

# KYUDO DEVELOPMENT PRE WWII

-BUJUTSU / KYUJUTU → BUDO / KYUDO-

Tomotsugu Goka, Ph.D.

International Budo University



# Introduction



# Introduction

3

- How Kyujutsu survived in modern society?
- How Kyudo became Budo?
- When & Why Kyujutsu became Kyudo?

The definition of “Modern era”

**1868 (Meiji restoration)**

**~ 1945 (End of WWII)**

# Modernization of Kyudo

- **Name change Kyujutsu → Kyudo**
- **Became a modern Japanese martial arts (Budo) disciplines**
- **Emphasize Cultivationism & Spiritual**
- **Modern federation**
- **Grading system (*Shogo, Kyu/Dan*)**
- Competitions in accordance with the rules
- Integration of multiple schools
- Introduction to the modern school education system (Club activities & Regular curriculum)
- Women's participation
- Internationalization



# Inheritance of Kyujutsu

# End of Samurai era

6

- **1853 : Commodore Perry came to Japan**
  - Rapid reinforcement of national defense capabilities
- **1862 : Abolition of Kyujutsu in Edo Shogunate**
  - Introduction of Western military system
  - Archery ➡ Gun
  - Abolition of the events related with Kyujutsu
  - Abolition of Kyujutsu in Kobusho (Military academy)
- **1868 : Meiji Restoration**
  - End of Samurai era
  - Modernization (≡ Westernization)

# Ratio(%) of Bujutsu training hours in Hangaku

	Heigaku (Military Science)	Kyujutsu (Archery)	Bajutsu (Equestrian)	Sojutsu (Spear)	Kenjutsu (Sword)	Hojutsu (Gunnery)	Jujutsu (Self- defence)	Iai (Sword- drawing)
-1830	0.5	6.2	6.4	28.7	32.0	3.2	12.9	10.2
1830-1844	5.7	13.9	16.0	14.2	19.2	1.4	22.1	7.5
1844-1860		19.3	11.2	19.3	20.9	14.2	15.2	
1860-1868	1.7	8.0	4.8	18.5	28.8	27.4	7.3	3.6
1868-1870	5.6		1.1	13.0	23.5	45.8	5.6	5.6
Average	2.7	9.5	7.9	18.7	24.9	18.4	12.6	5.4

※May not add up to 100 due to rounding

**Reference : Yoshio, Imamura (1989) “Shutei 19 Seiki ni okeru Nippon Taiiku no Kenkyu”, Daiichi Shobo, p.482.**

# After the Meiji Restoration

- Yaba came into fashion
    - Money & Girl
    - “Pleasure” “Vulgar”
- ➔ How to remove the images?

## Keywords

“Health”, “Physical training”, “Exercise”



### The benefits of Kyujutsu (Yomiuri Newspaper, 15<sup>th</sup> Apr 1891)

Nowadays, there are many effective weapons, and it is no longer necessary to use bows and arrows in the battlefield...According to the theory of doctors and hygienists in recent years, not only people with **pulmonary** and **gastric disorders**, but also people with good conditions, always holding a bow and arrow helps **health** and is effective for **exercise**...It is said that it works building the muscles and bones. It has become popular everywhere.



# Dai Nippon Butoku Kai (大日本武徳会)



**Butokuden in Kyoto**

English Name	Greater Japan Martial Virtue Society
Established on	17 <sup>th</sup> April 1895 (Meiji 28)
Head office	Kyoto
First President	Imperial Prince Komatsunomiya Akihito
First Chairman	Watanabe Chiaki (Governor of Kyoto)

- DNBK is the largest Bujutsu/Budo organization in modern Japan.
- It made a great influence on “Jutsu” to “Do”.

Building Butokuden, Holding Butoku festival and demonstration, Grading exam, Lectures, Teacher training, etc.

