

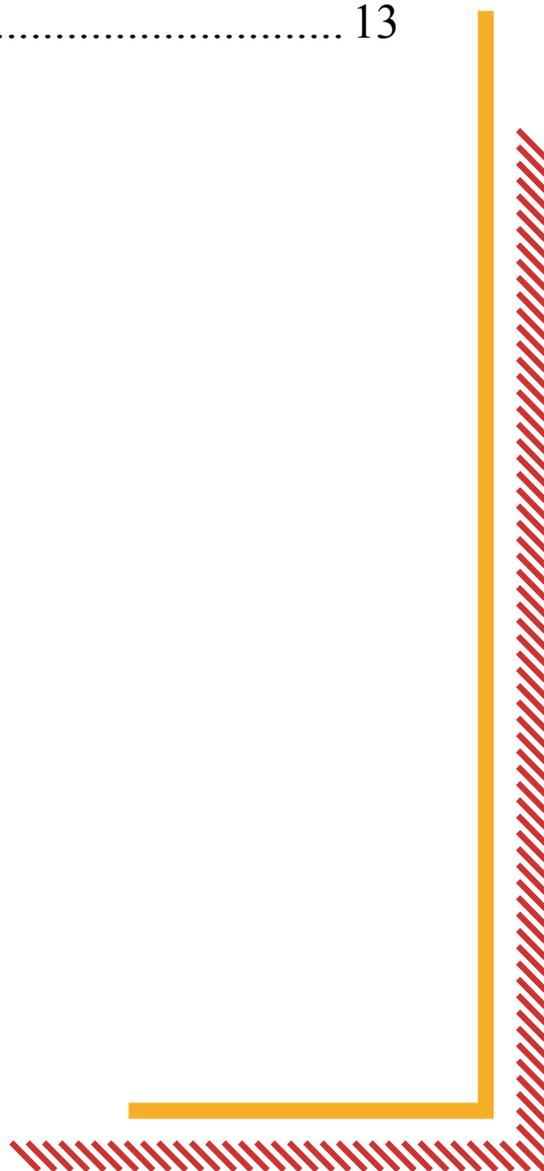
The Tokugawa Restoration



March 6-8, 2020

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Letter from the Crisis Manager

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to BUCS IX!

My name is Andrew Yan, and I'm honored to be serving as your crisis manager for the Tokugawa Restoration. This alternative history committee deals with the period which helped establish Modern Japan, also known as the Meiji Restoration. This committee makes the alteration of having the Tokugawa shogunate emerging victorious from the Bakumatsu period. Therefore, broad historical background will be provided up to the point of divergence from history, and then greater detail will be provided for the events which define our alternative timeline.

Because a far greater share of the details of this committee will be decided by me than a typical crisis committee, I heavily encourage all of you to reach out to me with questions. If there are additional details that I create in response to questions I will update you to all of them if you contact me in advance, as well as on the day of the conference before beginning.

In this committee, I hope that you all will be able to grapple with many of the same questions which faced Japan in the Meiji period, but with a unique and challenging perspective. Balancing the perspectives of the traditional shogunate with the demands of new Western pressures and expectations will test your diplomatic limits. Will Japan be able to attain glory under your leadership or will it collapse into obscurity?

Again, if you have any questions or concerns about this committee please do not hesitate in reaching out to me. Even if it is more general questions about MUN or crisis committees, I would be happy to help.

