

*Historical Committee*

*MetMUNC XLVIII*

*Topic: Sengoku Jidai*

*Chairpersons: Joshua Feller and Aidan Davis*



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*[Note: This committee will simulate a conference between clans in the year 1478. We also encourage you to research events that take place post-1478 as they may come into play during committee but do not make it the central focus of your research. We also encourage dressing up in outfits reminiscent of the time period, but make sure to keep the clothing appropriate **BUT NO FAKE WEAPONS!**]*

## Pre-Onin War

Sengoku Jidai was a period in Japanese history in which multiple clans and their leaders, called daimyos or shugos, fought for power, land, influence, and glory in an effort to reunify Japan. This period of conquest, alliances, and betrayal was the direct result of the Onin Wars<sup>1</sup>. The Onin War was a conflict between two rival clans with conflicting interests in the successor to the shogunate. The ruling shogunate was the Ashikaga clan, under Ashikaga Yoshimasa. Yoshimasa became shogun in 1449;<sup>2</sup> during his rule as shogun, the bakufu (government) began to lose control of the provinces outside of Kyoto, the capital in which he ruled from, due to a myriad of issues ranging from peasant rebellions, famines, diseases, and



**Figure 1:** Ashikaga Yoshimasa, in dress typical of a Japanese monk.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/place/Japan/The-Onin-War-1467-77#ref319380>

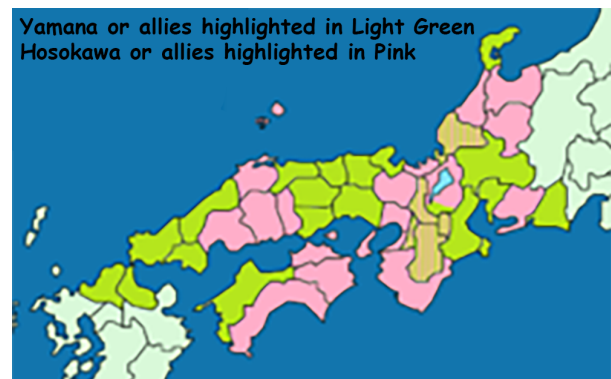
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ashikaga-Yoshimasa>

dissension from daimyo that oversaw many of the distant provinces.<sup>3</sup> This, along with his indecisiveness in controlling his subordinates, led to Yoshimasa attempting to retire early. Due to his lack of an heir, he attempted to pass the throne to his brother,<sup>4</sup> Ashikaga Yoshimi,<sup>5</sup> who was serving as a religious monk<sup>6</sup> and initially did not accept his brother's offer. Eventually, due to the intervention of the head of the Hosokawa, Hosokawa Katsumoto, he agreed and became deputy to Hosokawa, staying in Kyoto,<sup>7</sup> but was not yet crowned shogun. However, in 1466,<sup>8</sup> then-shogun Ashikaga Yoshimasa's wife gave birth to a male heir. Hosokawa continued to support Yoshimi, but Hosokawa's rival in court, Yamana Sozen, supported the new heir. Sozen and Yoshimasa's wife managed to convince the shogun to change his mind and made his son next in the line of succession.<sup>9</sup> This would lead to over 100 years of outright civil war.

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## The Beginning of the Onin War

The Onin War began with both the Hosokawa and Yamana clans gathering their forces right outside of Kyoto.<sup>10</sup> The shogun, however, managed to delay an all-out war by declaring that the first to declare war would be



**Image 2:** This is a map detailing the Japanese provinces in which the Hosokawa and Yamana clans had local support.

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3 <https://www.britannica.com/topic/shugo>

4 <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ashikaga-Yoshimasa>

5 Sansom, George (1961). *A History of Japan, 1334–1615*. Stanford University Press. P. 217–229

6 Image 1

7 Sansom, George (1961). *A History of Japan, 1334–1615*. Stanford University Press. P. 217–229

8 Sansom, George (1961). *A History of Japan, 1334–1615*. Stanford University Press. P. 217–229

9 <https://www.samurai-archives.com/tow.html>

10 Image 2

considered a rebellion. Despite this threat, both sides still made small probing attacks against each other. The Yamana burned down the house of a Hosokawa general while the Hosokawa intercepted taxed rice on the way to the capital.<sup>11</sup> Eventually, the Hosokawa forces launched an attack at the mansion of Isshiki, one of the Yamana generals, in 1467. Despite making the first attack, Hosokawa managed to convince the shogun and emperor to name the Yamana as rebels. Despite the surprise attack, both sides were evenly matched with about 80,000 forces. Unfortunately for the Hosokawa, the Yamana received formidable reinforcements from the Ouichi family and began to make a push east. Over time, alliances swapped back and forth and ironically, Yoshimi ended up becoming a leading general of the Yamana forces as Yamana now declared his support of Yoshimi, and Yoshimasa named his 4-year-old son Yoshihisa<sup>12</sup> heir with backing from the Hosokawa.<sup>13</sup>



Figure 3: The 9th Shogunate, Ashikaga Yoshihisa

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## Outside Influences

Despite this being a civil war, it was made all the more bloody when China re-established contact during the middle years of the war.<sup>14</sup> The new trade brought weapons such as fire arrows from catapults and fire spears. There was also a spread of the religion of Zen Buddhism.<sup>15</sup> Zen

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<sup>11</sup> Sansom, George (1961). *A History of Japan, 1334–1615*. Stanford University Press. P. 217–229

<sup>12</sup> Image 3

<sup>13</sup> <https://common-history.livejournal.com/2759.html>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/event/Onin-War>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Zen#ref271780>

Buddhism was followed by many of the Samurai and Daimyo and helped to inspire the idea of bushido; the code of honor and morals developed by the Japanese samurai. With these new weapons and the upheavals of politics, many different rural religious monks attempted to try and make changes and dominate the religion and to spread their version of the faith.