# Hierarchy of Bujutsu in DNBK

## Initial policy of DNBK

➔ Encourage Bujutsu which has “Military utility“

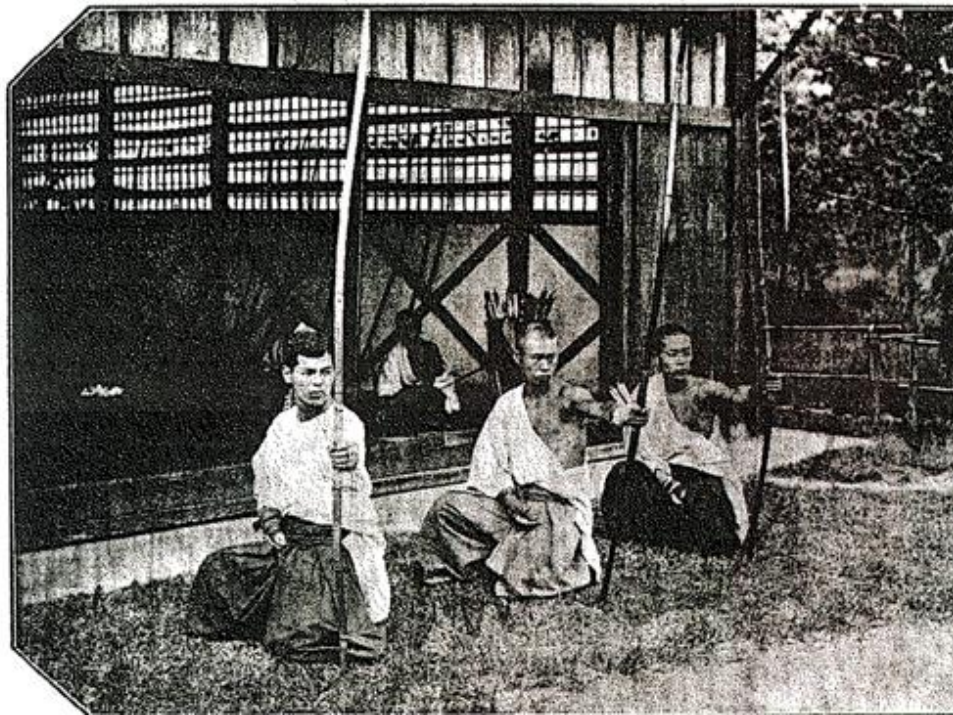
- |                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| ① Marksmanship (Shateki)   | ⑤ Jujutsu              |
| ② Horsemanship (Bajutsu)   | ⑥ Swimming (Suiren)    |
| ③ Ballistics (Jusou)       | ⑦ Boat rowing (Soutei) |
| ④ Swordsmanship (Kenjutsu) |                        |

## Kyujutsu

“Ancient martial arts (Kobugei) that should be preserved”

➔ Active dissemination and development had not been made.