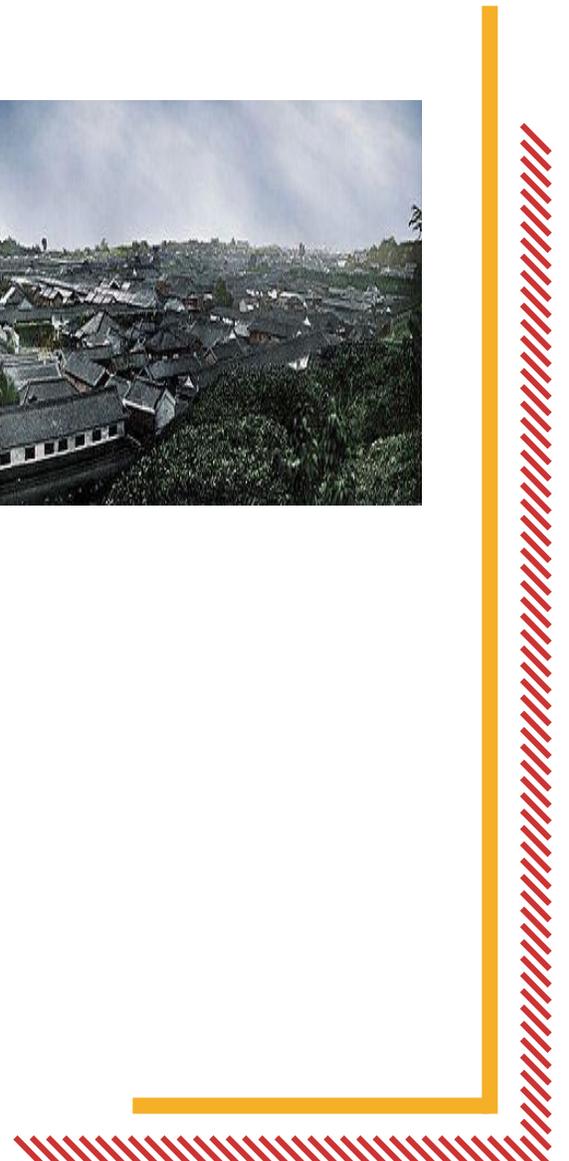
Looking forward to meeting you all,
Andrew Yan
tokugawa@browncrisis.org



Committee Details

As previously mentioned, this committee is an alternate history committee, and will begin on 27th June, 1868 with the victory of the Tokugawa Shogunate against the Satchō Alliance. Each individual will be playing the role of a Rōjū, serving as an advisor to the shogun Tokugawa Ieyoshi, who will be represented by the chair. Each member will have equal voting rights, and holds a considerable amount of land and influence as a daimyo. Although your character may have the name of a historical figure, many of the details of their personal timeline have been overlooked so as to gather enough members to serve the shogun at once.

Overall, this committee will run on standard American Model U.N. Rules of Procedure, consisting of standard Crisis Parliamentary Procedure. If you are unfamiliar or unclear with this procedure, please look to the Delegate Guide posted on the BUCS website (www.browncrisis.org), or send an email to the Crisis Manager at tokugawa@browncrisis.org.



Historical Background

The Edo Period:

The Edo period began in 1603 when Tokugawa Ieyasu was granted the title of shogun by the feeble imperial court after conquering a number of rival daimyo. The shogun was the de facto leader of Japan, while the emperor and his court were only figureheads. The military government formed by the shogun and his officials is termed as the Bakufu, and the political system is known as bakuhan taisei. In the system, each han or domain was held by a daimyo who would reign over that piece of land. Ieyasu's victory ended the Sengoku period, a time of great instability, and established the stable Edo period. This stability emerged from a number of policies which impacted nearly every facet of life in the dynasty. Many of these policies persisted throughout the period and helped define the culture of the time.

Social Order:

The social order during the Edo period was heavily codified and frozen. The structure emerged from neo-Confucian thinking, but eliminated any possibility of social mobility. This structure was referred to by the expression “shinōkōshō,” which translates literally to “samurai-farmer-artisan-merchant.” The social structure broadly describes the most common classes of the time, but does not include smaller groups like scholars or priests. Most notably, this does not include the actual ruling class that the samurai directly served. The emperor and his court held enormous prestige and were well supported by the shogun, but did not actually possess real power. The shogun was superior to all the daimyo, who in turn were powerful feudal lords. The daimyo would then employ samurai to exert authority over their land. Thus, the samurai emerges as the ruling class member who the commoner would encounter most often in their daily life.

