

HEIAN

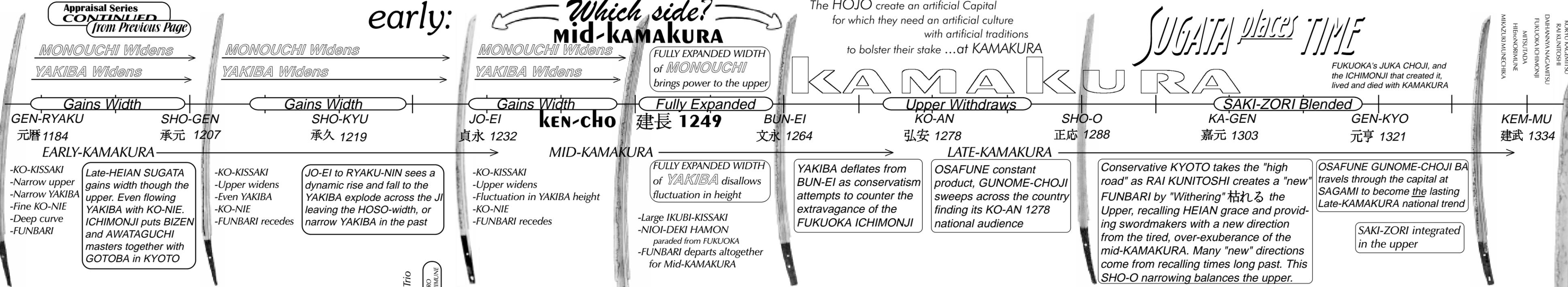
early:

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



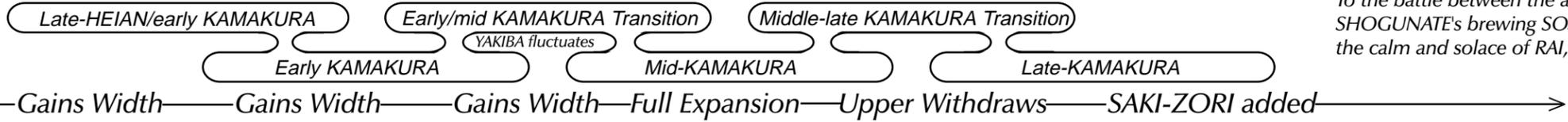
**This is a story of style...**  
1208: GOTABA-TENNO and FUKUOKA NORIMUNE create the ICHIMONJI  
Late HEIAN SUGATA, low YAKIBA with KO-NIE  
Three generations of FUKUOKA smiths pull all stops. Dynamic-design expansion climbs steadily to KEN-CHO 1249, with their full SUGATA, full YAKIBA, UTSURI filled 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 it's YAKIBA find the time of origin.

1249:  
At this time, the AWATAGUCHI had tired out. Only remaining son, KUNITSUNA 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.

Against the gloating power of FUKUOKA and the incubating talent at KAMAKURA, OSAFUNE passed its style and crown down a succession of sons, reforming their house with familiar names to familiar stations. To the battle between the aristocracy with its ICHIMONJI and the SHOGUNATE's brewing SOSHU, responsible hands in KYOTO brought the calm and solace of RAI, a re-newed energy coming to the Capitol.



NAMBOKUCHO EN-GEN 延元 1336

HESHIKIRI KUNISHICE -mid-NAMBOKUCHO SUGATA