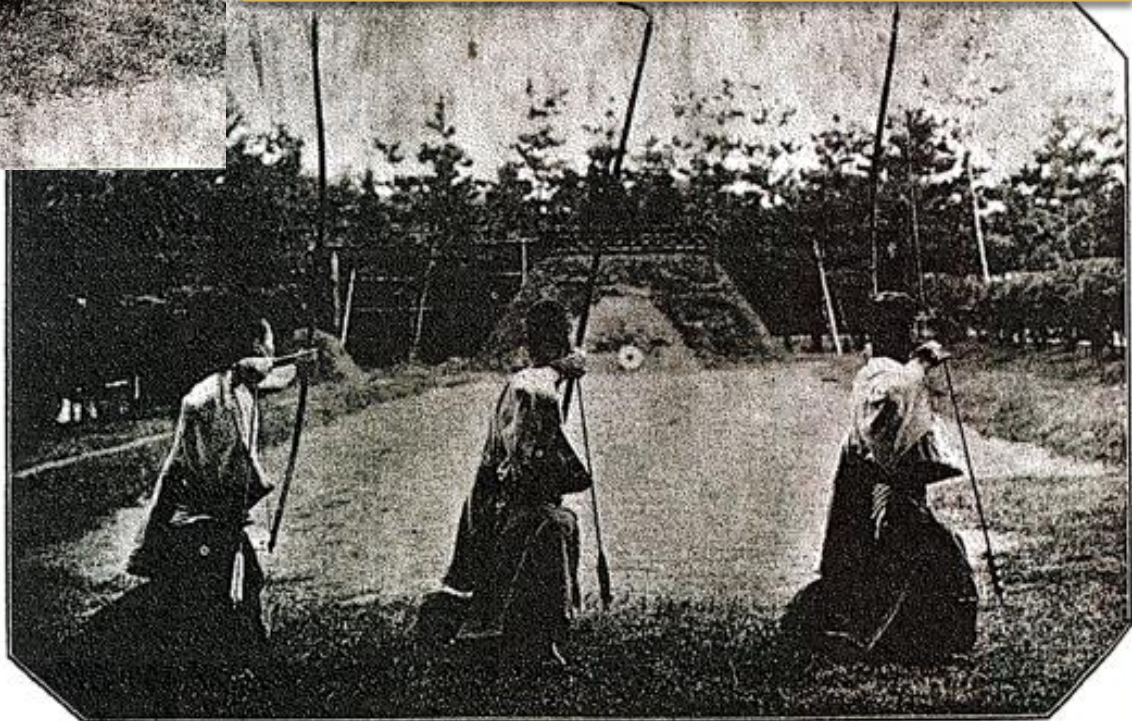


In May 1912, when I went to the Kyoto Butokukai Headquarters Kendo Tournament, I watched Kyudo. I was surprised at **how small the Dojo was, less participants and less young archers**. I had come to believe that this tournament was the best tournament in Japan and that it was the best dojo in Japan. At that time, Kyujutsu was treated separately from Kendo and Judo, as a **preserved Budo**, and it is true that Kyujutsu was a truly **pathetic existence**.

(From "Kyudo Kaikoroku" written by Takashi Kawashima (1883-1958), DNBK Kyudo Hanshi & Kendo Kyoshi)



Kamaboko Gata Azuchi  
"Fish cake shape" (= hog-backed)



Reference : Dai Nippon Butoku Kai (1906) "Dai Nippon Butoku Kai Dai Hachikai Seinen Dai Enbukai Kyujutsubu Jikkei", Butokushi, 1 (3).

“Jutsu” to “Do”

# “Bujutsu” (武術) to “Budo” (武道)



Mr. Hiromichi Nishikubo  
(1863-1930)

- Initially, Bujutsu was the general term in DNBK.

There is an image that “Jutsu” is biased to technique only and concerned victory too much. In stead of “Bujutsu”, “Budo” must be used because ”Budo is not only a more noble term but is also more representative of the primary goals of bushido.”.

- Mr. Nishikubo became vice president and principal of Bujutu school in 1919.