The extremity of the difference in social class between the samurai and the commoner bears weight. A slight against a samurai could result in the death of the offender, and it seemed that the only purpose of the commoner class's continued existence was to support the samurai class. Their elevation did not render them immune to the demanding social order, however. Within the samurai, many different titles and levels of distinction existed. Additionally, intricate formal rituals would have to be observed in aspects ranging from types of offerings given to which entrances could be used by the various samurai subclasses.

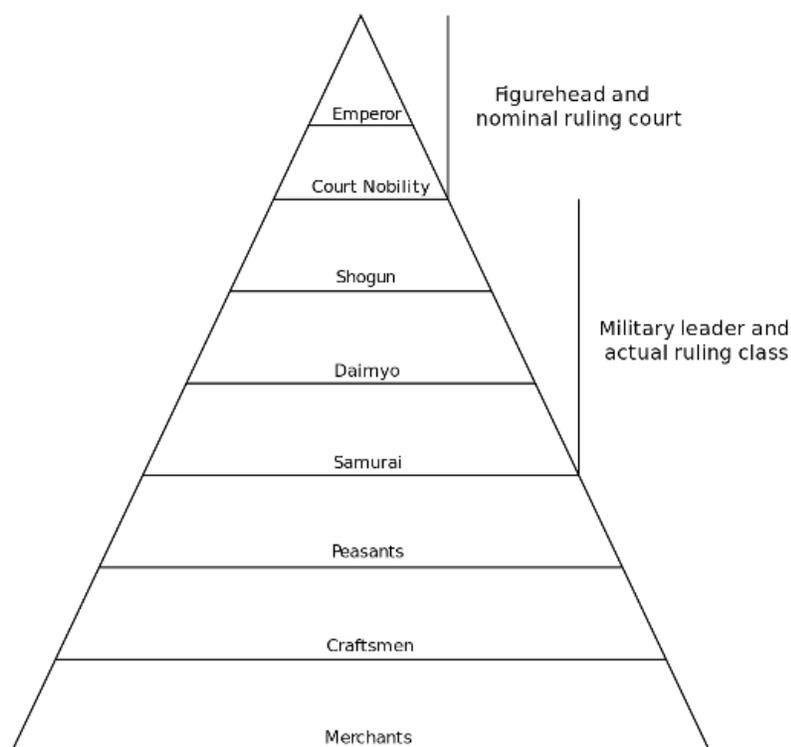
The lower classes also experienced additional internal social classification. Freedom of speech was non-existent, and the discussion of government affairs by men outside of



Historical Background

the government was disgraceful. Feudal elements pervaded even the lower-classes in the form of strict requirements for entry into trade guilds. Master-apprentice relationships defined the life of artisans, and farmers experienced categorization based on their land-holdings.

Despite this rigid structure, however, economic mobility was not as tightly fixed. The demanding social expectations meant that, while the samurai would be the beneficiary of the lower classes' labor, they also would spend vast amounts of money on elaborate rituals, leading them into debt. Their creditors would be merchants, the lowest of all classes, but also the class most flush with currency. These debts would allow merchants to exert influence on the samurai to a certain degree, in violation of the social order.



Historical Background

Sankin-kōtai:

The sankin-kōtai was a policy of alternate attendance (hostage system) implemented during the Edo period to help preserve the shogun's authority. The policy required that every daimyo periodically live in Edo and in their own domain, typically in alternating years. Additionally, while he was in his own domain, the daimyo would have to leave his wife and children in Edo as hostages, effectively causing the wives of Daimyo to spend their whole lives in Edo. In this way, the central authority of Edo would be reinforced, and thoughts of rebellion quelled. The large, constant movement of peoples that this policy would require would lead to it becoming emblematic of the era.

