

Sengoku Warlords and Azuchi-Momoyama Culture

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The Two Periods

- Sengoku Period
 - 1467 (Start): Ohnin Turmoil (civil war) started. Battles began between the Hosokawa family and the Yamana family, who were the regents of the Ashikaga shogunate.
 - 1573 (end): Oda Nobunaga expelled Yoshiaki, the 15th Ashikaga shogun, from Kyoto.
- Azuchi-Momoyama Period
 - 1573 (start)
 - 1603 (end): Tokugawa Ieyasu was appointed as shogun by the emperor and founded a bakufu at Edo.
 - Nobunaga built the magnificent Azuchi castle (now lost), while Hideyoshi built the beautiful Fushimi palace at Momoyama.

Famous Sengoku Warlords

- Takeda Shingen (Kai and Shinano)
- Uesugi Kenshin (Echigo and Ecchu)
- Imagawa Yoshimoto (Suruga, Totohmi, and Mikawa)
- Hojo (Kanto)
- Saito Dosan (Mino)
- Asakura Yoshikage (Echizen)
- Mori Motonari (Chugoku)
- Date Masamune (Tohoku)

Akechi Mitsuhide



- Mitsuhide served Saito Dosan, until Dosan was killed by his son.
- Then he served Asakura Yoshikage in Echizen.
- Finally he was hired by Nobunaga, who promoted him to a leading position among his vassals.
- He was a distinguished diplomat and coordinated the relation between Nobunaga, Ashikaga shogun, and the emperor.

Why Mitsuhide killed Nobunaga?

- There are many reasons to have been explored by the historians. The baseline is as follows.
 - Mitsuhide wanted to maintain the ancient-regime and wished Nobunaga to become its protector.
 - But Nobunaga destroyed the nested interest groups in the traditional political order.
 - His attack to the Enryaku-ji temple might have disappointed Mitsuhide.

Enryaku-ji Temple



The Enryaku-ji temple had been worshipped and protected by the imperial court, since it was built in the 8th century.

Kato Kiyomasa and the Kumamoto Castle



- Kato Kiyomasa was a vassal of Toyotomi Hideyoshi.
- He was a brave warrior and famous for his skill in spearmanship.
- Hideyoshi gave him Kumamoto as his domain.
- The Grand Palace was restored recently by the donation from the citizens.

The Grand Palace of the Kumamoto Castle



- Kiyomasa built the Shokun Room, a special room to welcome Toyotomi Hideyori, the only son of Hideyoshi.
- The Shokun Room is decorated with a beautiful pictures to illustrate the life of Wang Zhaojun, an ancient concubine in China.

The Story of Wang Zhaojun



- She is counted as one of the four beauties in the ancient China.
- She was a concubine in the imperial court.
- The emperor signed a peace treaty with the barbarian tribe to threat the Northern border of China.
- In the agreement, China must send a beautiful woman to the barbarian.
- The emperor decided to send the most ugly-painted woman in the imperial court.
- The other women bribed the painter to let him paint them beautiful, while Wang Zhaojun did not and the painter drew her face the most ugly.
- She was sent to the barbarian in sadness.