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## **The Later Onin Wars**

The Onin War continued well into the 1470's. However, large-scale fighting between the North and South courts largely subsided. In 1471, Yamana set up a rival court in the south with a pretend-shogun as its figurehead. Yoshimi was not pleased by this, as he had never abandoned his allegiance to the northern imperial throne, and eventually, the southern court was disposed of. As the generals of both courts were getting tired of war, a stalemate set in and both sides attempted to broker a peace. By 1472, many of the leading generals returned to their home provinces<sup>16</sup> to put down insurrectionists. Both Yamana and Hosokawa wanted peace, but their lower generals refused. After the deaths of Yamana and Hosokawa in 1473, both armies slowly dispersed and many generals swore their allegiance to Yoshimasa. The peace was kept until a dispute broke out in 1475 between Ouchi and Hatakeyama Masanga. The war restarted, but eventually, most generals from the west decided to go back home. Finally, on December 17, 1477 all forces had left their bases in Kyoto, thus ending the Onin Wars.

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<sup>16</sup> Sansom, George (1961). *A History of Japan, 1334–1615*. Stanford University Press. P. 217–229

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## Notes for the Delegates

With Kyoto left destroyed from the constant and lengthy fighting it is now up to the ambassadors from the clans of Japan to debate the next course of action. Despite the end of the war and the successful declaration of Yoshihisa as heir to the shogun, many clans still do not accept or prefer Yoshimi. It is up to you to argue your claim. The first issue that will be debated is how will you reunify Japan, as despite having both the shogun with a confirmed heir and emperor, both sides have been considerably weakened from the civil war. **It is the wish of your clan to use this committee as a way to try and take control of Japan. Through alliances, debate, diplomacy, and betrayal, you must decide whether to hide in the shadows and control the shogun like a puppet, strengthen the shogun's position, strengthen the emperor's position, or seize the shogunate for yourself and your allies. Can you save Japan from its own destruction?**

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## Timeline of Events

**1443**-Ashikaga Yoshimasa becomes Shogun

**1445**-Hosokawa Katsumoto becomes one of Kyoto's governors

**1464**-Yoshimasa gets Yoshimi to accept being heir

**1465**-Tomi-ko (Yoshimasa's wife) has a male heir

**1466**-Yaman Sozen and Hosokawa Katsumoto gather forces near Kyoto

1467-Outbreak of the Onin War, Hosokawa attacks Isshiki

1467-Yoshimasa declares Yamana Sozen a rebel

1468-Yoshimi swaps sides

1469-Yoshimasa names Yoshihisa heir

1473-Yamana Sozen and Hosokawa Katsumoto die

1475-War breaks out Between Ouchi and Hatakeyama Masanga

1477-Ouchi leaves Kyoto. End of Onin War

1478-Start of committee

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### **Critical Questions:**

- 1. Where did your clan stand on the issue of succession?**
- 2. Where is your clan located and how much power and influence do they have?**
- 3. Is your clan a vassal to someone or do you have any yourself?**
- 4. What resources do you think your clan has access to? ex: fish, boats, rice, metal**
- 5. Did your clan actually fight in the Onin War?**
- 6. What clans have you fought against in the past?**

### **Helpful Links**

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Onin-War>

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Japan/The-Onin-War-1467-77>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ashikaga-Yoshimasa>

<https://www.samurai-archives.com/tow.html>

<https://www.warhistoryonline.com/medieval/the-onin-war.html>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/shugo>

**Recommended Readings (Most Public Libraries should carry at least one of the following):**

***George Sansom's A History of Japan 1334-1615 (Highly Recommended Book)***

Hugh Cortazzi's *The Japanese Achievement*

Kenneth G.Henshall's *A History of Japan: From Stone Age to Superpower*

Marius B. Jansen's *The Making of Modern Japan*

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## The Clans

*[Note: These descriptions are not complete, further research should be done into one's clan. This serves as a jumping-off point and quick summary of which clan is which and what their role in the bigger scenario is, as well as a map made by the chairs detailing the locations of the respective clans. Make sure you do more research!]*

