

# BRIEF HISTORY OF TAI-JITSU AND NIHON-TAI-JITSU IN FRANCE

By Roland HERNAEZ, founder of the system or method (SEIDO)  
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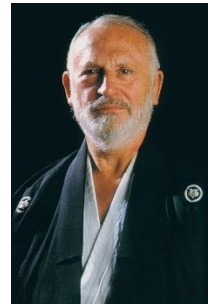


In 1951 started for me the great adventure of BUDO, first with JUDO, then a few years later by the discovery of various martial arts poorly known in Europe: I am talking about KARATE-DO, KENDO, AIKIDO and TAI-JITSU.

I was lucky to meet and follow exceptional masters: MIKINOSUKE KAWAISHI in JUDO-JUJUTSU, LUC LEVANNIER in JUDO, HENRY PLEE in



KARATE-DO and JIM ALCHEIK in AIKIDO and TAI-JITSU. A young instructor of JUDO and JUJUTSU (JIU-JITSU at that time), I was immediately attracted by these new BUDO, well, new for EUROPE! I followed these SENSEI who marked my life until their death: MIKINOSUKE KAWAISHI and JIM ALCHEIK. I also have a thought for HENRY PLEE, friend and teacher who made me discover KARATE-DO. It is worth noting that the first association was called FEDERATION FRANCAISE DE BOXE LIBRE ET KARATE (FRENCH FEDERATION OF FREE BOXING AND KARATE) and was based rue de la Montagne Sainte-Geneviève in PARIS (FRANCE).



At the same time, in 1957, the F.F.A.T.K was created: FEDERATION FRANCAISE D'AIKIDO, TAI-JITSU et KENDO (FRENCH FEDERATION of AIKIDO, TAI-JITSU and KENDO), presided by Mr BLANC and with JIM ALCHEIK as technical director. The name F.F.A.T.K was also at the same time used by a major JUDO association: FEDERATION FRANCAISE DES AMATEURS DES TECHNIQUES DU KODOKAN (FRENCH FEDERATION OF THE KODOKAN TECHNIQUES' AMATEURS).

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Quickly I became part of the Technical Commission and even though I was practicing AIKIDO and KARATE-DO, I was very interested in the study of TAI-JITSU. At that time, in the late 50s/early 60s, TAI-JITSU was a JUJUTSU school influenced by the technique and spirit of its master, MINORU MOCHIZUKI. These martial arts occupied a big part of my existence and the early enthusiasm never faded away along the years.



After the tragic death of my teacher and friend JIM ALCHEIK in 1962, I kept studying YOSEIKAN AIKIDO with HIROO, MINORU MOCHIZUKI's son, whom I thank for his technique and kindness, as well as for all he brought to BUDO with his personal research.

My research in the field of JUJUTSU led me along the years not to change the techniques, but to create a new logical and pedagogical system for the study and progression of TAI-JITSU, and this in the different clubs where I was teaching at that time: ST GERMAIN EN LAYE, BOULOGNE BILLANCOURT, LE CHESNAY and RUEIL MALMAISON. My clubs and the ones of my former students gathered under the BUDO ACADEMIE association in 1966.

Time flies... and we reach 1972. I got the privilege with my two assistants to be received for a seminar in MINORU MOCHIZUKI's DOJO in SHIZUOKA (JAPAN). I own a document, signed by him, give me in this occasion, full delegation of his school's JUJUTSU, as well as of TAI-JITSU. That is how, back from JAPAN, I created on December 9, 1972, the FEDERATION FRANCAISE OF TAI-JITSU (FRENCH FEDERATION OF TAI JITSU) headquartered at my place, in RUEIL MALMAISON, in parallel of the FEDERATION FRANCAISE OF SHORINJI KEMPO (FRENCH FEDERATION OF SHORINJI KEMPO) of which I was the first black belt. This responsibility given to me by MINORU MOCHIZUKI SENSEI, got confirmed during the day he spent at my home, a few years later, then in his DOJO in JAPAN with the signature of very high-ranked Japanese masters in different BUDO in 1985 and 1987.

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To keep going with history, the FEDERATION FRANCAISE de TAI-JITSU ended up being the first associated discipline of the French KARATE, following an agreement signed on June 15 1977 between Mr Jacques DELCOURT, F.F.K.A.M.A president and myself.

Following the 1985 and 1987 seminars in Japan, and on the proposition of MINORU MOCHIZUKI SENSEI, as well as the association of Japanese BUDO experts, it was decided to add the prefix NIHON to TAI-JITSU to mark the Japanese authenticity related to the method (SEIDO): addition of new KATA, added techniques from NIHON JUJUTSU, new forms of sparring and randori (GOSHIN SHOBU and SAN JYU KUMITE). Keep in mind this method was fully put together by myself (the 3rd basic kata only was prepared by one of my assistants).



The name TAI-JITSU got changed in 1985 to become NIHON TAI-JITSU. The technical and pedagogical method forms a ROKUKIO, i.e. a six elements or principles component:

1. Educatives and TE HODOKI (TAI SABAKI, dodge/parade, movement)
2. Basic techniques composed of 4 series of 8 techniques: ATEMI, LOCKS, THROWS, CHOKES/SUTEMI
3. KATA specific to NIHON TAI-JITSU (3 KATA alone, 6 with partner(s) and 2 KATA for kids (KODOMO)) and of NIHON JUJUTSU (4 KATA), for a total of 15 KATA including 12 with partner(s) before the 4th DAN.
4. SELF DEFENCE (JUJUTSU)
5. RANDORI/SHIAI (fighting)
6. Traditional KUATSU and history of Japanese Budo

Roland HERNAEZ



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## MAJOR OFFICIAL DATES

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|---------|---|
| 1957    | First dojo of TAI-JITSU, followed by the first federation (F.F.A.T.K.)  |
| 1966    | Creation of BUDO ACADEMIE, official in 1971   |
| 1972    | Creation of the FEDERATION FRANCAISE DE TAÏ JITSU (J. O. of 09/12/1972)   |
| 1977    | Signature of agreement between the F.F.TJ and the F.F.K.A.M.A   |
| 1983    | Creation of the INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TAI-JITSU, SELF-DEFENCE AND ASSOCIATED DISCIPLINES (F.I.T.J)  |
| 1985-87 | TAI-JITSU becomes NIHON TAÏ-JITSU (Agreement between F.I.T.J and Japanese organisations) and the school becomes member of the KYOTO'S SEIBUKAN (All Budo Japan Federation). |
| 1992    | On September 14, 1992, the F.I.T.J becomes F.I.N.T.J. : INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF NIHON TAI-JITSU, TAI-JITSU, JU-JUTSU AND ASSOCIATED DISCIPLINES                         |
| 2000    | Creation of the high-ranked technical and pedagogical college   |
| 2008    | In March 2008, the F.I.N.T.J. becomes the F.M.NI.TAI : WORLD FEDERATION OF NIHON TAI-JITSU, NIHON JU-JUTSU, TAI-JITSU AND ASSOCIATED DISCIPLINES                            |

