

Kwan: 館 in Korean literally means building or hall, but when used in martial arts it can also refer to a school or clan of martial artists who follow the same style and/or leader.

This essay is about the first 9 original Kwan of Taekwondo.

Of the 9 original Kwan there are the 5 first Kwan and 4 offshoot Kwan resulting from split offs of the first 5.



- [Song Moo Kwan](#) - founded March 11, 1944 by Ro, Byung Jick, who had studied Shotokan (Song Do Kwan) karate along with Chung Do Kwan founder Lee, Won Kyuk under Gichin

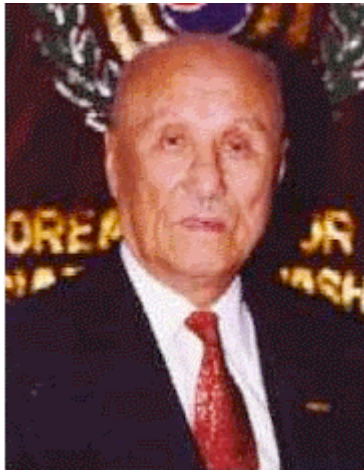


Funakoshi

in Japan. In the 1960's Ro's son and

eventual successor, Ro Hee Sang began studying Hapkido in 1963 and Northern Shaolin Kung Fu in 1967. He (Ro, Hee Sang) subsequently became an instructor to the Korean Army and one of Korea's Taekwondo champions. He trained Karate, Hapkido, Kumdo and Northern Shaolin Kung Fu. ^[1]

Song Moo Kwan is "The Ever Youthful House Of Martial Arts Training." Originally named "Song Do Kwan". Rich in history and tradition, Its founder [Byung Jick Ro](#), is one of the highest ranking [Taekwondo](#) practitioners in the world.



- [Chung Do Kwan](#) - founded in 1944 by Lee, Won Kyuk. He had studied [Taekkyon](#) in An Gup Dong(Seoul), He also studied Karate in Okinawa, Kung Fu centers in Henan and Shanghai in China, and other. ^[2] After liberation of Korea, the Chung Do Kwan had risen to become 2nd biggest Taekwondo organization in Korea.

GM Lee explains how he came up with the name Chung Do Kwan: "I was sitting on the beach in Korea watching the waves crash onto the shore. It then suddenly hit me that the name Blue Waves (Chung Do) would be a good name for the school, so I came up with the name Chung Do Kwan. I didn't want to call my school the Song Do Kwan because a child should have a different name than the father."



- [Moo Duk Kwan](#) - founded after 1946 by Hwang Kee. Kee studied [Taekkyon](#), [Tai Chi](#) and some types of [Kung Fu](#) with Yang Kuk Jin in

[China](#). Kee claims he learned the philosophy of Okinawan Karate from Gichin Funakoshi's books. His first two attempts at running a school of Hwa Soo Do were unsuccessful. He then trained with Won Kyuk Lee at the Chung Do Kwan, gaining the equivalent of a green belt. Lee claims Kee was his student, but Kee disputes Lee's claim, and acknowledges only Yang Kuk Jin as his teacher. In 1957, Kee made a discovery of Soo Bahk, a true Korean martial art, from [Muye Dobo Tongji](#). Kee developed the Soo Bahk system to be studied through the Moo Duk Kwan. He chose the name Soo Bahk Do, a derivative of Soo Bahk Ki, hand striking technique, and Soo Bahk Hee, hand striking dance, which were detailed in the [Muye Dobo Tongji](#). In 1960, the Korean Soo Bahk Do Association was incorporated and officially registered with the Korean government as the traditional Korean martial art. The following year, the Moo Duk Kwan discipline was recognized internationally for the first time. ^[3] By 1953 and onward until 1960, the Moo Duk Kwan had risen to become biggest Taekwondo organization in Korea, with close to 75% of all martial artists in Korea practicing Tang Soo Do Moo Duk Kwan.

Moo Duk Kwan is split into two groups. One is [Soo Bahk Do](#), formerly [Tang Soo Do](#), and earlier [Hwa Soo Do](#). The other is [Taekwondo](#) Moo Duk Kwan. [Soo Bahk Do](#) was founded by [Hwang Kee](#), [November 9, 1945](#).



Great Grandmaster
Byung In Yoon
1920 - 1983

- [Kwon Bop](#) Bu/[Chang Moo Kwan](#) - founded in 1946 by Yoon, Byung-In, who had studied Chinese Kung Fu ([ch'uan-fa](#)) under the guidance of a [Mongolian](#) instructor in [Manchuria](#). Later, Yoon trained karate at university



karate club in Japan with [Kanken Taniyama](#).