**Bujutsu / Kenjutsu / Jujutsu / Kyujutsu**

武術

劍術

柔術

弓術



**Budo /**  
武道

**Kendo /**  
劍道

**Judo /**  
柔道

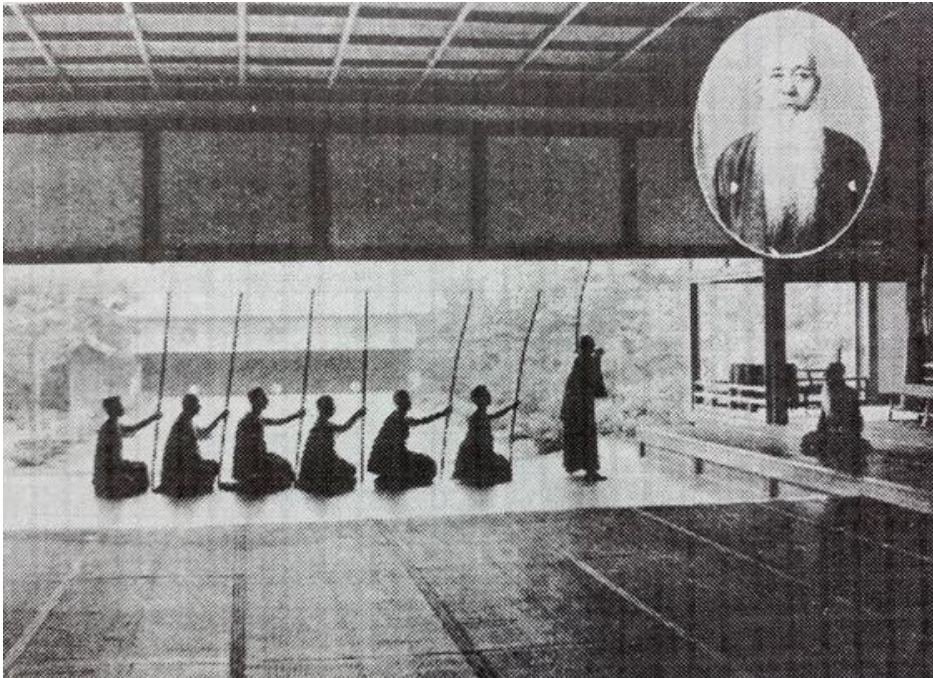
**Kyudo**  
弓道



# Kyudo as a Budo in DNBK

- 1921 Scrapped competition for first place and awarding of prizes in Dai Enbukai.
  - ➔ Dispel the image of being obsessed with winning
- 1921 The DNBK Executive Committee decided to make Kendo, Judo, and Kyudo the main Budo disciplines.
  - ➔ Kyudo officially became Budo on DNBK principal
- 1923 Introduced grading system for Kyudo.
  - ➔ Judo & Kendo, from the beginning. 28 years gap.
- 1928 Established a new Kyudojo at DNBK headquarters in Kyoto.

# Dai Nippon Butokukai Honbu Kyudojo(newly built in 1928)



## Pictures from

Top : Jo, Takeuchi (1928) "Kyudo",  
Kenbunsha, infographic.

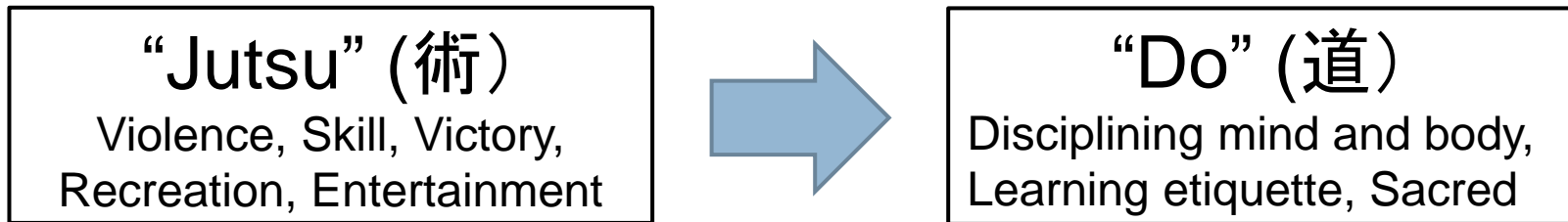
Left :Kohei, Irie (1998) "Kyudo Shido no  
Riron to Jissai", Humaido, p.45.  
(Upper Right picture is Mr. Kiyomichi Ogasawara)



