

## A History of Wado-Kai



Master Hinori Ohtsuka



Master Ginchin Funakoshi,

Karate as a type of martial art system is very old, its origins can be traced back as far as the Greek Olympic Games of 776BC, but the name “karate” is quite new. The Japanese letter *kara* means empty and *te* means hand. Therefore it is commonly translated into empty hand - a combat art without using any weapons.

Wado-Ryu’s origins can be traced to a Chinese monk, Chin Genpin, who is reputed to have introduced “fist art” into Japan in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Over time, various senseis developed the theory of the Wado-Ryu style, until Master Hinori Ohtsuka formalised the techniques, with the basic philosophy of non-confrontation, either physically or mentally, remaining the underlying ethos.

Karate came to mainland Japan in 1921 when the Okinawan Master, Ginchin Funakoshi, travelled there. Hinori Ohtsuka, an accomplished Ju-Jitsu expert, made the pilgrimage to train with Master Funakoshi, who was so impressed by him, that he seconded him in many demonstrations in Japan to promote the new art.

In 1935 Japan’s National Governing Body for martial arts officially recognised the style of Wado-Ryu and the “way of peace” style was born. Wado-Kai is the name of the organisation within the Japan Karate Federation which practices the Wado-Ryu style of karate. The term Wado-Kai can be broken into three parts: Wa, do and kai. *Wa* can be read to mean 'peace'; *Do* is a Japanese term for 'way' (as in karate-do); So Wado means 'the way of peace'. *Kai* simply means 'association'.

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