A quick summary of the Imjin War:

* Why Hideyoshi thought invading Korea was a nice idea TM:
  + Daimyo in western Japan, who were more likely to prove disloyal in the long run. Turn them towards Korea to weaken their forces
  + Hideyoshi a megalomaniac?
    - Conception as a miraculous event
    - No idea of the surrounding world: ‘Take ming[China] as easy for a mountain to crush an egg’
* Koreans cannot agree to provide free passage: it had been a vassal state of China
* First Invasion 1592 - 1593
  + Both Kato and Konishi were in their early thirties
  + Mostly farmers, fishermen and ordinary laborers, but large number of samurai: foot soldiers and elite horsemen
  + Koreans refused to give them way
  + Hideyoshi treated those who surrendered as loyal allied
  + Pusan taken in one day: Koreans were unprepared and untrained whereas Japanese were using muskets and were a disciplined, well-oiled warring machine.
  + Rules applied: No weapons, taxed land, brutally crush resistance. However, rebellions arose in every province, and more importantly, **they cut the Japanese communication lines. Yi Sun Sin cut off the reinforcements between Japan and Korea**
  + Sonjo abandoned capital, fled towards Uiju on the Yalu River. Seoul fell within three weeks of the start of the invasion.
  + Yi Sun Sin: 10 successive naval victories
    - Japan had far greater number of ships and sailors than the Korean navy. But these were manned by pirates, not familiar with the forms of engagement in the Korean campaigns. They were also unfamiliar with the Korean coastline.
  + Ming ‘Celestial Army’ crossed the Yalu River and marched into Korea in June 1592, one month after the start of the invasion
    - 3000 for retaking Pyongyang; were easily defeated
    - Feb 1593: 50 000 soldiers attacked the Japanese defenses at Pyongyang and succeeded in pushing them all the way to Seoul.
  + End result? Chinese army in control of northern Korea and Japanese in control of the central portion of Korea from Seoul to Pusan.
* The diplomatic interlude
  + Hideyoshi was under the impression that Japan had won the war
  + Seven point treaty after a group of Ming negotiators reached Nagoya
    - Included that four southern Korean provinces were to be ceded to Japan, princess married to Japanese emperor, Korean prince and several high ranking Korean officials were to be turned over to Japan as hostages to guarantee that the Korean government would no longer oppose Japan.
    - Meant for the Chinese, Korean sovereignty not taken into consideration
  + Lost interest, more preoccupied with the succession
  + Letter was rewritten (forged) and Konishi blamed the Koreans for the whole thing, and admitted the Japanese submission as ‘children of the emperor of Ming’ when he sent the letter to Ming.
  + 1596: Hideyoshi finds out, dismissed them after the whole presentation ceremony
    - Chinese envoy returns to Japan in fall 1596
      * ‘King of Japan’ bestowed’
      * Tributary state of China
* Second Campaign (1597, 1598)
  + Hideyoshi allowed no retreats, Sino-Korean combined army better organized. No gain or loss of terrain. Sent 100,000 troops to reinforce the 50,000 already there.
  + Hideyoshi died in August 1598.
    - Councillors and commissioners negotiate the retirement of troops
    - Sino-Korean attacked the confused Japanese troops. Japanese generals made an escape in December 1598
* End Result?
  + 50 – 60 thousand Korean slaves taken: mostly farmers, but also artisans and scholars
  + Japan lost close to 100,000 soldiers in the whole war.