

# Travels in Japan



# Travel to Japan: A Cultural Journey

- Our time in Japan will give you a glimpse of modern and traditional Japanese culture.
- The places we will visit, the time we will spend is all about immersing ourselves in cultural and historical traditions.





# Tokyo: The Beginning of the Journey

- We land in Tokyo at about 4:30 in the afternoon and make our way into the center of the city.
- Tokyo is among the largest cities in the world.
- We will travel on trains and subways to our locations and will seek out places to eat, visit, and just be in the city.
- The very next day, we travel by bullet train to Kyoto.



# Kyoto: Cultural Center

- Historically, Kyoto is considered the cultural center of Japan.
- From the end of the Nara Period (about 790), Kyoto was the home of the emperor until the 20th century.
- Kyoto (Capital City, literally), was named Heian-kyo after the ruling family and first official dynasty.
- The city's name is kio-to (two syllables).



# Kyoto



Kyoto, 18th century map



# Tokyo: Origins and Development

- Tokyo is a city on the Kanto plain....a flat river basin.
- The city was founded in the 17th century by the founder of the Tokogawa Shogunate, Tokugawa Ieyasu.



Map of Edo (Tokyo)  
early 19th century



# Japanese History: Origins

- While Japanese History extends deep into the past, the modern era began after the end of the “Warring States” period (1467 - 1568).
- The conflict in Japan erupted just as Portuguese merchants arrived in Indonesia, Southeast Asia, and Japan.
- The trade systems in Asia were transformed by European traders intent on finding the source of luxury products valued by Europeans and by people in the Middle East.

