

# Boshin War (1868)



Committee Background Guide

Director: Alex Yang





# Letter From Your Director

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Hi Everyone!

My name is Alex Yang and I am delighted to be the Director General of AHPMUN VII as well as the crisis director for this fantastic committee.

A little bit about myself: I am a senior at American Heritage and have been doing Model UN since freshman year, with a particular emphasis on crisis. Besides MUN, I am also Co-President/Co-Founder of the Florida Chapter of TASSEL - an international NGO that provides online English education and physical aid to rural Cambodians affected by the Cambodian Genocide. You can find me outside of school usually chilling with friends, watching basketball/football, or occasionally playing video games.

Although it is relatively obscure, the Boshin War is an event rich with alternative possibilities and an instrumental turning point in Japan's history, making it the perfect choice for a crisis committee. Expect excellent and hilarious in-room updates, complete with immersive props and superb acting! However, remember that how fun the weekend will be also relies on your frequent participation and in-depth crisis plans. But no need to panic, this background guide provides more than enough research material for you to be prepared (note: when reading, it is more important to just understand the general theme/trend; you do not have to remember the details about all the exact names and events).

I am excited to see what machinations you have in store and how you use your diverse portfolios to respond to various social, political, and military challenges. If you have any questions about committee or anything else, feel free to reach out to me at anytime before or during the conference.

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# Historical Context

## Early Japan

### Ancient History

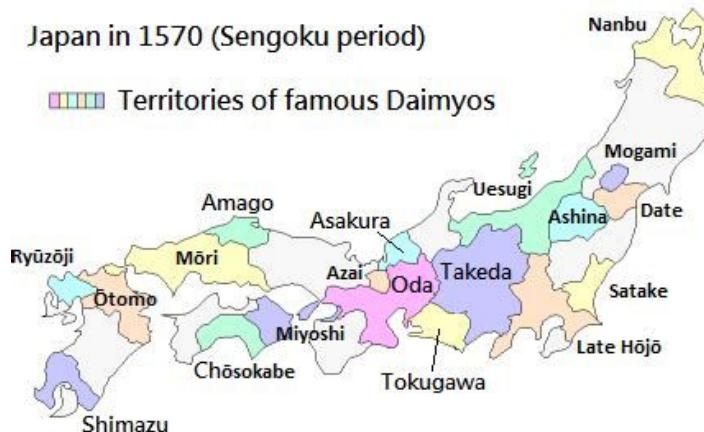
According to legend, the creation of Heaven and Earth was accompanied by that of myriad gods who became responsible for the various workings of the world. In 660 B.C., a man named Jimmu - a descendent of the powerful sun-goddess Amaterasu - launched an expedition that conquered the main island of Honshu. He was crowned first Emperor of Japan and became the founder of a family line, whose authority was backed by legendary origins, that gradually unified all of Japan through military conquest and diplomatic expansion. During the subsequent Asuka Period, two momentous doctrines were established as a result of influences from China's Tang Dynasty. The Taika Reforms of 645 centralized the power of the Imperial court and shifted local culture using Confucian ideals. The Taiho Code of 703 modeled its government after the central and provincial governments arrangement of China, but rejected their ideals of a meritocracy and the "Mandate of Heaven." Instead, Japanese government positions and class status were based on birth, and the Emperor's power was derived from his Imperial descent rather than his righteousness.

### Rise of the Samurai

Despite seeming at its peak of authority, the Imperial court rapidly declined during the later Heian period. In 858, skilled statesman Fujiwara no Yoshifusa created the office of *sesshō* ("regent") through which he could secretly rule whilst his grandson, also the Emperor, played the role of a figurehead. Henceforth, the Fujiwara clan utilized this practice of "cloistered rule" to grow in size and power, but so did other clans. As the court succumbed to internal power struggles, the Taira and Minamoto clans - both scions of the Imperial family - acquired many manors and large armies of samurai warriors. In 1156, a succession crisis erupted when rival claimants Emperor Go-Shirakawa and Emperor Sutoku hired Taira and Minamoto retainers, respectively, to secure the throne. The feud forged between the two families became an even greater danger, resulting in several more civil wars and eventually the destruction of the Taira in the Genpei War.



## Sengoku Jidai



Map displaying the most powerful clans of the Sengoku Jidai.

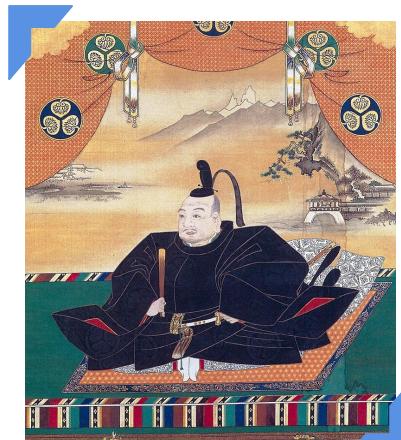
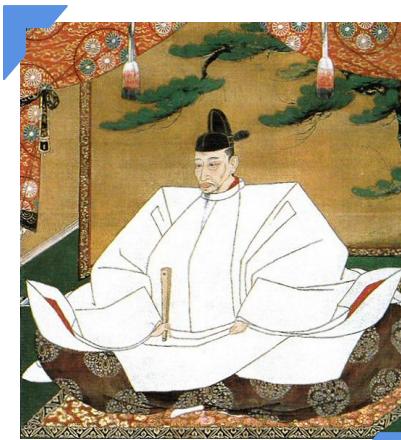
In 1467, several daimyōs fought the Ōnin War to contest the succession to the shōgun. A decade of war nearly obliterated the capital of Kyoto and completely evaporated the central authority of the Ashikaga Shogunate. Without any respite, Japan plummeted into a state of absolute chaos with various factions - mostly daimyō-led clans but also rebellious peasants and even “warrior monks” - fighting for control of the country. Some famous daimyōs of the era included Takeda Shingen and Uesugi Kenshin, but the most prominent were the “Three Unifiers of Japan:” Oda Nobunaga, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, and Tokugawa Ieyasu.

Oda Nobunaga, remembered for his leadership and ruthlessness, trained armies of ashigaru peasant soldiers, armed them with muskets (weapons recently introduced by the arrival of Portuguese traders), and promoted soldiers based on merit. Using these tactics, he burst onto the scene and ended the Ashikaga Shogunate with his capture of Kyoto in 1568, but was unexpectedly killed by one of his own officers. Toyotomi Hideyoshi - an ashigaru Nobunaga had promoted to general - avenged his death, completed his dream of reunifying Japan, and enacted sweeping reforms that abolished slavery and confiscated swords from the peasantry. Still holding grand ambitions of conquering neighboring Ming China, Hideyoshi organized two invasions of Joseon Korea, but failed both times and died soon after in 1598.

Despite having received pledges from his subordinates to follow his son Hideyori, civil war broke out between two opposing camps: the daimyōs loyal to Hideyori (occupying most of the islands of Kyushu, Shikoku, and western Honshu) and those loyal to daimyō Tokugawa Ieyasu (occupying mainly eastern Honshu) - a former major ally of Hideyoshi and Nobunaga. Both sides met at the grand Battle of Sekigahara - the largest clash Japan ever witnessed - to decide the future of the country.



Although Tokugawa's "Eastern Army" was initially outnumbered and overpowered, Ieyasu had courted several daimyōs of the pro-Hideyori "Western Army" and secured their loyalty. In the midst of battle, their defections flipped the tide and forced the route of the "Western Army" which quickly disintegrated. In 1603, Emperor Go-Yōzei made Ieyasu shōgun of the new Tokugawa Shogunate, inaugurating a golden era of peace and stability named after the new capital at Edo.



