (95): 25.

“**Kyudo was a sport** in the past...Beyond the age of sport, Kyudo is at a very high level- physically and mentally- today...it’s just a scene of trying to return to the style **focusing on hitting** in the old days.”

Uno, Yosaburo. 1960. “At the general meeting”. Kyudo (121): 5.

- ➔ Sport Kyudo = Focusing on hitting

The road to the Olympics

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オリンピックへの道

世界弓道連盟への加盟……次いでわが連盟代表を歐洲に派遣等第一段階に於ける一連の計画は密に深沈たる思索と研究の中に遂げ終った。



年明ければ一九六〇年、第二段階は、衣を脱して実戦態勢を確立し、全国一斉に厳しい訓練に熱中すべき年だ。



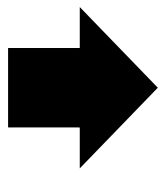
Tokyo Olympic Organizing Committee decided to **exclude Archery** on 21st Dec 1960.
Kyudo could not participate in the Olympics!

FITA World Championships

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“The existence of a self-righteous Kyudo which is proud of its own way by viewing and deifying Kyudo religiously is a disaster for modern Kyudo...**Modern Kyudo must be more practical and open to the public as a sport**“

Ban, Kanetaro. 1961. “Kyudo go with the times”. Kyudo (138): 24.



Although participation in the Olympics was not realized, ANKF aimed to join the FITA World Championships in order to continue aiming for **“Sport Kyudo”**.

24th FITA World Championship

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24th FITA World Championships

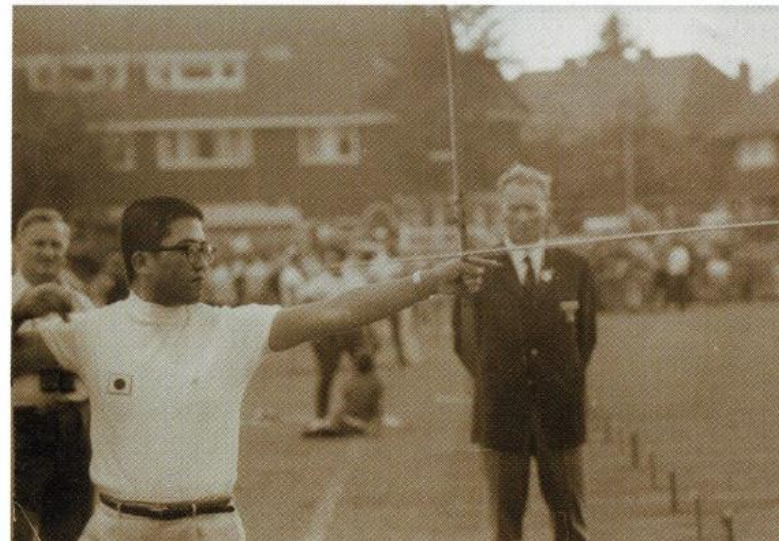
Amersfoort, Netherlands

25th-28th Jul 1967

- 7 archers from ANKF, Japan.
- 6 Western bow archers & 1 Kyudo archer (Mr. Junji Miyata)



Japanese team marches
in(top)
Group photo(right)



Mr. Miyata interviewed during practice

Equipment

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Equipment	Traditional	Remodeled
Bow size	Long bow	Shortened bow
Bow limb	Bamboo	Glass fiber
Glue	<i>Nibe</i> (deer skin glue)	Synthetic glue (Epoxy)
Arrow shaft	Bamboo	Aluminum
Feathers	Natural	Plastic
Glove	Deer skin with hard thumb & wrist	Soft glove
Sight	No sight	Install sight
Arrow rest	No arrow rest	Install <i>Tsuku</i> (arrow rest)
Clothes	Kimono (traditional clothing)	Western sport clothing



Devastating defeat

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The result of 24th FITA World Championship

1st	R. Rogers (USA)	2298
129th	J. Miyata (Japan)	1357

**Kyudo was the lowest in the 129th place
out of all 129 participants...**



Changed in policy (1968-1971)

No more Sport?

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“The competition between the Western bow, which is made up of elaborate mechanical equipment, and the Japanese bow, which is based on spiritual training and mental training, I couldn't expect to win a prize from the beginning...Foreigners' interest in Japanese bows is more than expected, and many report that they understand that the main objective of Kyudo is training the spirit...

Ban, Kanetaro. 1968. “Two issues pointed by newspaper”. Kyudo (218): 18-20.

- In the face of the overwhelming difference in competitiveness with Archery, ANKF abandoned trying to be a “Sport” through the participation in the international archery competition.
- ANKF needed a value other than Sport (≡ hitting)
➔ **“Spiritual”**

Emphasizing spirituality

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- Decided to stop adopting FITA Round in 1967
- The article about Eugen Herrigel spread rapidly on “Kyudo” magazine from 1968.
 - Eugen Herrigel picture (Apr 1968)
 - “Zen in the Art of Archery” was reported to be highly regarded in Europe (May-Jul 1968)
 - The articles about Mr. Heijiro Anzawa’s (Grand master in ANKF) visit to Herrigel’s grave, and his wife (Oct-Nov 1969)
 - A report “Kyudo and Zen are considered equal in Europe” (Nov 1971)
- Transfer of FITA membership to Japan Archery Association in 1969.
- **Sight & Arrow rest were prohibited in 1971**



Summary

Summary①

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- After the war, Budo was considered to have been linked with nationalism and militarism during the war, and there were significant restrictions on its practice.
- “Democratization of Budo” was required.
- One of the important elements of democratization was considered to be a “Sport”.
- Even after the Treaty of Peace with Japan came into force in 1952, restoring Japan’s sovereignty and restrictions on Budo were removed, Kyudo continued to be a “Sport” to Japanese.

Summary②

- In “Sport Kyudo”, internationalization was emphasized, and the main event was participation in the international archery competition.
- “Sport Kyudo” placed high importance on the hitting.
- However, as a result of not being able to participate in the Olympics and the devastating defeat at the FITA Championships, ANKF abandoned “Sport Kyudo”, which emphasized hitting the target, and switched to a trend that emphasizes spirituality.

Summary②

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- From a historical point of view, Kyudo was revived by intentionally cutting off the tradition of Bujutsu/Bugei from the early modern period and becoming a democratic sport after WWII.
- In the 1970s, Herrigel's philosophy was used when ANKF changed its policy from "Sport Kyudo" and began to emphasize spirituality.
- There is no proof that the "Spirit" of Herrigel's philosophy is a traditional Japanese way of thinking in Kyudo.
- What is the "Spirit" of true traditional Kyudo? What is the originality of Kyudo as a Budo? It is difficult to say that these points have been clearly explained up to now.

Thank you



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