Sakoku:

Sakoku was the foreign policy of Japan throughout the Edo period, which heavily leaned towards isolationism. Following two attempted invasions of Korea, the international relationships of many northeast Asian countries were disrupted. Tokugawa Ieyasu aimed to repair relations with the other northeast Asian countries, but wished to sever relations with the outside European influences. In this way, he hoped to establish Japan as the center of the northeast Asian countries. With restrictions of travel and the expulsion of foreigners, only four countries were permitted to maintain relations with Japan.

- China – The Chinese were permitted to trade in Nagasaki. However, no official relations were conducted with the government of China, nor was the trade ever conducted by anyone but private businessmen. To the Chinese government, this trade reflected little more than some smuggling. Likely this relationship emerged out of Japan's refusal to bow to China, as they had previously.
- Korea – Japan maintained formal diplomatic relations with the Yi dynasty and the two treated each other as equals. Their business was conducted by the Tsushima clan; however, it was done in the name of the Bakufu.
- Ryukyus – The Shimazu clan conquered the Ryukyus and incorporated them into the Satsuma domain; however, they were also a vassal state to China. Diplomatic relations were maintained with the Chuzan dynasty, but in the form of a tributary mission. Again, although the Satsuma domain managed the relations directly, it was done in the name of the Bakufu.
- Holland/East India Company – The only European nation which traded with Japan under this policy. All trade was private in nature, but the kapitan, who was the chief agent of the company in Japan, would need to pay respects to the shogun upon appointment.



Historical Background

Bakumatsu Period:

The bakumatsu period refers to the end of the Edo period, during which the Tokugawa shogunate fell (in our committee it will refer to the same time period, but without the fall of the shogunate). This period began in 1853, when Commodore Matthew C. Perry landed in Edo harbor. This event marked the beginning of a time of rapid change and loss of the stability that had marked the previous Edo period.

The bakumatsu was preceded by increasing attempts by foreign nations to utilize Japan's position and resources. These attempts, which originated from both private individuals and foreign governments, were met with severe rejection by the Japanese government, as exemplified by the 1825 Edict to Repel Foreign Vessels.

Following Commodore Perry's second landing in Edo, the Treaty of Peace and Amity was signed. The treaty established certain rights for shipwrecked sailors, but more importantly opened a path for the US to further expand into Japan. This treaty widely embarrassed the Bakufu, and many saw it as a sign of the government's weakening strength. The treaty was followed up by the 1858 Treaty of Amity and Commerce, which opened up Edo, Kobe, Nagasaki, Niigata, and Yokohama to trade. Additionally, American citizens were granted extraterritorial rights, and were not subject to the Japanese laws or legal system. Following this, Japan signed a similar set of agreements, known as the Ansei Treaties, with the UK, France, Russia, and the Netherlands.

Sonnō Jōi vs Kōbu Gattai

The subject of foreign involvement was a divisive topic that split members of the ruling class. Two political ideologies emerged from the conflict: sonnō jōi and kōbu gattai. Sonnō jōi, which translates to "Revere the Emperor, expel the barbarians," was taken up by individuals who opposed the growing western influence in Japan, and sought a return to imperial power. The Choshu Domain and the Satsuma Domains in particular took up this call, along with support from the Imperial court, which was beginning to take action once again. This culminated in the 1863 Order to Expel the Barbarians.

Opposing this movement was Ii Naosuke, who orchestrated a series of events known as the Ansei purge. Daimyo and other political figures who opposed the shogunate would be demoted, imprisoned, or executed. From 1858 to 1860, 100 prominent officials were persecuted under this policy. This earned Ii Naosuke many enemies,



Historical Background

and on March 24, 1860, Ii Naosuke was murdered by members of the Mito Domain in what is known as the Sakuradamon incident. Kōbu Gattai, or “Union of the Imperial Court and the Shogunate,” is the position subsequently taken by the Tokugawa Shogunate, and called for the shogunate and the imperial court to come together.