(left to right): Portraits of daimyō Oda Nobunaga, sesshō Toyotomi Hideyoshi, and shōgun Tokugawa Ieyasu.



Screen depicting the grand clash of the pro-Toyotomi "Western" and pro-Tokugawa "Eastern" Armies at Sekigahara.



# Historical Context

## The Edo Period

### Political and Social Landscape

Ieyasu's victory at Sekigahara effectively gave him control of all Japan with only small pockets of Toyotomi resistance left. To break the cycle of constant warfare, he set about molding a new political landscape referred to as *bakuhān taisei* - a term mixing *bakufu* ("the military government") and *han* ("the daimyōs' domains") to symbolize the shared power arrangement between the Tokugawa government and the local daimyōs. The daimyōs directly related to Ieyasu, largely bordering Tokugawa territory, were given honorary titles and advisory offices in the Shogunate, forming the top tier of the feudal hierarchy called the *shinpan* ("related houses"). Second to them were the *fudai* ("house daimyōs"), the daimyōs who had been hereditary vassals of the Tokugawa before and during their rise to power were, who were rewarded with lands close to the Tokugawa and the majority of government positions. Laying at the bottom of the daimyō class were the *tozama* ("outsiders"), those who opposed the Tokugawa at Sekigahara or joined them afterwards, who were located along the periphery of Japan and barred from government posts. A few houses formerly allied with the Toyotomi were not even granted the chance of becoming *tozama* daimyōs, instead personally eradicated or abolished by Ieyasu who then redistributed their resources to the *shinpan* and *fudai* daimyōs. The major backbone supporting this *bakuhān taisei* was the *buke shohatto* ("Laws for the Military Houses") - a set of edicts passed and updated over time to govern the responsibilities of the daimyō and samurai aristocracies, ultimately guaranteeing the Tokugawa control over all affairs. The most important of the list essentially ruled:

- Daimyōs must present themselves at Edo for service to the Shogunate in accordance with the *sankin-kōtai* ("alternate attendance system").
- The formation of alliances, the expansion of military forces, and castle repairs (structural expansions are forbidden) must be reported and approved by the Shogunate.
- Ships large enough to carry over 500 *koku* (75 tonnes of rice) may not be constructed.
- Marriages among daimyōs and other persons of importance must not be arranged without approval from the Shogunate.
- Daimyōs must appoint men of administrative ability as their officials.
- Samurai should practice frugality and devote themselves to the study of literature and the practice of the military arts.



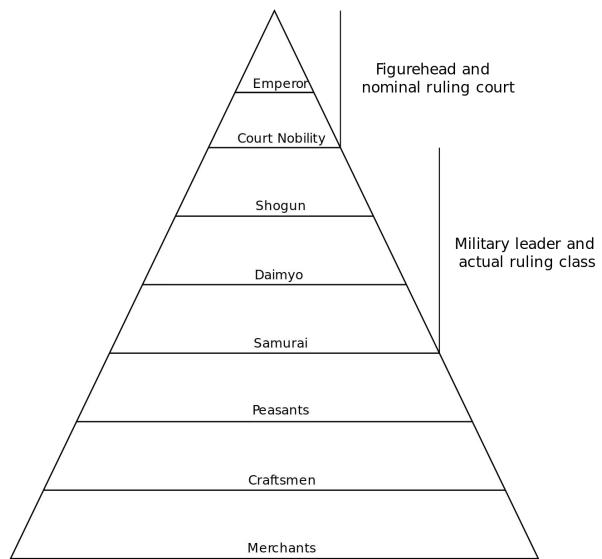
- Each class must follow conventions regarding their uniform and dress materials: lords and vassals, superiors and inferiors, must observe what is proper within their positions.
- Roads, boats, bridges, and docks must be carefully maintained to ensure quick communication.
- Lands owned by Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples can not be taken away from them.

Among the most important was the alternate attendance system that required all daimyōs to move periodically between the capital of Edo and their own domain. This served multiple purposes: the expense required to maintain residences at both locations inhibited a daimyō's financial ability to wage war, frequent travel from and to the capital encouraged economic growth in the form of new roads and inns, and their accompanying families/representatives doubled as hostages. The subsequent laws addressing the activity of daimyōs were intended to prevent rebellion, especially that of the *tozama* daimyōs who were the least trusted and hardest to enforce shogunal policies on.

Besides solidifying political order, the Laws of the Military Houses also reinforced Japan's complex and rigid social structure. Honoring tradition, the Emperor and his court were at the top of the social ladder, but only nominally as prestigious figureheads. In truth, the shōgun held all power, followed by the *shinpan*; *fudai*; and *tozama* daimyōs. The samurai class whose original rise to power had enabled all of Japan's recent tumult was dramatically reduced by order of the Shogunate. Most daimyōs confiscated their lands, offering them two choices: move to their castle and become paid retainers or surrender their swords and become peasants. Those who entered paid service largely lost their military function, becoming more so administrators than warriors. However, many refused both options and became *rōnin* - masterless samurai who became increasingly disreputable as they turned to odd jobs such as mercenary work, banditry, and even organized crime. Nonetheless, handfuls of samurai with direct possession of their land still endured in a few provinces across Japan. Beneath the samurai was the vast peasantry that previously swelled the ranks of the now-abandoned ashigaru soldier class during the Sengoku Jidai. They were divided into many highly-collective, rural villages that worked together to produce enough food for themselves and the rice tax set by their local daimyō. It was possible for peasant families to amass large fortunes and gain more political influence in their village, but absolutely impossible for them to advance beyond their social class. At the bottom of the rung were artisans and merchants. The tax surplus acquired by daimyōs and their samurai was used to purchase goods only produced by the merchants and artisans, who grew increasingly powerful, but were unable to progress their social standing or display their wealth due to the Laws of the Military Houses.



Map of the political holdings of reorganized Japan.  
(Tokugawa and *Shinpan* holdings colored yellow, *Fudai* holdings colored red, and *Tozama* holdings colored green)



The social structure of the Edo Period.

