

Unveiling the Hidden History of Jiu-Jitsu in Brazil: An Exclusive Look at the 1950s and 1960s



The martial art of jiu-jitsu has a long and rich history in Brazil, dating back to the early 20th century. In the 1950s and 1960s, jiu-jitsu experienced a surge in popularity in Brazil, thanks in large part to the efforts of the Gracie family. This article will provide an in-depth look at the untold story of jiu-jitsu in Brazil during this period, exploring the key figures, events, and influences that shaped the development of the art in the country.

Choque: The Untold Story of Jiu-Jitsu in Brazil, 1950-

1960 by Roberto Pedreira

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The Gracie Family: Pioneers of Jiu-Jitsu in Brazil

The Gracie family is synonymous with jiu-jitsu in Brazil. Carlos Gracie, the patriarch of the family, first brought jiu-jitsu to Brazil in 1925. Carlos and his brothers Helio, George, and Oswaldo quickly established themselves as masters of the art, and they began teaching jiu-jitsu to students in Rio de Janeiro.

The Gracies developed a unique style of jiu-jitsu that was adapted to the Brazilian physique and fighting style. They emphasized ground fighting and submission holds, and they developed a series of techniques that allowed them to defeat larger and stronger opponents.

The Rise of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu

In the 1950s and 1960s, Brazilian jiu-jitsu began to gain popularity outside of the Gracie family's circle of students. Helio Gracie's son, Rolls Gracie, was a charismatic and skilled fighter who helped to spread the popularity of jiu-jitsu throughout Brazil. Rolls Gracie traveled extensively, giving seminars and competing in tournaments. He also established the first jiu-jitsu academy outside of Rio de Janeiro, in the city of Salvador.

Other members of the Gracie family also played a significant role in the development of Brazilian jiu-jitsu. Carlson Gracie, Helio Gracie's cousin, developed a more aggressive and sport-oriented style of jiu-jitsu. Carlson Gracie's students went on to become some of the most successful fighters in the world, including Rickson Gracie and Royler Gracie.

The Challenges Facing Jiu-Jitsu in Brazil

Despite the growing popularity of jiu-jitsu in Brazil, the art faced a number of challenges during the 1950s and 1960s. One of the biggest challenges was the lack of recognition from the Brazilian government. Jiu-jitsu was not considered a legitimate sport, and it was often banned from being taught in schools and academies.

Another challenge facing jiu-jitsu in Brazil was the prejudice of the upper class. Jiu-jitsu was associated with the lower classes, and it was often seen as a rough and violent art. This prejudice made it difficult for jiu-jitsu to gain acceptance from the mainstream.

The Future of Jiu-Jitsu in Brazil

Despite the challenges it faced, jiu-jitsu continued to grow in popularity in Brazil throughout the 1950s and 1960s. By the end of the decade, jiu-jitsu had become one of the most popular martial arts in the country.

Today, jiu-jitsu is a thriving art in Brazil, with millions of practitioners. Brazilian jiu-jitsu is also one of the most popular martial arts in the world, and it is taught in academies in over 100 countries.

The 1950s and 1960s were a pivotal period in the development of jiu-jitsu in Brazil. During this time, the Gracie family and other pioneers helped to

spread the popularity of the art throughout the country. Despite facing a number of challenges, jiu-jitsu continued to grow in popularity, and it is now one of the most popular martial arts in the world.



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