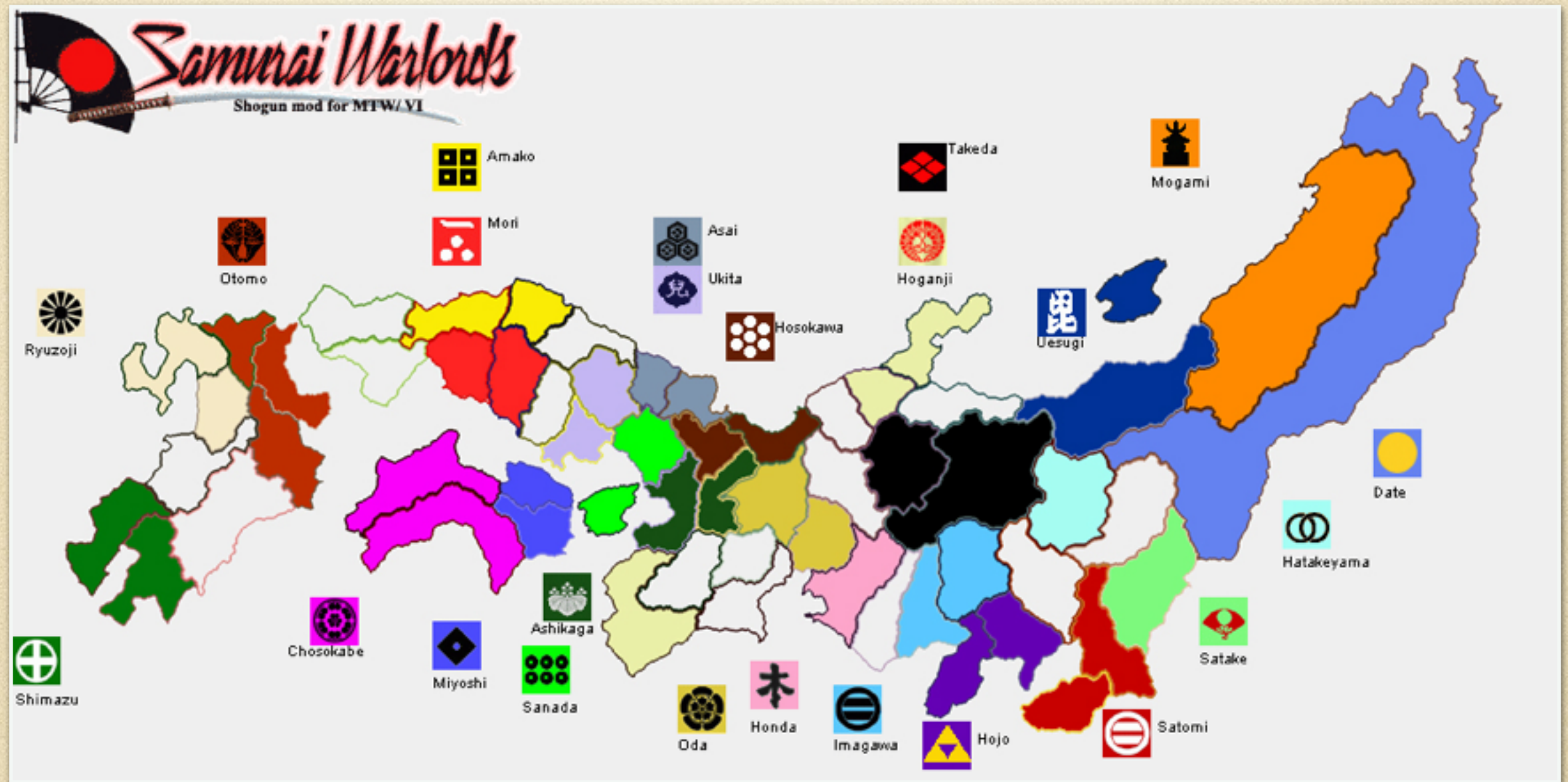


# The Warring States

- Japan was in the midst of conflict between competing states within the island chain we call Japan.
- While the country was unified, in name only, under the guidance of the Emperor in Kyoto. The fact was Japan faced a series of battles between daimyo and samurai, governors and their personal armies.



# Japan, Warring States





# Oda Nobunaga: The Titular Leader of Japan

- The eventual leader of a unified Japan was a kind of governor of a region in southern Japan.
- He was loyal to a powerful daimyo, **Oda Nobunaga**. Nobunaga planned to seize control over Japan by invading the Emperor's city, **Kyoto**, and bringing to an end the various political divisions of Japan.
- Nobunaga was a brutal ruler and used deceit, treachery, and a small group of assassins to bend other governors, or daimyo, to his will.



# Oda Nobunaga





# Nobunaga: Rule by Force

- Nobunaga was powerful indeed, but he violated some basic principles of behavior including the code of warriors, referred to as the Bushido Code.
- The Code, developed by the samurai, established an elaborate system of behavior based on rules written down by scholars.
- Nobunaga knowingly violated these rules and earned the wrath of many samurai.



# Nobunaga: Violates the Code

- Nobunaga was a ruthless man and used every advantage to seize power.
- It was his use of western weaponry that angered so many Japanese.
- Nobunaga traded for Portugese guns. Using those guns, he and 3,000 warriors destroyed a cavalry force of samurai. It was the first time such weapons won a battle in Asia.







# The “Bushido” Code

- The Code Nobunaga violated was the code of the samurai, now referred to as the “Bushido” code or “the way of the samurai.”
- These rules established behavior expected of all warriors in Japanese society.





# The Way of the Samurai

The way included seven virtues; the seven things every samurai had to do to uphold the code of conduct.

Benevolence 仁: taking care of all beings (charity).

Courage 勇: to face conflict directly; never turn away.

Honesty 誠: to speak truthfully in all situations.

Honor 名誉: to act according to the code and never violate principles.

Loyalty 忠実: always loyal to the lord.

Respect 礼(禮): pay respect or “filial piety” to all.

Rectitude 義: follow ethical, moral principles.