## Economic and Intellectual Development

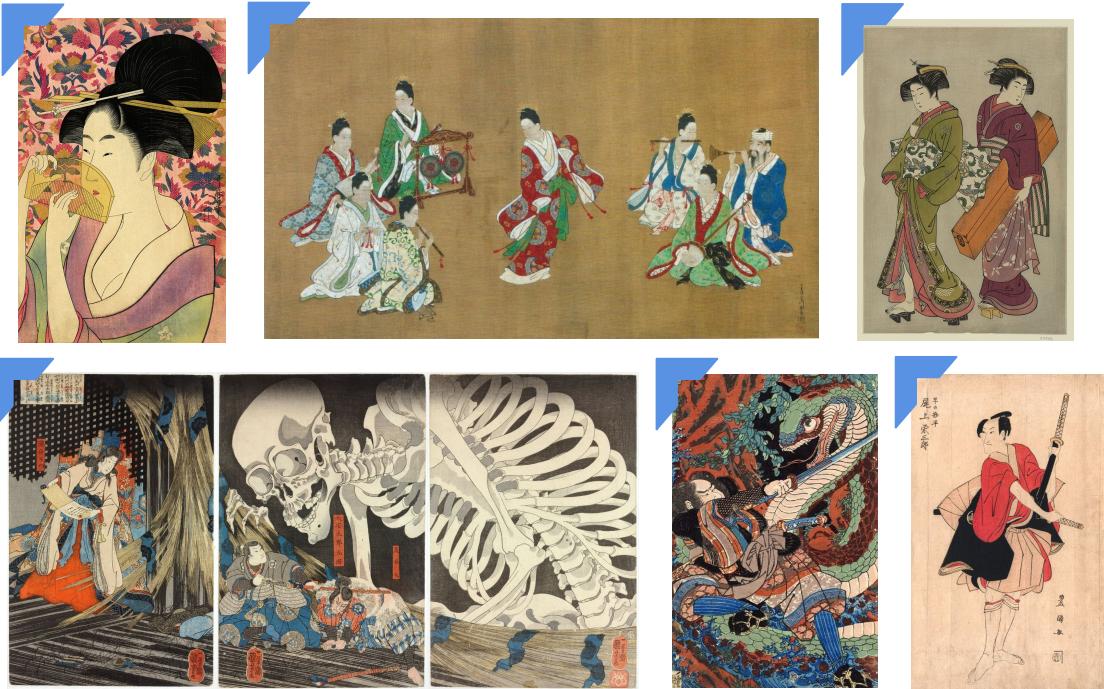
As hinted at earlier, the peace brought by the Edo Period birthed astonishing economic growth that included a rising agricultural yield, urbanization, expansion of domestic commerce, a diffusion of handicraft industries, and increasing production and shipping of commodities. Rice had long been the base of the Japanese economy and improved irrigation methods nearly doubled the number of rice paddies, enabling daimyōs to maintain high tax rates of roughly 40% of the harvest. Large-scale rice markets sprung up in Edo and Ōsaka - where rice brokers effectively acted as bankers for rice - facilitating the evolution of new credit instruments, like common currency and forward contracts, that strengthened the market and encouraged entrepreneurship. As transportation systems and economic interactions expanded between castle-towns, so did their populations: the population of Edo surpassed one million and Kyoto's and Ōsaka's both reached 400,000. However the newly empowered merchant classes also brought negative consequences: the risk of a national crisis began brewing as samurai - who were forbidden from engaging in farming or business - borrowed too much money and the daimyōs - who did not tax businesses - relied on increasing the taxes of farmers. Each shōgun attempted to solve this rising issue differently but in the end, the economy began rapidly



commercializing by the start of the nineteenth century with more remote villages joining the national economy and wealthy farmers switching to the production and trade of lucrative cash crops.

During this period, a Chinese philosophical movement came yet again to heavily influence Japanese lifestyle in the form of Neo-Confucianism. Unlike Confucianism which inspired classical Japan, Neo-Confucianism rejected the superstitious and mystical elements of Taoism and Buddhism and instead focused on a secular view of man and society, appealing to ethical humanism and rationalism. This philosophical revival became widespread among the governing class and promoted the idea of rule of law over the rule of the people. New theories of government justified the strict class structure and the increased authority of the *bakufu*, emphasizing that each person had a distinct role in society and that the people were to be ruled by an all-powerful yet benevolent government. Combined with Shinto and Buddhist beliefs, Neo-Confucianism also popularized *bushidō* (“the way of warriors”) - a samurai code of conduct that encouraged diligence, honesty, honor, loyalty, and frugality - whose qualities were mirrored by the merchant and artisan classes through *chōnindō* (“the way of the townspeople”). Under the peaceful rule of the Tokugawa Shogunate, urban populations suddenly possessed the time and means to support a new mass culture: *ukiyo* (“the floating world”). This ideal world of fashion and popular entertainment - supported by the existence of red-light districts in Edo and Yoshiwara - blossomed with professional entertainment (*geisha* and *kabuki* theater), rich poetry and literature (Chikamatsu Monzaemon), and beautiful art (*ukiyo-e*). Yet despite the dominance of Neo-Confucian thought on Edo life, Buddhism continued to provide standards of social behavior and Shinto helped preserve a sense of national identity.





The *ukiyo-e* genre of art reflected many aspects of Edo culture, with an emphasis on natural landscapes, female beauty, and legendary tales of *Bushido*.

## Foreign Relations

Since ancient times, Japan has maintained deep interactions with the mainland kingdoms of Korea and China - who has massively influenced both the creation and development of Japanese culture, philosophy, government, and religion. Despite this, Japan has often had contentious relations with China over political, military, cultural, and intellectual supremacy. High tensions have caused several wars on the mainland with the most recent being the late Hideyoshi's failed invasions of Ming China's closest ally: Joseon Korea. Nevertheless, inconsistent trade patterns with China were compensated by extensive trade with Europeans ever since first contact was made with Portuguese traders during the Sengoku Jidai. Being the first European power to discover the archipelago, the Kingdom of Portugal monopolized the rights to trade with Japan in 1550 and soon after, expanded their East Asian trade network by acquiring a permanent lease to the Chinese trade port of Macau in 1554. Valuing the fine luxuries and advanced matchlock rifles that the Portuguese carracks carried, various daimyōs competed to attract more trade specifically to their domains by offering more generous trading conditions. Eventually, the small fishing village of Nagasaki, leased by its lord to the Jesuit missionaries in perpetuity, became the definitive anchorage of the Portuguese and transformed into a prosperous Catholic trade city.



(left): Japanese depiction of the large Portuguese carracks, dubbed *nanban* (“Southern Barbarian”) ships.

(right): Map displaying flow of trade at Nagasaki between the Portuguese carracks and Japanese red-seal ships.

The Spanish, Dutch, and English were all unable to contest Portugal’s trade dominance until the Tokugawa Shogunate intervened on the basis of maintaining stability. In 1637, the peaceful Edo Period was suddenly interrupted by a large uprising of 40,000 Catholic *rōnin* and peasants against the Matsukura clan of Kyushu which had persecuted Christians through high taxation and violent treatment. After securing military assistance from the Protestant Dutch, the Tokugawa Shogunate organized a military host of 125,000 and successfully besieged the rebels’ stronghold at Hara Castle. Upset by this calamity, the Tokugawa brutally beheaded any suspected rebel sympathizers, swiftly executed the Matsukura daimyō for his poor rule, and unexpectedly expelled all Portuguese traders. The Shogunate outlawed Christianity entirely and began a foreign policy of *sakoku* (“closed country”) that effectively isolated Japan from almost all outside influences - European and Asian - in the interest of national security. This seemingly rash move was driven by several underlying reasons. Despite the immense profitability of trade with the Portuguese, the majority of it operated through the island of Kyushu - occupied by many *tozama* daimyōs who were formerly strong vassals of the Toyotomi clan. Their unregulated interactions with the Europeans allowed them to develop their technological, military, and economic powers considerably, posing a large threat to the Tokugawa Shogunate. Further, the steady proselytization of Japanese by Catholic missionaries disrupted the traditional cultural unity of Shinto and edicts of the government. Killing two birds with one stone, the Shogunate replaced the Catholic Portuguese with the Protestant Dutch who were willing to follow their strict trade regulations and agree not to spread Christianity. As a result, the growth of the *tozama* daimyōs on Kyushu came to a halt and Japan was still able to access knowledge of Western technology and medicine through the Dutch, which led to the development of *rangaku* (“Dutch/Western learning”) that provided invaluable scientific insights. Because the Qing Dynasty had conquered Ming China and Joseon Korea by the end of the 17th century, the Shogunate felt



no need to re-establish official relations with either but continued to pay attention to events occurring in their archrival China. After the start of *sakoku*, Japan remained in a period of relative peace and resisted all foreign attempts to break their seclusion... until the 19th century.



