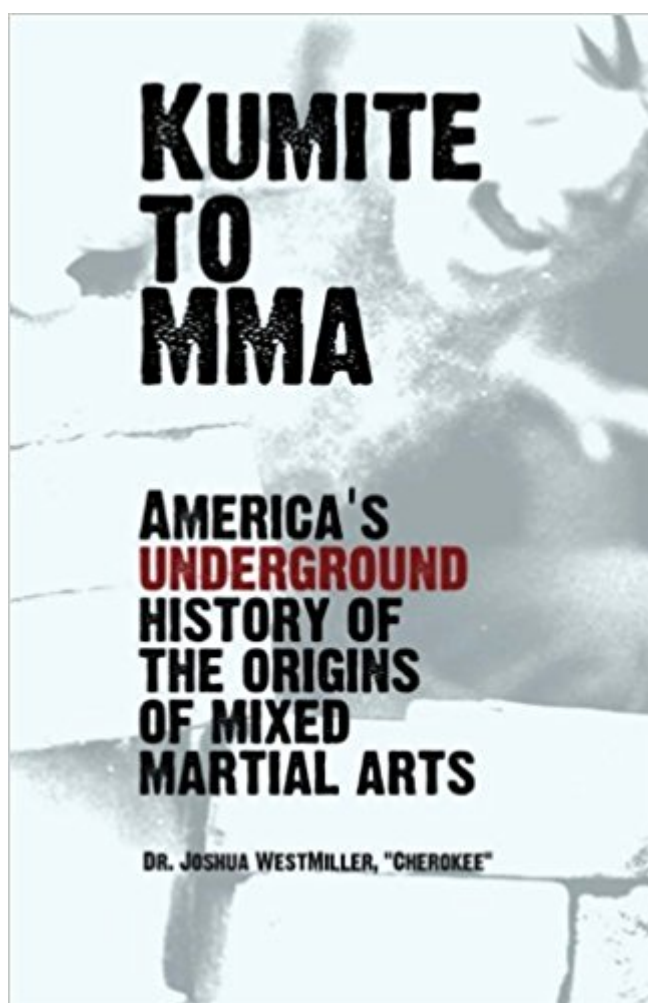


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# Kumite To MMA: America's Underground History Of The Origins Of Mixed Martial Arts



## Synopsis

In this no-holds barred,tell-all account, Headmaster and Martial Arts Hall of Famer, Dr. WestMiller tells of his days as the first American to be invited to compete in the elite and underground Kumite. He first began fighting at Master Hidetaka Nishiyama's suggestion in 1962, and retired in 1964 with an astounding record of 27 wins and zero losses. Ten years later, Frank Dux would establish his Martial Arts name by fighting in this same no-holds barred Kumite world. As Frank Dux related in an interview with Martial Arts Illustrated, the early days of MMA in the US were filled with real, full-contact, no-holds-barred fighters who didn't hide behind styles, but were willing to fight anyone, anywhere. Because of the underground nature of such competitions, few were filmed and many fighters competed under pseudonyms, like "a fighter known only by his handle 'Cherokee'; whose real identity is Joshua West Miller, Hidetaka Nishiyama's student."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Find out what the experts, oldest masters and most dedicated fight fans are all talking about. Discover the true story behind the early development of Mixed Martial Arts in America and who the earliest pioneers, masters and Kumite fighters were in the United States in the 1960s when it all began. These underground fights and fighters were the crucible in which mixed martial arts and the U.S. fight world were born, but few have ever seen video of, or learned much about, these secretive and violent competitions. -- Dr. Corey Lee Lewis, 7th Dan Black Belt, Former National Tae

## Kwon Do Champion

It has now been a full Half-Century since I quit fighting, playing big-time money-pool, and being known to everyone by the one single name, "CHEROKEE". I have volunteered in service to Martial Arts Schools and, on rare occasion to individuals, in furtherance of people's broader understandings of true Martial Arts and the deep human understandings available through the practice of these Arts. In 1962 I gave "Mixed Martial Arts" ("MMA") that name because I couldn't think of any better one to describe what I was doing. Before fighting I was simply asked: What is your Federation? I never had any intention to found, and/or name, a new branch of Martial Arts. Although, I was breaking all tradition by blending the Arts the way I was, with no allegiance to any particular Clan, in any particular village, in any particular section of any particular country, dictating that I could kick, block, and punch only in a specific, traditionally formed and constrained way. All other fighters of that day were members of a Martial Arts Federation. China, Korea, Japan and others had their own Stylistic Systems such as; Kung Fu, Tong Soo Do or Karate. And, within each of these Stylistic Federations, each had their own sub-sets, and sub-sets of those sub-sets. I was a Caucasian ("round-eye"), with no such constraints. My advantage was immense in this regard. I used the best I found from all sources and invented some others. I successfully proved my point. Competition is won by those with the most skill, and the largest/best quiver. In my earlier Draft of this Book I was writing from the perspectives that I had then, using the best information available to me at that time when I was writing about other Martial Artists. I have learned new things about Bruce Lee since. So, I am adding here, to my previous (five decades older), perspectives on Bruce. While seeking and studying I learned many things. It now seems to me that Bruce did also, in much the same way, after the last I knew about him that long Half-Century ago. CHEROKEE left Southern California in 1964. In 1964 Bruce Lee began a new pathway in Martial Arts. His "Way of The Intercepting Fist" carries the name of the actual practices of my Core Style-Element in the Style of CHEROKEE. Namely: breaking the fist attempting to strike me, instead of blocking it away, or doing the same with incoming feet, knees, legs, and/or arms, and then putting the impaired attacker down with a well-targeted single strike. I have learned that Bruce taught certain philosophical and physical "direct attack" tactics and techniques that were among those I developed and/or employed. He also was successful in discarding culturally-instilled perspectives of genealogical superiority and replacing them with a more generalized acceptance of all things, assigning value based upon their capacity to contribute superiorly. Now people outside of Kumite are learning the true origins of MMA. The further advancement of the Martial Arts has

always been my intention. Begin with knowing. Thank you.~ Â Dr. Joshua WestMiller, AKA "Cherokee"

Very informative book I enjoyed reading ! My brother is mentioned in the book, martial arts has always been part of us, and what he is doing for the kids is phenomenal! Thanks for writing this book!

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