

AFROASIATIK

A kung-fu hip-hop, chambarap and samurasta larp

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Excerpts from the *Afroasiatik* Player Booklet

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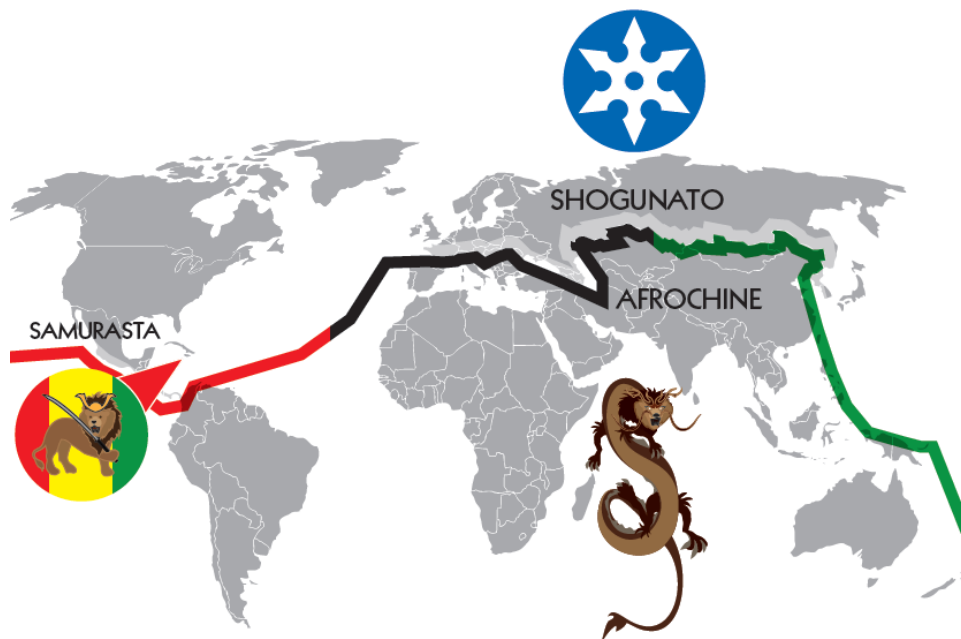
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For more on *Afroasiatik*: <http://www.thomasbe.com/2014/01/27/afroasiatik/>

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The two blocks of the Afroasiatik game world (Samurastas are just an enclave)

Timeline

The following is not meant to be memorized. It is only there for fans of alternate histories who really want to know how we got there. If you're in a hurry, go straight to the 1970s.



1864: The Japanese are fed up with being visited / invaded by Westerners. They decide to go and say it to their faces via a diplomatic world tour. On their way, they pass through Africa and discover the ravages of colonization. Westerners refuse to listen: they will keep coming to Japan if they so desire. Depressed, the diplomats travel as far as Jamaica, where they are received like brothers. Jamaicans exchange ideas on anti-colonialism, learn bushido, the way of the warrior, and create the first dojos for clandestine samurais in the hills. They pledge allegiance to the Emperor and ensure that the delegation safely returns to Japan. Psyched by these interactions, the Japanese go home, unleash the power of martial arts and beat the shit out of all Westerners trying to conquer the island.

1899: Members of the Chinese secret society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists, better known as Boxers [Translator's Note: in French the word used is "boxeuses", as in the game world they're all female] recon that they also master martial arts. They have strange powers, are superfast, bulletproof, and triumph over European colons thanks to their kung fu. Empress Cixi is happy to finally see her people react. She poisons her husband and hands over power to her daughter, Empress Longyu. This is the end of male supremacy in China. For ever.

1914-1918: Deprived of Asian colonies, Europeans resolve their anger issues by beating up each other during WWI. They then further colonize Africa.

1919: Marcus Garvey, a Jamaican samurai, prophesizes the crowning of a Black king in Africa. This king would be God on Earth (or Jesus or Buddha, we don't really know). In the Western world, no one believes Garvey and everyone laughs at him. Shogunato is slightly miffed, because there is only one God-Emperor, and he's in Japan.

1928: Ras Tafari Makonnen, Haile Selassie, is crowned Negus (Emperor) of Ethiopia. For the followers of Marcus Garvey, this is proof that the messiah has arrived, and they name themselves Rastafarians.

1929: Wall Street Krach. American capitalists refuse Roosevelt's New Deal and the USA degenerates into a mosaic of Mad Max-style barbarian communities.