Pages from *rangaku* books translating Western science and medicine.

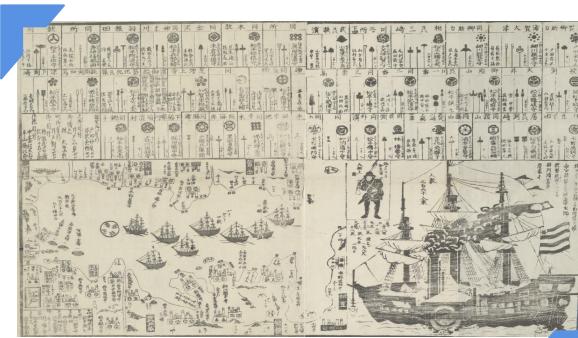


# Historical Context

## The Bakumatsu

### Opening of Japan

In the July of 1853, four massive steam-ships, flying U.S. flags, boldly sailed straight into Edo Bay and fired blank shots from their 73 explosive Paixhans shell guns. Their naval commander, Commodore Matthew C. Perry, declared that he had a letter from the President of the United States to deliver to the Emperor - whom the United States incorrectly assumed to be the true leader of Japan. The Shogunate had previously driven away the American merchant ship *Morrison* in 1837 by firing upon it, but knew that it could not match the firepower of Commodore Perry's squadron and fell into panic. With the Americans unintimidated by the Japanese military and the gravely ill shōgun Tokugawa Ieyoshi unable to break the deadlock, *rōjū* (one of the highest-ranking shogunal posts) Abe Masahiro decided that simply accepting the letter would not weaken Japanese sovereignty. After delivering the letter and performing a pompous military parade of American marines on land, Commodore Perry's squadron departed and promised to return a year later for a reply.



Japanese prints depicting the arrival of Perry's East India Squadron.

Shōgun Ieyoshi died days after and was succeeded by the young Tokugawa Iesada, leaving effective control of the government in the hands of Abe. The Shogunal court debated extensively on how to respond to the Americans' demands that Japan open its ports for trade and how to better ward against future foreign incursions. To legitimize a decision on the controversial topic, Abe polled all of the daimyōs for their opinions, inadvertently displaying the weakness of the Tokugawa Shogunate and better yet, reaching no conclusive attitude: the results were equally split on whether to accept or deny the demands. Having already heard of Qing China's humbling by the British Empire in the First Opium War, they could only agree on fortifying their



coasts. When Commodore Perry returned in February 1854, he brought an even larger fleet of ten vessels and 1600 men, more than a match for any new coastal defences. Pressured by the might of Perry's fleet and his frightening bluff to declare war with 100 more ships (greater than the size of the actual U.S. Navy) should Japan refuse to negotiate, the Shogunate relented to American demands and signed the Convention of Kanagawa. As a gesture of good-will, Commodore Perry gifted the Shogunate an assortment of valuable technologies and luxuries: a steam locomotive, M1819 Hall breech-loading rifles, a telegraph system, agricultural tools, whiskey, clocks, stoves, and books about the United States. The short treaty satisfied initial American goals:

- The ports of Yokohama, Shimoda, and Hakodate were opened for trade with the United States.
- In the aforementioned treaty ports, U.S. citizens were granted a limited freedom of movement.
- Shipwrecked American sailors were to be assisted and not mistreated.
- Japan gave the United States "most favoured nation" status: any favorable advantages negotiated to other foreign governments in the future were to also be given to the United

Submitting to the United States without any resistance, the Shogunate appeared weak and utterly humiliated, leading some daimyōs to take a bold and unprecedeted move of openly criticizing the government. Seeking more political allies, Abe began opening political councils to the *tozama* daimyōs, enraging the *fudai* daimyōs and further undermining the unity of the country. He established Western-style military schools and acquired Western-style warships in order to re-strengthen Shogunate, but was ousted by *fudai* daimyōs and replaced with *rōjū* Hotta Masayoshi. All the while, a dissident faction led by Tokugawa Nariaki - a daimyō of the Mito Domain related to the Shogunal family but harboring secret loyalties to the emperor along with anti-foreign sentiments - capitalized on the chaos. Nariaki helped spread *mitogaku* - a neo-Confucian and Shinto school of thought dedicated to Imperial restoration and expulsion of the West - which utilized events, such as the Ansei great earthquakes that coincidentally struck Edo and Shimoda, to argue that the gods and traditional Japanese values did not support the Shogunate.



## Sonnō Jōi Movement

Despite the temporary weakening of opposition in the government, the population became restless as the negative consequences of the “unequal treaties” came full force. Without any degree of ability to control the flow of foreign trade, the Shogunate was trapped watching Japan’s economy rapidly deteriorate into a state of high instability. Many businesses went bankrupt whilst only a few profited, unemployment and inflation rose, and the discrepancy between Japan’s gold-to-silver exchange rate of 1:5 compared to the international rate of 1:15 was swooped in on by Western businessmen. In the resulting outflow of gold, over four-million ryōs (the currency since the Kamakura Shogunate) were lost and the Tokugawa’s gold standard system demolished. Worsening the death toll of poverty, major rice famines and the introduction of cholera into Japan led to hundreds of thousands of deaths. As many Westerners flooded the newly-opened treaty-ports, *Ishin Shishi* - disgruntled samurai who opposed Western influence in Japan - took violent action, leading to about one foreigner murdered every month. In 1860, *Ishin Shishi* from Nariaki’s Mito Domain ambushed Ii’s retinue outside Edo castle and assassinated him with an American Colt revolver. Then in 1862, unarmed British subject Charles Lennox Richardson was slaughtered by a group of Satsuma samurai who claimed that he showed disrespect. Tensions reached the breaking point in 1863 when Emperor Kōmei took an active political role and, agreeing with the ongoing movement *sonnō jōi* (“revere the emperor, expel the barbarians”), issued an official “order to expel the barbarians.”



(left): 1861 propaganda image advocating the policy of *sonnō jōi*.

(right): Woodblock print depicting the brutal execution of a British subject in the Richardson Affair.



Hastily answering the emperor's call, *tozama* daimyō Mōri Takachika ordered his forces to fire on all passing foreign ships. Pressured by Emperor Kōmei, Shōgun Iemochi unwillingly issued a declaration announcing the end of relations with all the Western powers, who perceived the move equal to a declaration of war. On July 16th, 1863, three modern Chōshū ships attacked the American merchant steamer *Pembroke* outside Shimonoseki Straits. The American warship USS *Wyoming* quickly sailed to *Pembroke*'s rescue and single-handedly sunk two of the Chōshū vessels and damaged the last before departing, marking the beginning of the Allied Western Shimonoseki Campaign against the Chōshū domain. On July 20, French warships *Tancrède* and *Semiramis* retaliated for Japanese attacks on their shipping by destroying a Chōshū artillery emplacement, and were praised by the Shogunate for their actions against anti-foreign forces. Hoping for a peaceful resolution, the Western Allies repeatedly attempted to open diplomatic channels with the pro-Imperial domains but to no avail. In August, coastal batteries of Satsuma domain fired upon seven British warships that were attempting to retrieve compensation for the murder of Charles Lennox Richardson. The British vessels retaliated by sinking the three Satsuma steamships at port and laying waste to the town of Kagoshima, but were not carrying enough provisions for a prolonged battle and retreated. Although initially claiming victory, the Satsuma stood down and negotiated with Britain to pay £25,000, borrowed from the Shogunate, in compensation for the Richardson affair. In exchange, Britain agreed to supply Satsuma with steam warships, starting a close trade relationship between the two entities. In 1864, an uprising of Mito samurai and peasants armed with rifles began terrorizing Westerners until they were finally crushed by a Shogunal army led by Tokugawa Yoshinobu, but at the cost of over 6,000 troops. Shogunal authority was challenged yet again that year when Chōshū samurai launched a surprise attack on the Imperial Palace with the hopes of liberating the Emperor from Yoshinobu's Shogunal garrison stationed there. After dispatching the intruders, the Tokugawa sent a 15,000-man punitive expedition to the Chōshū domain, coordinated with an Allied assault. Angered by the continued damaging of Western property, the Allies launched a combined naval bombardment of and marine landing at Shimonoseki, which finally forced the Chōshū's surrender. Satsuma samurai Saigō Takamori, who accompanied the Shogunal expedition, understood that the Shogunate likely intended to pacify Satsuma after pacifying Chōshū, and instead managed to broker a peaceful compromise between the two sides. The clear defeat of the pro-Imperial movement allowed the Tokugawa Shogunate to eradicate the *Ishin Shishi*, whilst the seemingly invincible strength of the Western powers made *sonnō jōi* an unrealistic goal.