This conflict came to a head in 1863 when the Choshu Domain, obeying the order to expel the barbarians, initiated the Shimonoseki campaign. This was the first of several conflicts initiated by Japanese domains against the foreigners in the name of sonno joi. Additionally, in events like the Kinmon Incident, the domains began to rebel directly against the Bakufu. These conflicts would continue up until the Boshin War, which would conclude the bakumatsu period.



Historical Divergence

The previous section has given some background to the cultural, economic, and political condition of Japan in the Edo period, leading up to the bakumatsu and Meiji Restoration. It is at this point I will begin to make alterations to these historical events to lead us to the time of the committee.

Timeline:

The titles of changed events are in **red**; if only part of the description is in red, only that portion of the event has been changed for our purposes. Also note that this is not a comprehensive timeline of the period, nor does it contain all events which may be relevant. Instead, these are simply the events which I found necessary for understanding where the committee stands.

- Edict to Repel Foreign Vessels, 1825
- Morrison Incident, 1837
 - The Morrison was driven away following the Edict to Repel Foreign Vessels
- **Japanese Envoy to France, 1840**
 - Following China's defeat in the Opium Wars, Japan recognizes the inadequacy of traditional weapons and seeks out France for aid.
- **French Military Mission to Japan, 1841**
 - In exchange for a trade deal for military arms and supplies, France sends an envoy to Japan to train the samurai.
- Admiral Cecille Lands in Nagasaki, 1846
 - **Under Japan's new deal with France, French Admiral Cecille lands in Nagasaki to continue bolstering Japanese-French relations.**
- Commander Perry Lands in Edo Bay, July 8, 1853
- **Combined French-Japanese Forces Mobilize to Edo Bay, July 10, 1853**
 - Through the combined French-Japanese forces, Ido Hiromichi is able to match Perry's aggression and is not intimidated. Perry is dissuaded from immediate military action without the support of Washington.
- **Illness and Death of Tokugawa Ieyoshi**
 - Ieyoshi remains in good health and remains shogunate providing needed stability and guidance to Japan.
- Commander Perry Returns to Edo Bay, February 13 1854
- Convention of Kanagawa, March 31 1854
 - **Despite the support of the French**, with British interest looming, Perry is able to force the signing of the Convention of Kanagawa ending the policy of Sakoku



Historical Divergence

- Ansei Treaties, 1858
 - Unequal treaties granting favorable trade deals to the US, UK, Russia, Netherlands, and France. **The French deal increases Japanese purchases of military supplies.**
- **Boshin War**
 - Battle of Toba-Fushima, January 27 – 31, 1868
 - The shogunate forces are driven back, and the Satcho Alliance is given imperial authority
 - Foreign Neutrality Agreement, March 1868
 - **Leon Roches resigns from his position as French Ambassador to aid the shogunate forces**
 - Battle of Koshu-Katsunuma, March 29 1868
 - **With a strategic plan formulated with Roches, western training, and considerable western weaponry, shogunate forces stop the advancement of imperial forces before they reach Edo.**
 - **Battle of Hagi**
 - Shogunate forces capture Hagi, the capital of Choshu, breaking the Satcho Alliance and effectively concluding the Boshin war.



Current Situation

After the success of the shogunate forces in Hagi, the shogunate's authority is once again unrivaled in Japan. The unexpected success of your forces is thanks to the foresight of shogun Ieyoshi in incorporating western training and weaponry beginning in the 1840s. Despite this success, however, Japan is still left in a precarious position. Great amounts of resources have been expended in the course of the war, and Japan is greatly indebted to France for its assistance. Other foreign nations are still closely watching Japan to see what the first actions of the newly reinstated Tokugawa shogunate will be.