1934: Imbued with the power of African martial arts, including the famous testa, a head-butt-based martial art, Haile Selassie's army totally defeats Mussolini's. It does not stop there and decolonizes all of Africa, turning it into the Ethiopian Empire. Meanwhile, seeing that Shogunato is getting stronger, and worrying about her borders, Empress Longyu proposes to Haile Selassie. They get married and create Afrochina. A long period of conquests ensues. India, and later the rest of the southern hemisphere, are conquered by the combined Afrochinese troops.

1939-1945: Westerners finish destroying each other through WWII.

1941: Shogunato destroys Pearl Harbor and conquers the USA, which did not amount to much anymore since the 1929 Krach. During that time, Afrochina goes through an internal and merciless class war. Afrochinese imperial nobility are slaughtered. Haile Selassie disappears and Empress Longyu is beheaded with a particularly mighty roundhouse kick.

1942: The Germans and the Russians annihilate each other at Stalingrad. Shogunato's army picks up the pieces.

1944: Shogunato achieves junction of its Normandy and Eastern frontlines. It recovers for a year then figures it'd be up for invading everything south of its borders.

1945: Afrochina, now a People's Republic, drops two nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, stopping any attempt at invasion. Shogunato and Afrochina sign a truce treaty in a luxury hotel in Lausanne, Switzerland. Facing the horrors of atomic bombs and the class war massacres, the women of Afrochina decide they've had enough with this bullshit. Men have proven their shortcomings and it's time for women to rule everywhere. To protect themselves from a highly phallocratic empire, they extend the Great Wall to the rest of the Earth. Silent hatred and a cold war start between the two great powers.



The great wall of Afrochina prevents the Bern Shogunate from advancing forward.

1960: Westerners, now colonized populations, are forcefully assimilated. Samurasta, officially unaligned, obtain custody of the zen gardens. They take the opportunity to grow weed for the own consumption. Everyone thinks they're dirty hippies, adepts of an old dead king (in Afrochina) or dark-skinned traitors (in Shogunato).

1970: A Jamaican Samurasta based in New York city, DJ Kool Herc, invents hip-hop music by looping breaks of funk music records. The toasting flow of Jamaican DJs is imported in the USA and pioneers like Afrika Bambaataa and Grandmaster Flash spread a message of unity. Dancers build upon James Brown's most acrobatic moves and breakdancing is born. This is the first time that a non-reggae samurasta music style is successful outside of Jamaica. Hip-hop spreads throughout Shogunato and arrives in Afrochina via zen gardens. It is the first culture preaching unity across blocks, and it doesn't mention Haile Selassie anymore.

1980: Hip-hop arrives in the European parts of Shogunato and Afrochina, yet again through the zen garden network. Using pirate radios and graffiti, a whole bunch of young people are touched by this culture with a radical unity message and such different aesthetics.

1990: Governments of Shogunato and Afrochina realize that something is happening and start to have rappers arrested by their respective elite troops: Ninjas and Boxers. Martial arts become the fifth element of hip-hop: it is time to learn how to defend one's self.

2000: To avoid fights between members of the two blocks within the hip-hop movement, the Samurastas introduce Battle of the Year events. They hope to bring some order to the competition.

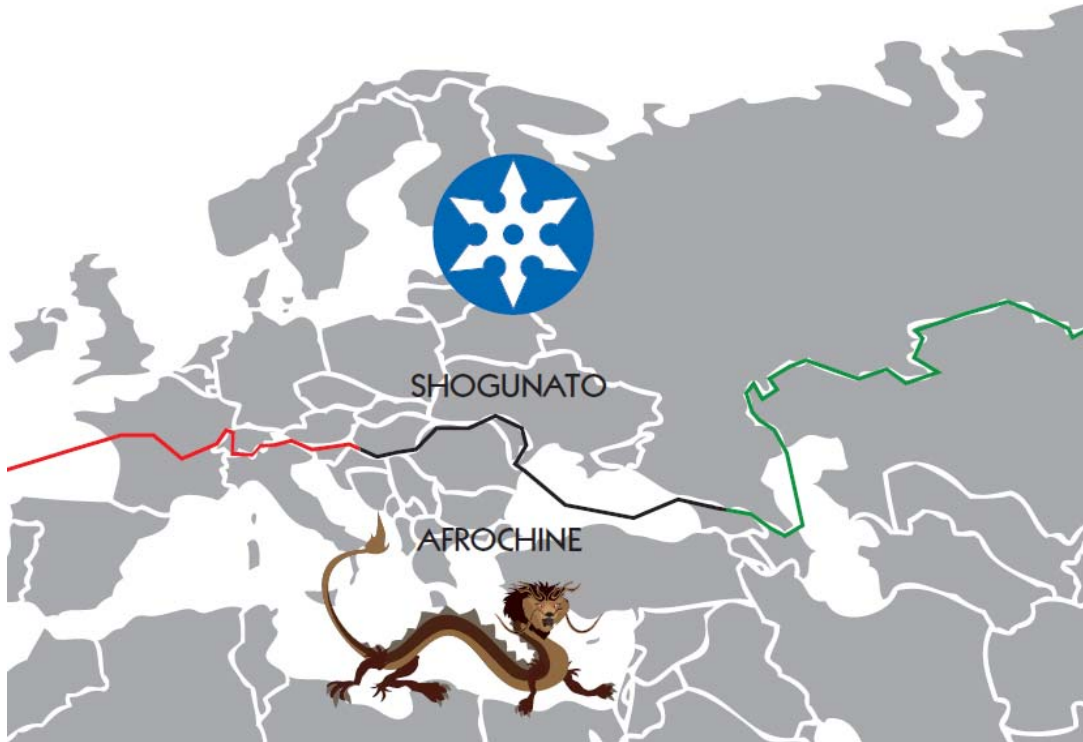
2010: Afrochina creates a new hip-hop sound that is liked by mainstream audiences. Some call it “commercial crossover success”, others call it “hypnosis for sheep”. People start saying that “rap used to be better”. [TN: a meme in the real, off-game French hip-hop scene, printed on t-shirts, see game pics]