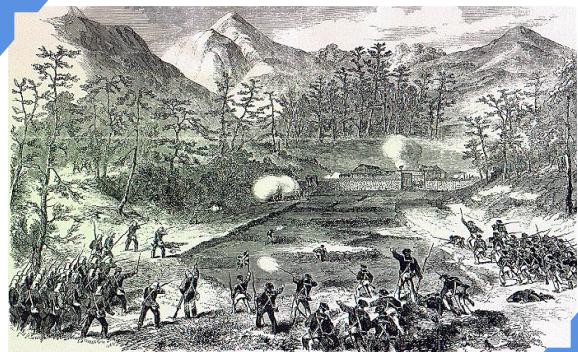


Photo and newspaper lithograph displaying the successful Allied assault on Shimonoseki.

## Seeds of Dissent

The Tokugawa Shogunate began reasserting control over the nation but was still heavily pressured by the Western powers, who demanded \$3,000,000 for the Shimonoseki Campaign. In an agreement to reduce the cost of the indemnity, the Shogunate agreed to the formal ratification of the Ansei Five-Power Treaties by the Emperor; the reduction of tariffs to 5%, and the opening of Hyōgo and Osaka as treaty ports. Emperor Kōmei even allowed Shōgun Iemochi to handle foreign affairs. While the Shogunate attempted to modernize and regain their position of primacy, the Western *tozama* daimyōs secretly modernized their armies. With the failure of the *sonnō jōi* movement, they refocused their goal to the creation of a stronger, unified government that would resist European domination, which they envisioned as one led by the Emperor as was during ancient times. Three factions were key to this pro-Imperial movement: the Chōshū domain ruled by the Mōri clan, the Satsuma domain ruled by the Shimazu clan, and the Tosa domain previously ruled by the Chōsokabe clan. These clans shared two major similarities: all three were extremely prominent powers that supported the Toyotomi during the Sengoku Jidai and all three were wronged by the Tokugawa after the Battle of Sekigahara. In 1600, daimyō Mōri Terumoto secretly negotiated with the Tokugawa to remain neutral in exchange for preservation of his clan's territory. Despite the Mōri withholding their forces during the battle, Ieyasu betrayed Terumoto and relocated his clan from their homeland of Aki province in Honshu to Chōshū domain in Kyushu. Ironically, the Mōri's troop deployment also prevented daimyō Chōsokabe Morichika from committing his troops to fight, but the Tokugawa nonetheless stripped him of his titles and exiled his entire clan. The Yamauchi clan that inherited Tosa domain in Shikoku treated the former retainers of the Chōsokabe poorly for generations. Lastly, daimyō Shimazu Yoshihiro battled Tokugawa forces after the "Western Army" had already collapsed but managed to successfully retreat. Ieyasu allowed him to retain his home province



of Satsuma in Kyushu but the Shimazu clan remained dissatisfied and used its far distance from Edo to gradually regain its strength. Despite centuries having passed, none of the clans forgot the past and overcame their differences to pledge support to the rising pro-Imperial movement.

In the 1860s, Satsuma military leader Saigō Takamori met with Chōshū representatives to secretly discuss a defensive alliance - the Satchō Alliance. Satsuma domain, which had substantial access to Western weaponry from Great Britain, agreed to supply the recovering Chōshū domain. However, Satsuma did not yet share Chōshū's radical ideas of outright overthrowing the Tokugawa and were reluctant to rush headlong into a conflict against the Tokugawa. Determined to end any remaining anti-Shogunate opposition, the Tokugawa called for a second punitive expedition against Chōshū domain in 1866. Many loyal domains contributed troops (except for Satsuma which was honoring its secret alliance), totaling the expedition to a relatively antiquated but enormously sized army of 100,000 men. The Chōshū army numbered only about 3,500 *Kiheitai* - volunteer militia unrestricted by class - but were equipped with Western-inspired uniforms, breech-loading rifles, and extensive training. In a disastrous and embarrassing engagement, the *Kiheitai* repulsed the Shogunal army with relatively minimal casualties. Humiliated, the Shogunate negotiated a truce and lost prestige in the face of many daimyōs. After the expedition, Emperor Kōmei and Shōgun Iemochi died; they were respectively succeeded by the young Meiji and the reformist Yoshinobu, setting the country on a unavoidable collision course for war.

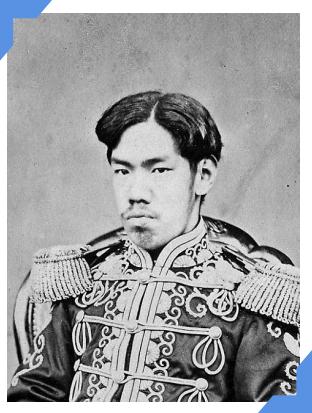


Photo of Emperor Meiji, age 15.



Photo of Shōgun Yoshinobu, age 31.



## The Boshin War

After taking leadership of the government, Shōgun Yoshinobu immediately began bolstering the Tokugawa military through foreign assistance. He sent naval officers (such as Admiral Enomoto Takeaki) to be trained at Western schools, hired foreign engineers to construct modern arsenals and forts, and acquired eight new steam warships. In 1867, Emperor Napoléon III granted Yoshinobu a French military mission to Japan, composed of seventeen officers and military advisors, to train a corps of elite Japanese soldiers called the Denshūtai. Simultaneously, Great Britain, recognizing the threat of a French-influenced Japanese government, continued to aid the modernization of the stronger and more advanced anti-Shogunate domains in western Japan. In a last ditch effort to avert a civil war, Shōgun Yoshinobu resigned on November 9th and agreed to reorganize the government under Emperor Meiji so long as most of the Shogunate's state institutions were preserved. The Imperial Court was extremely satisfied by this proposal of joint-government, but the Chōshū and Satsuma domains were outraged and demanded full abolishment of the Shogunate. On January 3rd, Saigo Takamori seized the Imperial Palace in Kyoto and declared a full Imperial Restoration led by the Satchō Alliance. Unwilling to accept Saigo's demands, Yoshinobu disposed of the Satsuma retainers at Edo and rallied a Shogunal army to liberate Kyoto, starting the Boshin War.