# Conceptual difference



# Transition from “Jutsu” to “Do” in DNBK



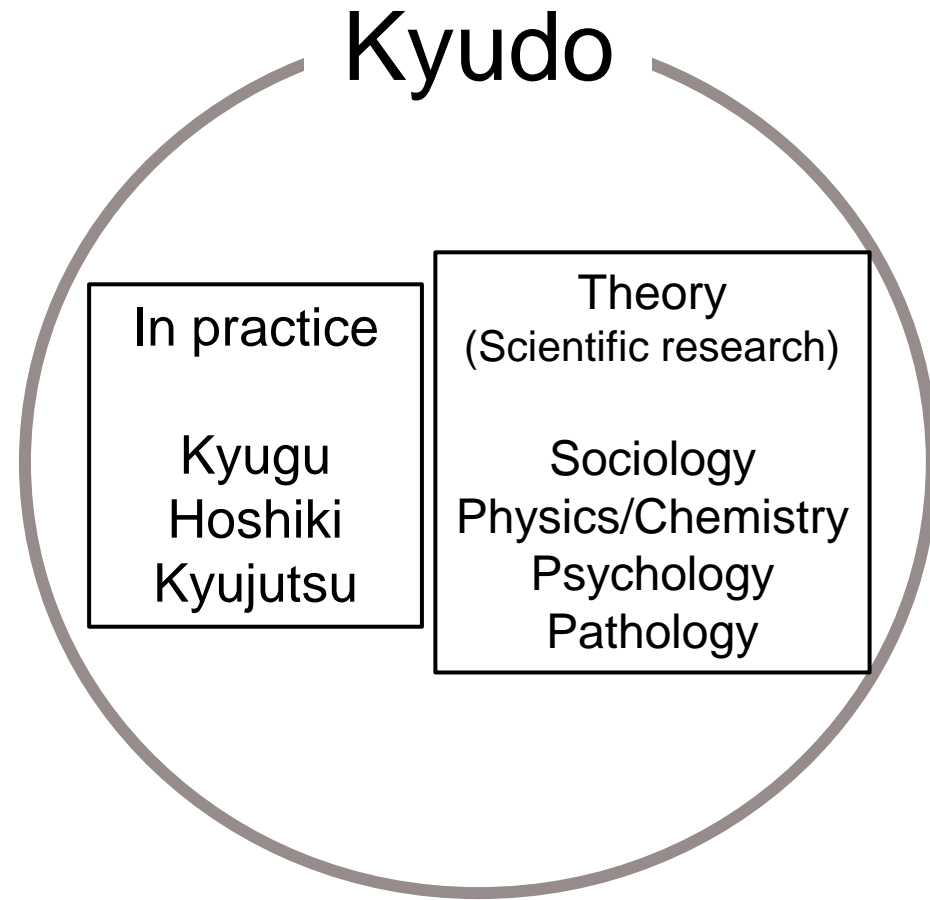
## DNBK distinguished “Jutsu” & “Do”

➡ Many Kyudoka have come to encourage the use of “Kyudo”

- ❑ Synchronous oppositional concept used to emphasize differences in practitioner behavior.
- ❑ It does NOT explain historical changes
- ❑ Intention to progress from Bujutsu to Budo

# Multiple “Kyudo” concepts –Dai Nippon Kyudo kai–

- Besides DNBK, there were several modern kyudo organizations.
- Dai Nippon Kyudo Kai was DNBK’s biggest rival.
- In 1919, Dai Nippon “Kyujutsu” Kai to Dai Nippon “Kyudo” Kai.
- “Kyujutsu” was an element of kyudo.



“Kyudo” concept in Dai Nippon Kyudo Kai

# Multiple “Kyudo” concepts –School clubs–

## Daini Koto Gakkou (第二高等学校)

“Kyujutsu” : A recreational physical activity

“Kyudo” : A mental activity developing character

**Using “kyudo” was strongly advocated.**



Great difference depending on  
the school

## Keio University (慶應義塾大学)

“Kyujutsu” : Originally included the meaning of spirituality,  
the physical body, and technique

“Kyudo” : Excessively focused on the spiritual aspect

**“kyujutsu club” is being used even today.**

# Use of the word “Kyudo” (弓道)

## □ Japanese dictionary : 1907～

※Japanese dictionaries treat “Kyudo” and “Kyujutsu” as synonym.

Kyudo            ➡ “One of the Japanese budo; kyujutsu”

Judo             ➡ “modernized sport derived from jujutsu”,

Kendo           ➡ “indoor sport developed from dojo kenjutsu”.

## □ Newspaper : (Asahi) 1920～ (Yomiuri) 1924～

## □ School club (Kyudo club) : 1911～

## □ Kyudo Book : 1918～

# Summary

- After the Meiji Restoration, Kyujutsuka found the significance of health and exercise on Kyujutsu, and tried to keep Kyujutsu alive.
- With the establishment of the DNBK, Bujutsu was revived, but kyujutsu was put at a lower level.
- The change from Bujutsu to Budo has reevaluated Kyudo.
- There was a multitude of factors in the transition from kyujutsu to kyudo.
- Each idea had its own reasoning, and while there were multiple parallel themes, the shift from kyujutsu to kyudo was made.

# *Thank you*



**Tomotsugu Goka, Ph.D.**

International Budo University

Faculty of Physical Education, Department of Budo

E-mail : [tomotsugu.goka2@budo-u.ac.jp](mailto:tomotsugu.goka2@budo-u.ac.jp)