

# The Tokugawa Polity

# Overview

- Ancient Periods (-1192)
  - Jomon, Yayoi, Asuka, Nara, Heian
- Medieval Periods (1192-1572)
  - Kamakura, Nanboku-cho, Muromachi
- Pre-Modern
  - Sengoku, Edo
- Modern
  - Meiji, Taisho, Showa, Heisei

# Oda Nobunaga



# Toyotomi Hideyoshi



# Tokugawa Ieyasu



# Oda Nobunaga

- Warfare was constant for 1467-1572.
- Nobunaga made a big step toward the unification of Japan. He consolidated control of 2/3 of Japan by the time when he was assassinated by Akechi Mitsuhide in 1582.
- Although his cruel and brutal actions, Nobunaga is regarded as a reformer by contemporary historians.

# Toyotomi Hideyoshi

- Hideyoshi succeeded Nobunaga's will to conquer Japan.
- He also continued the institutions of Nobunaga.
  - Disarming peasants through “sword hunts”.
- He launched two massive invasions into Korea.
- He died and left a young son who was supposed to be supported by a council of his most trusted liutenants (regents).
- This was an unstable plan for succession, and a power struggle soon broke out among regents.

# Tokugawa Ieyasu

- He was a peer of Hideyoshi, and one of the regents succeeding Hideyoshi's rule.
- In 1600, he destroyed the forces of the opponent regents in the famous battle of Sekigahara, which gave him unchallenged hegemony.
- The emperor granted him the ancient title of "shogun" in 1603.



# Tokugawa Bakufu (Shogunate)

- Ieyasu's rule was succeeded by his son, Hidetada, and his grandson, Iemitsu.
- Tokugawa bakufu built itself upon the achievements of Nobunaga and Hideyoshi.
- The bakufu took many “settlements” to stabilize the political order.

# The Daimyo

- The bakufu's settlements with Daimyo is quite unique and systematic.
  - Limits castles to one per domain.
  - Mandates all marriages to receive Tokugawa approval.
  - Requires to give expensive contributions to building projects, especially at Edo (Tokyo).
  - Confiscated portions of the daimyo domains and gave them to lieutenants under the shougun's direct control.

# Ranks of the Daimyo

- Shinpan Daimyo – relatives of the Tokugawa.
- Fudai Daimyo – Tokugawa's most loyal allies.
- Tozama Daimyo – They pledged loyalty to Tokugawa after the Battle of Sekigahara.
- Edo was surrounded by Shinpan and Fudai daimyo. Remote areas were ruled by Tozama daimyo.

# Sankin Kotai (alternate attendance)

- The bakufu required all daimyo to maintain residences in Edo as well as in their home domains.
- A daimyo lives in his home in a year. In the next year, he attends the shogun in Edo. Every daimyo repeats this.
- Daimyo's families are mandated to live in Edo as hostages. Traveling between Edo and their home was very expensive.
- This was the most effective system of political control.

# The Imperial Institution

- The position of shogun as supreme military ruler is a grant from the emperor.
- The bakufu raised economic support for the court, but strengthened control over it.
- Imperial princes were held as hostage in Tokugawa family's temples and shrines in Edo and Nikko.
- The court was monitored by the bakufu's deputy stationing at Nijo palace near the emperor's palace.

# The Samurai

- The samurai system resembles the feudalism in Europe.
- Samurai has control over small portions of land as well as the peasants who farm them.
- By pledging loyalty and offering military service to daimyo, samurai warriors gain protection of their lands from predatory neighbors and rebellious peasants.

# Samurai in cities

- The samurai in the city retained the right to wear two swords.
- They receive “stipends” from their daimyo.
- But over time, the samurai’s sense of connection to their own lands became increasingly abstract and weakened.

# Villagers and City-Dwellers

- People were ranked in an order, samurai at the highest, then farmers, artisans, and merchants at the lowest.
- Every commoner were mandated to register with a Buddhist temple, to enforce the ban on Christianity.
- Roughly 80 percent of the population was farmers.