Both sides meeting outside of Kyoto on the fields of Toba-Fushimi. The 15,000-strong Shogunal army, reinforced by traditional samurai of the Aizu domain, was a combination of French-trained Denshūtai and special *Shinsengumi* police forces whilst the 5,000-man Satsuma-Chōshū Army consisted of mostly modernized infantry and artillery. On January 27th, entrenched Satsuma-Chōshū troops massacred samurai assault *en masse* at the Koeda and Bungobashi bridges with rifle volleys. On the second day of battle, Saigo Takamori received orders from Emperor Meiji declaring Yoshinobu and his followers as enemies of the Imperial Court, thereby legitimizing his cause. The Satsuma-Chōshū army named the inexperienced Imperial Prince Yoshiaki as their commander in chief, transforming themselves from rebels into an official Imperial army. Stunned and hesitant to be declared traitors to the emperor, the Shogunal forces routed the field in the face of a Satsuma-Chōshū counter-attack. On the same day, the superior Shogunal navy won a minor victory over the Imperial navy at Awa but it did little to affect the battle on land. On the third day of battle, the Imperial army raised the banners of the Emperor, once more demoralizing the Shogunal army into confusion. They attempted to find refuge in both the Yodo and Tsu Domains, but both refused entry and soon defected to the Imperial cause at the sight of the Imperial banner. Yoshinobu regrouped his army at Osaka Castle and planned a new strategy, but instead fled on the Shogunate flagship *Kaiyō Maru* with his closest generals to



Edo. The Shogunal garrison abandoned the castle and Saigo's Imperial army conquered it without any resistance. Despite suffering a very minor troop loss of a few hundred soldiers at the Battle of Toba-Fushimi, the Shogunate was severely weakened in prestige and morale. The loss of the symbolic Osaka Castle and the disorganized manner of their retreat caused many to defect to Saigo's cause, including the Saga and Yodo domains. Should the Tokugawa Shogunate maintain control over Japan or even survive, immediate actions must be taken to reverse the current tide of war.



Print showing Shogunal troops charging Imperial troops at Toba-Fushimi.



# Roles of the Foreign Powers

## Great Britain

Enjoying colonial and naval dominance over the world, the British Empire has naturally taken an active role on Japanese affairs but in favour of the pro-Imperial domains. Britain and the Satsuma domain were initially hostile towards each other after the Bombardment of Kagoshima, but the two sides negotiated a resolution that led to a close relationship. Britain has sent its officers to help train Japanese soldiers across the country, especially the pro-Imperial domains of Satsuma and Saga. British agents are also suspected of having broken agreements with the Shogunate by illegally selling warships and guns to anti-Shogunate domains, aiding their industrialization, and secretly collaborating with anti-Shogunate leaders like Saigo Takamori. When the Boshin War broke out, British ambassador Harry Parkes pressured all Western powers into declaring neutrality, thus deliberately ending any further official support for either side from the Western powers. Without a doubt, the British Empire supports the Imperial Court, likely seeking a Japanese government more favorable to them and not under the influence of their rival: the Second French Empire.

## France

Fresh from defeat in the Second French Intervention in Mexico, the court of Napoleon III has been extremely supportive of the Shogunal Court in the recent political crises. Following the opening of Yokohama to the Western Powers, Franco-Japanese relations quickly developed as there was a high French demand for the high-quality raw silk of Japan and Shogunate interests in Western-supported industrialization. Financed through the exportation of silk and metal ore, French-led projects were organized 1865 and constructed lighthouses, brick factories, water transportation systems, and even a military arsenal at Yokosuka for the Shogunate. France soon expanded upon its assets at Yokohama with the creation of a Franco-Japanese college and an official French embassy. In 1867, a French mission, composed of seventeen French officers and military specialists, arrived at Yokohama to organize the military modernization of the Tokugawa's armies. By the start of the Boshin War, the mission had trained over 10,000 elite Denshūtai and supplied multiple shipments of minié rifles and artillery pieces. British ambassador Parkes' international maneuvering foiled French aid:



the French-built warship *Kōtetsu*, which was already paid by and to be delivered to the Shogunate, was impounded by the United States and Napoleon III was forced to recall the military mission. Fortunately, four French officers, led by former captain Jules Brunet, resigned from their posts so that they could legally stay and continue advising Shogunate troops. Despite their official neutrality, the Second French Empire still wholeheartedly supports the Tokugawa Shogunate and hopes for their victory.

## United States

Still consumed by domestic issues following the recent end of their own civil war, the United States has not played as active of a role as it did when it forced the opening of Japan. While Britain and France cast their support for a side in the years leading up to war, the U.S. government took no clear political stance but did not restrict itself nor its citizens from engaging in purely economic activities. American agents have openly and indiscriminately sold weapons and warships to both sides whilst American advisors have been hired to train local troops and supervise industrialization projects. When ambassador Parkes' forced Western neutrality, the United States followed accordingly and blocked the delivery of the French-built ironclad *Kōtetsu* - formerly acquired by the Confederate States Navy as the CSS *Stonewall* - to the Shogunate. Currently, the United States seem disposed to agree with British actions regarding the war but is otherwise, honestly neutral.



# Committee Structure

In the spring of 1868, thirty-one daimyōs of Japan joined forces to create the *Ōuetsu Reppan Dōmei* (“The Northern Alliance”). This political and military coalition, headquartered in northern Honshu, declared support for Tokugawa Yoshinobu and the Shogunate. Although the Northern Alliance’s membership and involvement were fluid throughout the Boshin War, several changes will be made for the sake of committee (making the Battle of Toba Fushimi the last event of the committee’s narrative coinciding with actual history). This committee will function as a heavily-inspired version of the Northern Alliance but:

- All daimyōs that historically joined the Northern Alliance at any point in the war will instead all be declared members from the start of the war.
- Those daimyōs, that were historically part of the Northern Alliance but are not found in the character list below, will not be considered part of the committee narrative, making the total members of our Northern Alliance less than thirty-one.
- The Aizu and Jozai domains will be added as members of the alliance (both historically did not join the Northern Alliance but still fought for the Shogunate).
- The Northern Alliance will be headquartered at the capital of Edo (instead of its historical headquarters at Shiroishi Castle) for the start of the committee.
- The daimyōs of the Northern Alliance will accompany Yoshinobu’s Shogunal Court and be allowed major influence on the Shogunate’s decision making.
- (*All of the daimyōs below historically existed but many lack online biographies. As per usual in a crisis committee, extensive liberties will be taken in designing their backgrounds and portfolio powers.*
  - (*These backgrounds take precedence over any online information found about them*).



*Mon (“emblem”) of the Northern Alliance.*



# Character List

As a daimyō, you will be given the typical rights granted under the Tokugawa's system of *bakuhā taisei*, including mostly autonomous governance of your local domain. As demonstrated by recent political crises, the Laws of the Military Houses, which may have placed restrictions on military expansion and secret cooperation between daimyōs in the past, are no longer heavily enforced. Nonetheless, the daimyōs of the Northern Alliance are obliged, or at least expected, to remain honest and loyal in their dealings with the Tokugawa Shogunate.

## Matsudaira Katamori -- Daimyō of Aizu Domain

Matsudaira Katamori is a *fudai* daimyō of the Matsudaira clan (the same clan from which the Tokugawa line originally descended). A loyal servant of the Shogun, Katamori previously acted as the Military Commissioner of Kyoto, suppressing *sonnō jōi* militants and advocating for harsh punishment of the Chōshū domain. Aizu domain is known for its devoted soldiers and commands the alliance's largest land army. Although eager to deliver swift justice to the Imperial traitors, the Aizu can only sustain large military campaigns with the help of provisions and equipment supplied by fellow alliance members.