2012: As payback for years of Afrochinese commercial musical domination, Shogunato wins the Battle of the Year. However, they are surprisingly discrete on the hip-hop front. Few concerts in Afrochina, few attendees at events hosted on Shogunative territory, no Great Purge of contemporary R&B singers... Samurastas are rather pissed off, Afrochinese rappers bluntly accuse the Shogunatives of hijacking hip-hop for their own personal (and hidden) agenda.

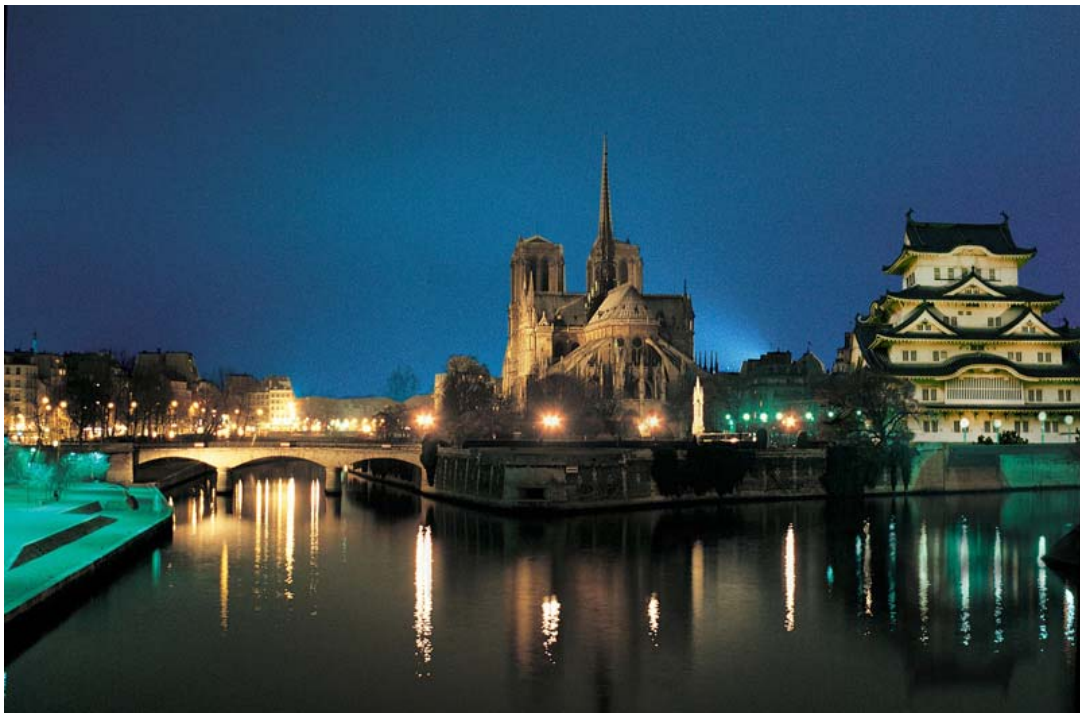
2013: Beginning of the larp at Stayzen Island, the zen garden in Aigle. The region was contested for years between Afrochina and Shogunato. Technically, it is on the territory of the Bern Shogunate, but under significant Afrochinese cultural influence.



The 5 elements of hip-hop



The two blocks shared old Europe amongst themselves



Paris Shogunate