European Influence (1543 - 1630): Guns, Catholics

Sengoku Period

* Warring states period
* Many daimyo defend and attack other domains as they vie for leadership of Japan
* This period throws Japan into an era of chaos and war
* Eventually concludes with the success of 3 primary daimyo:
  + Oda Nobunaga
  + Toyotomi Hideyoshi: failure with invasion Korea (Ming)
  + Tokugawa Ieyasu (Weapon Ban)

Edo (Tokyo now) Period

* Beginning in 1603 AFTER Tokugawa Ieyasu’s forces are triumphant at the Battle of Sekigahara and solidify his leadership over the other Daimyo.
* Becomes the era known as the 250 years of peace.
* The Tokugawa family remains in power from 1603 until 1868.
* The period became known for its artistic endeavors, relaxed ethics, and rise of the merchant classes.

Sakoku Policy of 1635

* Issued by Tokugawa Iemitsu in 1635
* Policy in place to remove foreign elements from Japan, especially Catholicism
* Closes the country to any foreign nation with the occasional exception of China, Korea and the Dutch

Shimabara Rebellion

* Occurs from approximately late 1637 until early 1638.
* Growing frustration with the people of Shimabara over the construction of a new castle in which the town’s people are heavily taxed.
* Catholics also become heavily persecuted at this time period.
* Many of these Catholic townsmen and ronin begin a rebellion.
* Tokugawa government sends forces to put down the rebellion.
* Approximately 30,000 people from Shimabara are killed and executed.

Shimabara Con’t

* One of the rara moments in the Tokugawa period which results in violence to settle matters.
* Christianity continues to be persecuted until the end of the period.
* Rebels beheaded in order to send a message to remaining Christians.
* At this point, anti-Christian policies are put into practice.

Floating World:

* Male/Femail ration in Edo = 2:1
  + “entertainment” service industry
  + Yuukaku (Pleasure District)
    - Yoshiwara in Edo, etc.
    - Does not simply mean “Brothels”
      * Arts and entertainment components, as well.
* Street Walkers (Yotaka)
* Tea rooms, etc.

Fast Foods: Yatai vendors (Food truck): a way of making quick money.

Samurai becomes no wars to fight for, and entertained themselves with wine,

Warrior/Academic – Farmer – Artists/Craftsman – Merchant: ranking from Confucious from China.

Merchants are at the bottom since they produce nothing.

However, during this time, Samurais are having less income since it is no longer a turbulence time. So, they switch to other occupations such as farmers, merchants, policies or even selling their sword.

Ukiyo-e (Woodblock Prints)