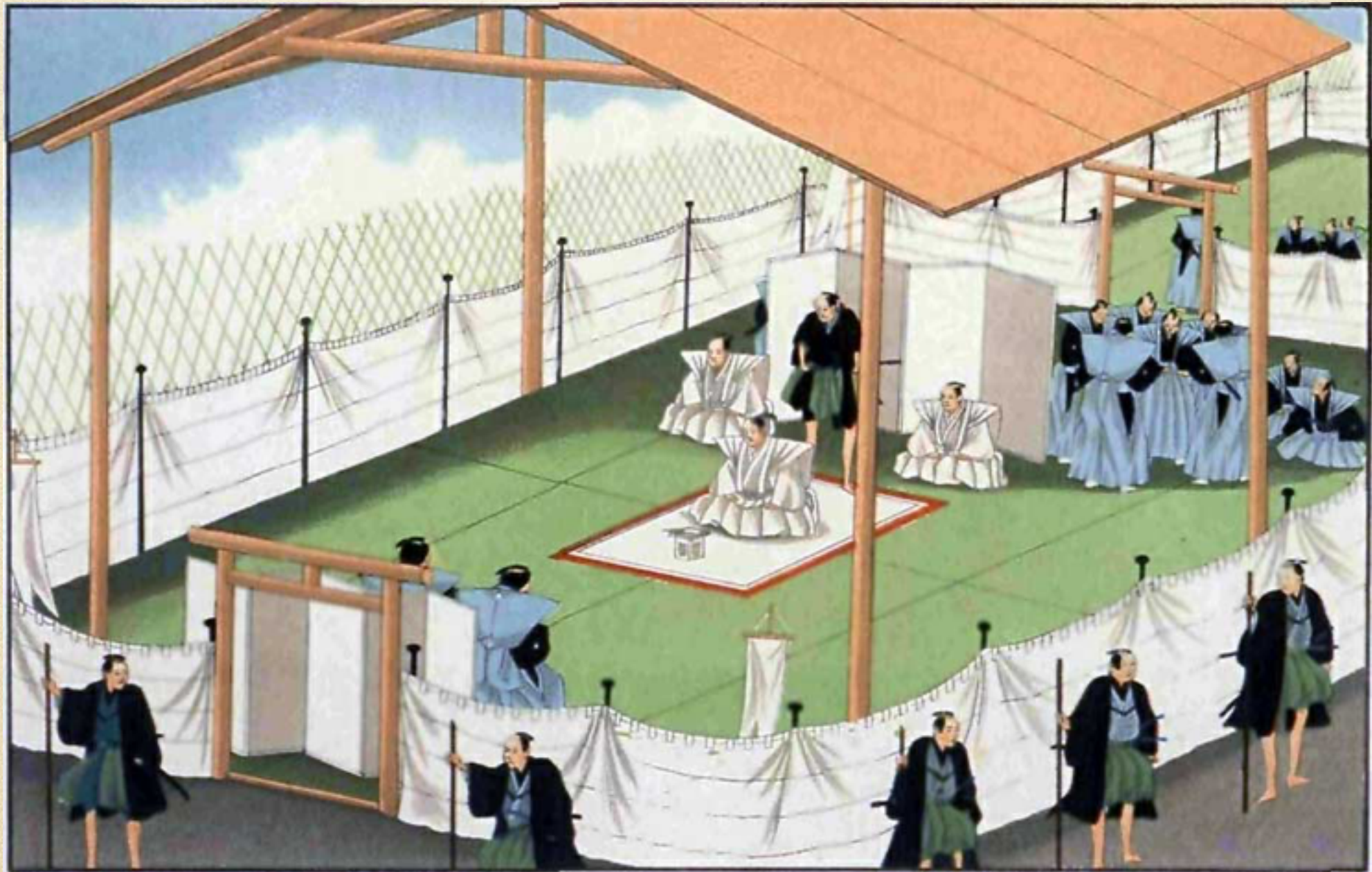


# The Ultimate Price

- This violation of the Code led Nobunaga's generals to turn on him. In response, seeing his honor challenged, Nobunaga chose ritual suicide over dishonor.
- In 1582, at the height of his power, Nobunaga committed *seppuku* and ended his reign.



# Seppuku





# Toyotomi Hideyoshi

- In the face of this humiliation, Nobunaga's loyal generals joined forces.
- The most powerful of these was Toyotomi Hideyoshi.
- Hideyoshi was a strong leader in battle and picked up where Nobunaga left off.





# The War for Japan

- Combining Nobunaga's brute force with unique diplomatic skills, Toyotomi unified, briefly, Japan.
- His ambition, however, was much greater. He had his eyes on Korea, and, eventually, China.
- He invaded Korea with a force of 20,000 samurai. The war went very well and he marched on Seoul.
- Suddenly, Toyotomi died....leaving his plans unfinished.



# Tokugawa Ieyasu

- Of his allies, Tokugawa was the most powerful and immediately stepped into the power vacuum left by Toyotomi.
- He used diplomacy to organize a mighty battle for control of all of Japan.





# Battle of Sekigahara

- With an army much smaller than his rivals, Tokugawa pretended he faced defeat.
- Using his cunning, he lured a much larger army into a trap on a battlefield near Osaka. He committed his infantry, heavily outmanned, and then brought his cavalry into the fight.
- Tokugawa defeated his enemies, and unified Japan under his rule, the rule of the shogun, protector of the emperor.



# Battle of Sekigahara





# The Original Depiction





# The Move to Edo

- Tokugawa was well-aware that court intrigue and the threat of rebellion was constant in Kyoto.
- His brilliant move was to locate his rule in the small city of Edo and create a new government under his direct control.
- In effect, the Japanese government was ruled by a series of military dictators....all of them from the Tokugawa family.



# Edo, The Shogun's Palace





# The Modern View



Matsumoto Castle, Matsumoto Japan...Edo era structure



# Sources

- *A History of Japan: Revised Edition* by R. H. P. Mason, J. G. Caiger
- *A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present* by Andrew Gordon