Social:

Strong anti-foreign sentiments are still present in the general population. Many still call for *sonnō jōi*, and are disgusted by the widespread use of Western tactics and weaponry throughout the Boshin War. Others take the success of the shogunate as a sign that Japan is now strong enough to stand against the foreign nations and that the order to expel the barbarians must be enacted. Although the shogunate holds authority over the people, the near success of the Satcho Alliance will likely inspire further rebellions unless action is taken.

The fundamental social order has been disrupted by the exposure of western thought. Many begin to question the strict feudal system Japan has been operating under, and rumors of an uprising are beginning to form. Traditionalists believe that the Boshin War had been caused by weakness in Edo, and believe that adherence to the traditions like *sankin-kotai* will reinstate order in the country.

Economic:

Western powers have been exploiting Japan's market with their unequal treaties for a number of years, and Japan's economy has experienced enormous inflation as a result. In the Tokugawa coinage system, silver coins were valued at a 5 to 1 ratio with gold, but on a global scale silver was valued at closer to 15 to 1. Therefore, Westerners, taking advantage of the unequal treaties, brought in silver and exchanged it for the more valuable gold, draining the Japanese market. Without silver and gold, the Bakufu was forced to issue unbacked paper currency, causing the rapid unsolved inflation.

Additionally, the continued existence of the unequal treaties poses a constant threat to the Japanese economy. The inability to set its own tariffs means that Japan is vulnerable to whims of western nations, and lacks sovereignty over its own economy.



Current Situation

Additionally, these treaties exposed the vulnerability of Japan's feudal system to the ideologies of Western industrialized economies. The rigidity of the Japanese economic system had helped it remain in place through many generations, but the superior manufacturing capabilities of Western nations, combined with the unequal treaties, meant that they held a stranglehold over the Japanese economy.

Political:

Although the shogunate has emerged victorious from the Boshin War, the political interests which precipitated the conflict still remain. The rebellious domains must be dealt with, and the role of the imperial government must be clearly fixed. The strength of the shogunate's authority has been irreparably damaged, and some tozama daimyo may consider themselves ready to challenge the Tokugawa.

The military of the shogunate suffered great losses in defeating the Satcho Alliance, and will need time to recover. Although the strength of the Tokugawa shogunate had been demonstrated through its victory, foreign powers remain entrenched in Japan. Additionally, the assistance that France provided to ensure the success of the shogunate was not without costs. The approach that the nation of Japan must take to address these foreign nations will define many of the policies influencing the other spheres of life.

While the shogun evaded a close call with a grave illness earlier in his life, his age is beginning to catch up with him and he has begun to decline in health once again. The successor of the shogun will have major influence over the course the country will take in the coming years, and many daimyo are vying to have their sons adopted and succeed over the frail Iemochi.



Character Positions

At the start of the committee, all characters are assumed to have relatively equal powers as daimyo. It is your job as a delegate to use the crisis back room, as well as debate in the front room, to build up your power and influence. Any specific advantages/resources that you find your character's domain possesses during the course of your personal research can be utilized during committee sessions as long as they are properly contextualized during interactions with committee staff or other delegates.

Ando Nobumasa--Daimyo of the Iwakitaria domain

Honda Tadamoto--Daimyo of the Okazaki domain

Ogasawara Nagamichi--Field officer and de facto ruler of the Karatsu domain

Itakura Katsukiyo--Daimyo of Bitchu-Matsuyama domain

Inoue Masanao--Daimyo of Tatebayashi domain

Mizuno Tadakuni--Daimyo of Karatsu domain

Matsumae Takahiro--Daimyo of Matsumae domain

Makino Tadayuki--Daimyo of Nagaoka domain

Abe Masato--Daimyo of Shirakawa domain

Matsudaira Norikata--Daimyo of Okutono domain

Abe Masahiro--Daimyo of Fukuyama domain

Hotta Masayoshi--Daimyo of Sakura domain

Ota Sukemoto--Daimyo of Kakegawa domain

Suwa Tadamasa--Daimyo of Suwa domain

Inaba Masami--Daimyo of Tateyama domain

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