## Date Munemoto -- Daimyō of Sendai Domain

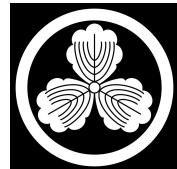
Date Munemoto is a *tozama* daimyō, but shares the bloodline of the revered one-eyed daimyō Date Masamune who founded Sendai castle. Although lacking a military, Sendai domain is not helpless in the war effort; it is one of the largest domains in Japan, rivaled only by Satsuma domain. Whilst many daimyōs dabbled in Western trade, Munemoto looked inward and successfully developed a large domestic economy, avoiding the brunt of the gold-silver exchange disaster. Sendai acts as the reliable financial backbone of the alliance.





### **Makino Tadakuni -- Daimyō of Nagaoka Domain**

Makino Tadakuni is a *fudai* daimyō whose clan claims descent from the militaristic Minamoto family (who established the Kamakura Shogunate). Since the opening of Japan, Tadakuni has heavily sponsored the strengthening of his military by hiring skilled foreign advisors and purchasing the newest weapons. Drilled and dressed in the Western style, the troops of the Nagaoka Domain stand as the most modern of the alliance. However as a Christian and a staunch supporter of Westernization, Tadakuni has faced rising civilian unrest for his abandonment of traditional Japanese values.



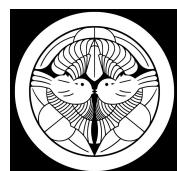
### **Hayashi Tadataka -- Daimyō of Jozai Domain**

Hayashi Tadataka is a *fudai* daimyō who gained respect for voluntarily declaring support for the shogunate by invoking his hereditary obligation as a Tokugawa vassal. Jozai domain is relatively small and unable to maintain a professional army but is the exclusive home of the *yugekitai*: young, resourceful guerilla fighters who utilize modern weaponry to complete sabotage and infiltration missions. An unbreakable loyalist, Tadataka is ready to do whatever is necessary to deliver victory to the Shogunate... no matter the cost.



### **Uesugi Narinori -- Daimyō of Yonezawa Domain**

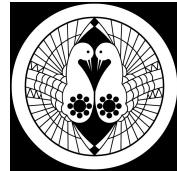
Uesugi Narinori is a *tozama* daimyō with direct descendants from the famous samurai and administrator Uesugi Kenshin. When Narinori became daimyō, he inherited rampant issues of banditry and corruption but through sweeping reforms, he eliminated both problems and executed the perpetrators involved. Public order has been strictly enforced in Yonezawa domain by their infamous *metsuke* - elite agents responsible for enforcing the laws of and countering threats to the Shogunate. For good reason, the Tokugawa trust Narinori (an admirer of Tokugawa legalism) to foil anti-Shogunate plots and silence pro-Imperial agents.





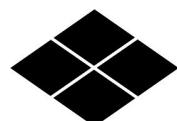
### **Nanbu Toshihisa -- Daimyō of Morioka Domain**

Nanbu Toshihisa is a *tozama* daimyō who only recently assumed leadership of his clan. His brother, Toshitomo, led a failed civil war against him but was forcibly exiled by *rōjū* Masahiro. Morioka is the most industrialized domain (host to an arms production industry, railroads, and telegraph communication systems), making its control vital to either side of the war. While other members of the alliance could provide military protection, Toshihisa must also remain wary about treacherous elements within his own court. Given the prosperity of Morioka, Toshihisa hopes that one day all of Japan will modernize - a dream shared by his friend Makino Tadakuni.



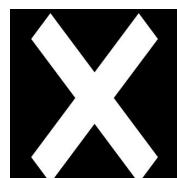
### **Matsumae Norihiro -- Daimyō of Matsumae Domain**

Matsumae Norihiro is a *fudai* daimyō of the Matsumae clan that controls the entirety of the northern island of Ezo. In exchange for exemption from the rice tax and the Laws of the Military Houses, Norihiro was tasked with defending Japan from the vicious Ainu "barbarians" of the north. To repel the constant Ainu raids, the Matsumae rely on swelling their ranks with dishonored officials, former criminals, and *ronin* (instead of typical samurai). The war may be distant from Matsumae domain but is undoubtedly a threat to the current privileges they enjoy. Norihiro will not lower his current level of autonomy for anyone, whether it be the Shogun or the Emperor.



### **Niwa Nagakuni -- Daimyō of Nihonmatsu Domain**

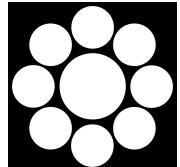
Niwa Nagakuni is a *fudai* daimyō who was one of several officials sent to be trained at Western naval academies abroad. When he returned, Nagakuni was granted admiralty over a squadron of modern frigates and corvettes to defend Edo Bay against the *sonnō jōi* insurrection. A proponent of Christianity and Western military doctrine, Nagakuni has worked tirelessly to apply the lessons he learned to his province. Currently, Nihonmatsu domain is finishing the construction of new shipyards and soon will be able to produce modern vessels valuable for war, travel, and trade. As the sole naval power of the alliance, Nihonmatsu domain will certainly be considered a target by the more advanced Imperial Navy.





### **Sōma Tomotane -- Daimyō of Soma Domain**

Sōma Tomotane is a daimyō of the Sōma clan which was initially labeled as *tozama* but managed to become *fudai* through faithful service to the Shogunate. At the outbreak of war, Tomotane attempted to remain neutral but reluctantly joined the alliance at the pressure of others. The Sōma clan are devout Buddhists and pacifists, and therefore possess no military. To make up for this, Soma domain has pledged their bountiful crop harvests and lucrative coffers, from their large manors, to the war effort. Tomotane cares less about loyalties to the Shogun or Emperor, simply hoping to avoid bloodshed like that of the Sengoku Jidai.



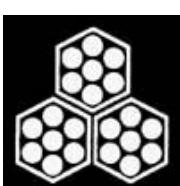
### **Satake Yoshitsuma -- Daimyō of Kubota Domain**

Satake Yoshitsuma is a *tozama* daimyō and a fanatical follower of the Shinto faith. Yoshitsuma has developed his province to be considered the *kami* capital of Japan, producing many prominent monks. Yoshitsuma exercises a great deal of overt control over Shinto elements and has systematically used shrine worship to mobilize his people in the past. A strict traditionalist, he looks upon all Western culture with disdain and acts as the voice of the common people who share his opinion. With “warrior monk” orders and Shinto authority, Kubota domain exercises great social and religious influence over Japan.



### **Rokugō Masakane -- Daimyō of Honjo Domain**

Rokugō Masakane is a *fudai* daimyō and a scion of the noble Fujiwara clan that once ruled Japan. Although the Fujiwara were overtaken by the massive rise of the samurai class, none could match the expertise of their horsemen. On the lush grasslands of Honjo Domain, the fastest breeds of horses are raised and strongest riders trained. The charge of Honjo cavalry would make most lines of soldiers break out of fear and cut down those who were brave or foolish enough to hold their ground. Masakane is naturally a proficient warrior but holds a deep personal feud with Oda Nobutoshi, who has bested him in several duels.





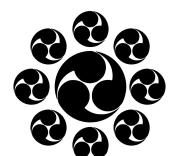
### Tamura Kuniyoshi -- Daimyo of Ichinoseki Domain

Tamura Kuniyoshi is a *tozama* daimyō, but the recent rise of the Tamura clan is shrouded in mystery. According to rumour, Kuniyoshi was the advisor to the previous daimyō of Ichinoseki castle until a fire caused the untimely death of the daimyō and his family. With coincidentally no heirs left to succeed him, Kuniyoshi persuaded the other advisors to allow him to take up the mantle. Some civilians, however, speak of hooded shinobi exiting the castle at night. Various daimyōs have accused Kuniyoshi of being an opportunist and having connections with the secret organizations of kisho ninja - skilled spies and assassins.



