

HEIAN

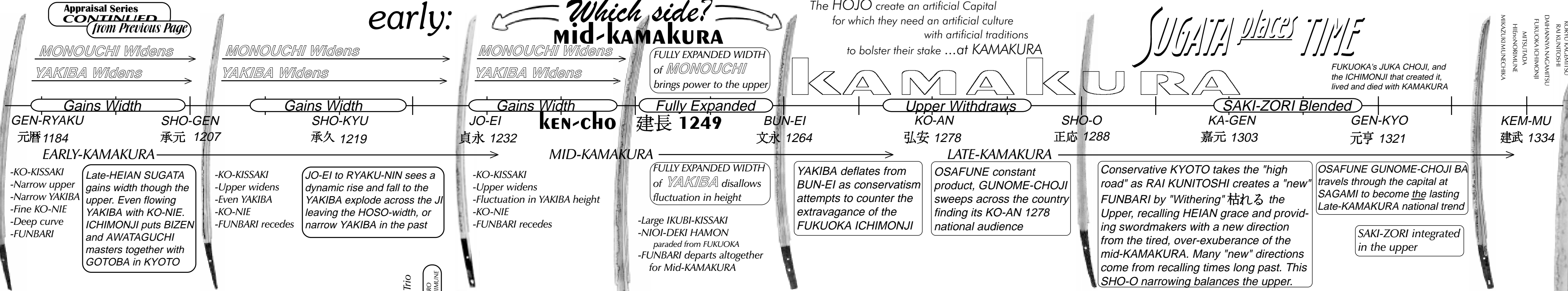
early:

Which side? mid-KAMAKURA

The HOJO create an artificial Capital for which they need an artificial culture with artificial traditions to bolster their stake ...at KAMAKURA

SUGATA places TIME

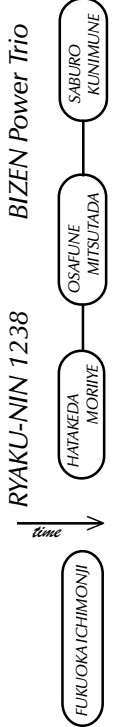
FUKUOKA's JUKA CHOJI, and the ICHIMONJI that created it, lived and died with KAMAKURA



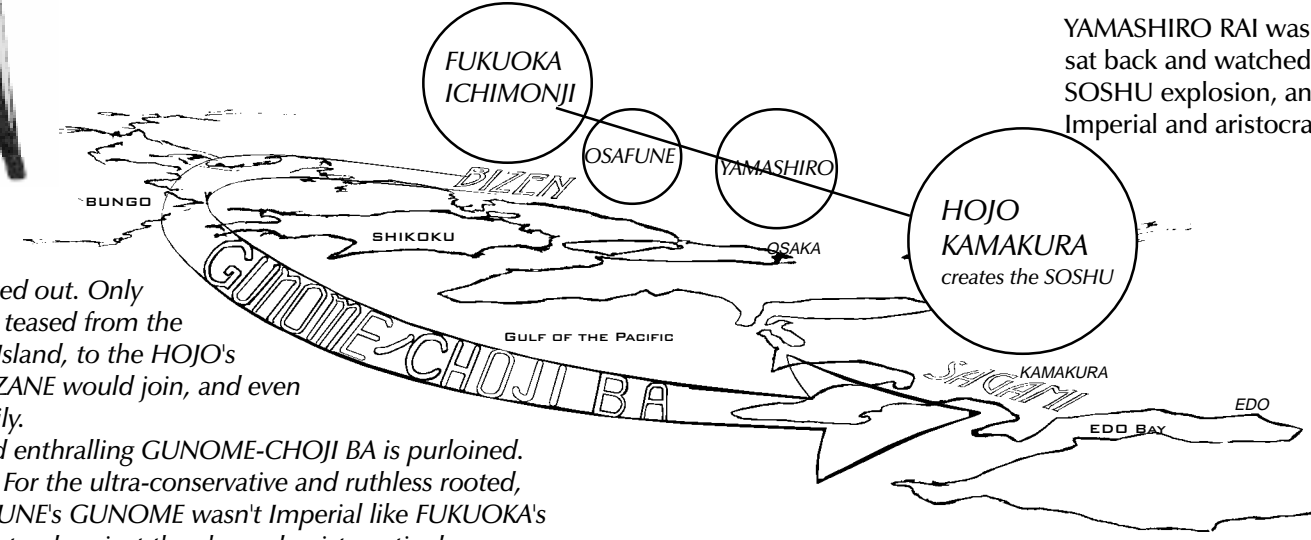
This is a story of style...
 1208: GOTOKU-TENNO and FUKUOKA NORIMUNE create the ICHIMONJI
 Late HEIAN SUGATA, low YAKIBA with KO-NIE
 Three generations of FUKUOKA smiths pull all stops. Dynamic-design expansion climbs steadily to KEN-CHO 1249, with their full SUGATA, full YAKIBA, UTSURI filled JI.
 Artistic genius, OSAFUNE MITSUTADA stands with SABURO KUNIMUNE and HATAKEDA MORIYE as an alternative, three-sided power block in BIZEN.