- Grand Master In Young Byung (Diamond) Grand Master Nam Suk Lee (Square) picture taken on February 19 th , 1949
- When he trained Karate in Japan, Japanese karate students pursued the Korean student and beat them up. Yoon Byung-in angered from the Japanese karate students, Yoon Byung-in sprung into action using Chuan-fa. He skillfully deflected and evaded the karate students' strikes and kicks to the point that they gave up and ran back to tell their teacher about what happened. Teacher [Kanken Toyama](#) invited Yoon Byung-in to tell him about the skillful non-karate martial art he used against his students. Yoon Byung-in explained to Toyama about his Chuan-fa education in Manchuria. Toyama appreciated the Chuan-fa background since he (Toyama) had studied Chuan-fa in Taiwan for 7 years, previously. They decided to exchange knowledge; Yoon Byung-in would teach Toyama Kanken Chuan-fa and Toyama Kanken would teach Yoon Byung-in his Shudo-Ryu karate.^[4] Yoon later created his art and called as Kwon Bop [Kong Soo Do](#). Yoon went missing during the [Korean War](#). His teachings were carried on by his top student Lee Nam Suk, who changed the name of the school to Chang Moo Kwan.
- [Yun Moo Kwan/Jidokwan](#) - founded March 3, 1946 by Chun, Sang Sup, who had studied Shotokan karate with Gichin Funakoshi in Japan, and later called his art Kong Soo Do. he had a very close relationship with Yoon, Byung-In, founder of Kwon Bop Bu. Chun and Yoon would travel to train with other martial artists, sometimes traveling to [Manchuria](#). They trained with each other so much that they became known as brothers. The full name of this kwan was "Chosun Yun Moo Kwan Kong Soo Do Bu" (the Chosun Yun Moo Kwan had been the original Japanese [Judo](#) school in Korea for over 30 years previously). Chun went missing during the Korean War; subsequently, this kwan voted to change its name to Jidokwan. After Chun disappeared in Korean War, the original students of Chun voted Master Yon who Trained in Chuan Fa in Manchuria as Jidokwan 1st President.^[5]

Later important Taekwondo kwans (post Korean War)



- [Han Moo Kwan](#) - founded in August 1954 by Lee Kyo Yoon as an offshoot of the Yun Moo Kwan/Jidokwan.
- Great Grand Master Kyo Yoon Lee was a student at the Chosun [Yun Moo Kwan Kong Soo Do](#) Bu, learning from its founder, [Sang Sup Chun](#). Later, when the Kwan changed its name to [Jidokwan](#), he remained a member for only a short time before starting his own annex Kwan by setting up a tent at a High School.
- Great Grand Master Kyo Yoon Lee continues to be active in the [Kukkiwon](#) and serves on the High Dan/Poom Black Belt promotion committee of the [Kukkiwon](#).
- Taekwondo Han Moo Kwan still exists today, but only as a fraternal social friendship club. The official training curriculum endorsed by Taekwondo Han Moo Kwan is the Kukkiwon curriculum. The current President of Taekwondo Han Moo Kwan remains its founder, Great Grand Master Kyo Yoon Lee. Han Moo Kwan as all Kwan, support the World Taekwondo Federation and Kukkiwon.



- [Oh Do Kwan](#) - founded in 1955 by [Choi Hong Hi](#), Nam Tae Hi and Han Cha Kyo as an offshoot of the Chung Do Kwan.
- The word *Oh* (吾) can be translated both as 'mine' and 'our', which makes the meaning of *Oh Do Kwan* 'the school of my (or our) way'.
- Oh Do Kwan, was originally called Dae Han Taekwon-Do Oh Do Kwan Jung Ang Bon Kwan in Seoul, Korea, and Oh Do Kwan also trained the Korean Military branches, the Korean Police throughout South Korea, and taught Taekwon-Do throughout the universities of Korea. Major General [Choi Hong Hi](#) founded the Oh Do Kwan along with Nam Tae Hi in the mid-1950s as part of the Republic of Korea Army's Physical Training Program. The first people to instruct the RoK Army in "[Tang Soo Do](#)" (as Taekwon-Do was called in the early 1950s, before it was thoroughly formalized and strictly modified after its naming on April 11, 1955) were Nam Tae Hi, Woo Jong Lim, Ko Jae Chun, Kim Suk Kyu, Baek Joon Ki (erroneous current President), Kwak Keun Sik, Kim Bong Sik, Han Cha Kyo, Kim Bok Man (almost all of whom were originally [Chung Do Kwan](#) members).



Great Grandmaster
Chul Hee Park
1933 -

- [Kang Duk Won](#) - founded in 1956 by Park Chul Hee and Hong Jong Pyo as an offshoot of the Kwon Bop Bu/Chang Moo Kwan.
- Today, Kang Duk Won still exists in Korea and is officially known as [Taekwondo Kang Duk Won](#), which is a social friendship club that endorses the Kukkiwon system and supports the [World Taekwondo Federation](#).
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- [Jung Do Kwan](#) - founded in 1956 by Lee Yong Woo (died August, 2006) as an offshoot of the Chung Do Kwan.
- This is detailed in "A Modern History of Taekwondo" by Kyong Myong Lee and Kang Won Sik (1999).
- An original student of the [Chung Do Kwan](#), Young Woo Lee was advised by the current [Chung Do Kwan](#) president to choose a similar name to Chung Do Kwan, so he chose Jung Do Kwan.
- Young Woo Lee passed away in August 2006 in [Seoul, Korea](#). Until his death, he remained active in the [World Taekwondo Federation](#), and served on the Dan/Poom black Belt promotion committee of the Kukkiwon.
- Taekwondo Jung Do Kwan still exists today, but only as a fraternal social friendship club. The official training curriculum endorsed by Taekwondo Jung Do Kwan is the Kukkiwon curriculum. The new President of the Jung Do Kwan will be announced soon.
- The word *jung* can be translated as *righteous* while *do* means way. So Jung Do Kwan can be translated as school of the righteous way.

References

1. [^ History of Song Moo Kwan. The World Song Moo Kwan Association](#)
2. [^ Interview with Lee, Won Kyuk. Accademia Italiana Tang Su Do](#)
3. [^ Brief History of the Moo Duk Kwan. World Moo Duk Kwan Official Web Site](#)
4. [^ Grandmaster Yoon Byung-In Story](#)
5. [^ Jidokwan history](#)