### Itakura Katsumi -- Daimyō of Fukushima Domain

Itakura Katsuma is a *fudai* daimyō and part of a long line of bowmasters. The forges of Fukushima are known for producing the finest and most accurate bows in all of Japan. Some say that their arrows are imbued with mystical powers, telling tales of the arrows glowing in the night before they slay their enemies. Others also say that their bows are cursed, referencing the unusual illnesses and short lifespans of those who carry them. Myths aside, Fukushima domain is home to the most lethal archers of Japan. Katsumi, like his people, preserves the traditional ways of artisan craftsmanship and refuses to adopt modern armaments.



### Honda Tadatoshi -- Daimyō of Izumi Domain

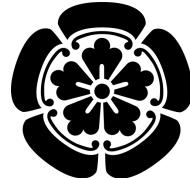
Honda Tadatoshi is a *fudai* daimyō of a province that has enjoyed little peace. Izumi domain was plagued by decades of small wars between several feuding families under his forefathers. When Tadatoshi became daimyō, he used his adept diplomatic skills to broker a peace treaty, known as the Honda Accords, and finally unite the region. His levelheadedness as a negotiator has earned him great respect throughout Japan, even amongst the Imperial Court and the Western powers. A man of pragmatism, Tadatoshi believes that traditional and modern elements must be combined to overcome the ongoing crisis.





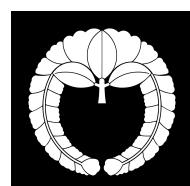
### Oda Nobutoshi -- Daimyō of Tendo Domain

Oda Nobutoshi is a *tozama* daimyō and a direct descendent of the great unifier Oda Nobunaga. Renowned for his skill with the blade, Nobutoshi is a feared duelist who has recorded countless victories over samurai and other daimyōs, including Rokugō Masakane. The warriors of Tendo domain share his martial prowess and represent Japan's best samurai swordsmen, who still actively train in dojos and don elaborate armour sets evocative of the Sengoku Jidai. Similarly to Fukushima, Tendo clings strongly onto the ways of *Bushido* and shuns modern means of warfare. Although Nobutoshi's force of retainers may be small and traditional, it is absolutely deadly in close combat.



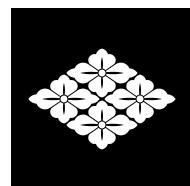
### Naitō Nobutomi — Daimyō of Murakami Domain

Naitō Nobutomi is a *fudai* daimyō whose clan is a cadet branch of the Fujiwara clan that once ruled Japan. Whereas his kinsman Rokugō Masakane took after the Fujiwara's Martial abilities, Nobutomi followed their finer pursuits. A renowned artist, Nobutomi is unanimously praised across Japan for his poems and woodblock prints. Many samurai and officials of the Shogunal and Imperial Courts also subscribe to his writings on bushido, offering him considerable influence over elite social culture. Despite Nobutomi's admission into the alliance, some daimyōs are wary of his power over their own court officials as well as skeptical of how dependable his loyalties to the shogun actually are.



### Yanagisawa Mitsuteru — Daimyō of Kurokawa Domain

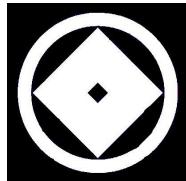
Yanagisawa Mitsuteru is a *fudai* daimyō with expertise in military logistics and defensive fortifications. Kurokawa's castles and towns are the most well-built and impenetrable in the country, unconquered through centuries of war. Rather than rely on a large standing army, their settlements have their own town-militias and military garrisons which are self-sufficient and play a heavily defensive role. Mitsuteru has mastered the management and movement of supplies, whereas invaders of struggled to overcome the challenges of Kurokawa's rough, hilly terrain. Mitsuteru's skills could certainly prove useful for the war effort from behind the scenes and offer the best safe haven besides Edo Castle.





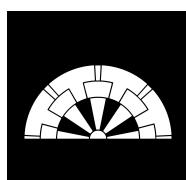
### Hori Naohiro — Daimyō of Muramatsu Domain

Hori Naohiro is a *tozama* daimyō of the prosperous trade region of Muramatsu Domain. During the Sengoku Jidai, the Hori clan operated many “red seal” merchant ships, selling valuable Japanese commodities to China and Korea, and grew a small trade monopoly. When the Shogunate suddenly imposed the isolationist policy of *sakoku*, Muramatsu’s economy floundered and barely survived. Since the opening of Japan, Naohiro’s management quickly rebounded the economic standing of his province and lead to immense profits through the trade of tea, silks, and metals with the West. Naohiro has pledged his support for the alliance but still harbors a slight grudge against the Tokugawa.



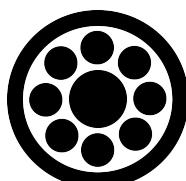
### Ikoma Chikatsugu — Daimyō of Yashima Domain

Ikoma Chikatsugu is a *fudai* daimyō who has wholeheartedly embraced the many scientific innovations introduced after the opening of Japan. In only a matter of years, Yashima domain has expanded from an ordinary province to a center of research as well as intellectual exchange between Japan and the West. Chikatsugu has been the patron of many academic endeavors, leading to the creation of several Japanese universities and research centers. With the declaration of neutrality by the Western powers, Yashima domain remains the only domestic source for technological research available to the alliance, but Chikatsugu must also deal with the opposition he faces from traditionalist elements of the alliance.



### Tozawa Masazane — Daimyō of Shinjō Domain

Tozawa Masazane is a *fudai* daimyō ruling over the rugged Shinjō Domain, which does not fit Japan’s typical socio-political landscape. Far from the ideals of bushido, the province has been a hub of the criminal underground and otherwise odd jobs. It hosts Japan’s greatest concentration of masterless ronin who either offer their skills as common mercenaries, gallivant as self-proclaimed heroes, or survive off of criminal activities. Masazane granted the ronin safe haven out of kind-heartedness, but rumors also suggest that the Tozawa clan has been involved in “extra-legal” practices and benefits by this. Regardless, Shinjō somehow thrives and their help has been considered needed to stop this crisis.





# Questions to Consider

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1. What immediate military actions should be taken to halt Saigo Takamori's successful advance and retake the initiative?
2. What measures should be taken to ensure the safety of Yoshinobu, the Shogunal Court, and the Tokugawa family at the Castle of Edo?
3. How can the Tokugawa Shogunate regain its prestige and morale, in the wake of humiliating defeats at Toba-Fushimi and Osaka Castle?
4. Should the Tokugawa Shogunate consider making further political concessions if they will help postpone war or acquire more allies?
5. How can the Tokugawa Shogunate maintain the loyalty of its retainers and prevent further defections to the Imperial cause?
6. How can the Tokugawa Shogunate acquire the popular support of Japan's citizenry and address the cultural/ideological dilemma of taking arms against the Emperor?
7. Should, and if so how, can pro-Shogunate domains bridge the military, technological, and industrial gap between themselves and the more modern pro-Imperial domains.
8. How can the country's economy, agriculture, and transportation/communication system be revitalized?
9. How should the Tokugawa Shogunate address unofficial British support for the Imperial Court and compensate for the loss of official French support?
10. To what level should the Tokugawa Shogunate tolerate Western influences on Japanese life and culture?



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