NOTE:
 Appraising swords is understanding the twin-step path to place origin: *First time, then place*. I am authoring, afresh, the well-beaten road of sword appraisal with new views to the old game.

SUGATA places time
 An aspect of SUGATA (the shape of the sword blade) is the style of YAKIBA. These two together, the *shape* of the sword blade and the *shape* of its YAKIBA find the *time* of origin.



1249:
 At this time, the AWATAGUCHI had tired out. Only remaining son, KUNITUNA had been teased from the forge of lost Imperial dreams, on OKI Island, to the HOJO's KAMAKURA. Token ICHIMONJI, SUKEZANE would join, and even BIZEN true blood, SABURO, temporarily.
 With them, MITSUTADA's dynamic and enthralling GUNOME-CHOJI BA is purloined. Nothing new for SHIKKEN, TOKIYORI. For the ultra-conservative and ruthless rooted, house of HOJO needed culture. OSAFUNE's GUNOME wasn't Imperial like FUKUOKA's CHOJI BA. And KAMAKURA needed a stand against the charged, aristocratic dynamo of Imperial laden ICHIMONJI craft: Intoxicated on its own momentum and reeling with wild abandon, it had escaped all bounds of restraint. Always there and always taunting.



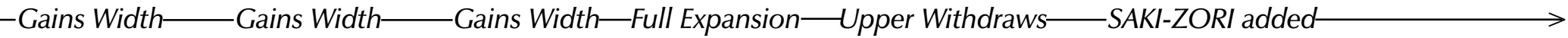
YAMASHIRO RAI was conservative by nature. They and hardworking OSAFUNE sat back and watched the HOJO, with their rag-tag put-together, yet successful SOSHU explosion, answer the ever-present and ever-growing exuberance of the Imperial and aristocratic-imbued, 2nd generation FUKUOKA ICHIMONJI.

RAI: Refined and distinctive SUGUHA
 They also incorporate the popular OSAFUNE GUNOME popularized of the RYAKU-NIN Powerhouse Three: **HATAKEDA MORIYE - OSAFUNE MITSUTADA - SABURO KUNIMUNE**

OSAFUNE: MITSUTADA's brilliant undulating GUNOME-CHOJI BA is irresistibly infectious
 Generations of workers proudly take their turns holding the same seats at the same table

FUKUOKA: JUKA and OBUSA KAWAZU CHOJI-MIDARE BA
 FUKUOKA pulls out all stops to grab and hold the prize

SOSHU: Stealing BIZEN's undulating GUNOME, they forge fantastic steel into fantastic structures
 KAMAKURA's breakup sends SOSHU undulating GUNOME patterns out the HOKURIKU through the North and radiating with students from SA's CHIKUZEN in all directions in the South



NAMBOKUCHO
 EN-GEN 延元 1336

HESHIKIRI KUNISHICE -mid-NAMBOKUCHO SUGATA