## Independent Clans

### Shimazu

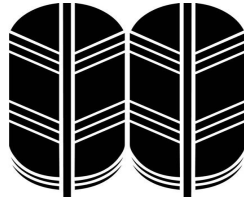


The Shimazu family was founded by Shimazu Tadahisa in the 12th century. The Shimazu ruled over the southern portion of the island of Kyushu, and were very influential in the area. Their influence in East Asian trade helped solidify their power, as they had contact with Korea, China, and Ryukyu, allowing for an increase in the exchange of ideas and technology. Their biggest asset is their wealth, foreign connections, and influence over trade.<sup>17</sup>

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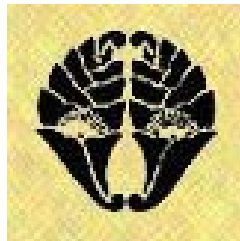
<sup>17</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Shimazu-family>

## Kikuchi



The Kikuchi clan is most commonly thought to be descended of the Fujiwara clan. They began their lineage in the 11th century, with Kikuchi Noritaka. They occupied a sizeable amount of land on the island of Kyushu, and were involved in the local trade in the area. However, they specialized themselves in education, knowledge, and Confucian principles during the late 15th century. Their foundation of Kikuchi Academics served as one of Japan's leading centers of knowledge.<sup>18</sup>

## Otomo



The Otomo clan was established in 1185 by the Kamakura Shogunate for the purpose of governing the Bungo and Buzen provinces on the island of Kyushu. The clan had a long history of military prowess, being one of the main clans that helped repel the Mongol Invasions of Japan in 1274 and 1281. The Ōtomo were early supporters of the Ashikaga shogunate, where their warriors fought alongside Ashikaga Takauji to help him secure victory.<sup>19</sup> The Otomo also became very involved in the trade of southern Japan, seeing the Shimazu as rivals in maritime dominance. This clan is very well positioned to greet anyone who seeks to establish a relationship with Japan.

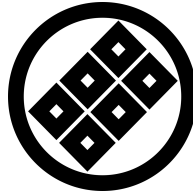
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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.city.kikuchi.lg.jp/kankou/en/aview/148/945.html>

<sup>19</sup> Sansom, George (1961). *A History of Japan, 1334–1615*. Stanford University Press. pp. 40–41, 48

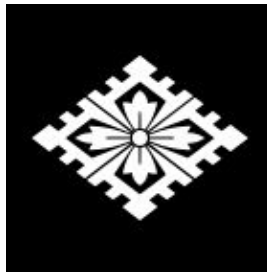


## Shoni



The Shoni clan is able to trace its roots to the Fujiwara clan, and controlled much of the northwest portion of the island of Kyushu. The Shoni were one of the major clans that contributed to the effort in combating the Mongol Invasions of Japan in 1274 and 1281. They were quick supporters of the Ashikaga in the 14th century, and helped Ashikaga Takauji gain power. The Shoni repeatedly fought with the Ouchi over influence on Kyushu, and have suffered a string of defeats that served to cripple the nation. However, the Shoni resolve to defend their holdings is strong, and refuses to bow to the Ouchi invaders.<sup>20</sup>

## Ouchi



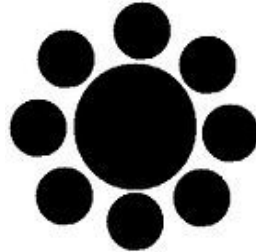
The origins of the Ouchi are up for much debate, with the most prevailing theory being that they came from the Korean kingdom of Baekje. The Ouchi held land in the northern portion of Kyushu, but were mainly based in the western end of Honshu. The Ouchi supported Ashikaga Takauji in the 14th century in creating the Ashikaga Shogunate. During the Onin War, the Ouchi staunchly supported the Yamana in their quest for power. Naturally, this led to a sharp rivalry with the Hosokawa. They also had a large influence in trade in southern Japan. The Ouchi is

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<sup>20</sup> Sansom, George (1961). *A History of Japan, 1334–1615*. Stanford University Press. pp. 45

one of the most powerful clans in all of Japan and is certainly a force to be reckoned with.<sup>21</sup>

## Hosokawa



The Hosokawa were one of the two main clans that attempted to gain power in the Onin War. The Hosokawa have direct blood connection to the Emperor and the Ashikaga and thus were awarded many prominent government positions. They were given many rich and important territories throughout Japan, and were, in many ways, the premier power leading up to the Onin War. During the Onin War, Hosokawa support for Ashikaga Yoshimasa led to conflict with the Yamana. When the dust settled, the Hosokawa controlled Kyoto and held the title of the Kyoto Kanrei (Shogun's deputy), effectively giving them control over the Shogun, and by extension, the entire country. However, this power was much less than expected, as the weakening grip the Shogun had on Japan became evident after the war. The Hosokawa are perhaps the most influential clan when it comes to trade with the outside world, and are able to boast one of the largest militaries in the country. Their rivals, the Yamana and Ouchi, look upon the capital with hungry eyes and drawn swords, ready to strike when they sense weakness. The Hosokawa must maintain their holdings and their power in Kyoto, but also, and possibly more importantly, aim to reunify Japan and bring them out of the Sengoku Jidai.<sup>22</sup>

## Yamana



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<sup>21</sup> Sansom, George (1961). *A History of Japan: 1334–1615*. Stanford: Stanford University Press

<sup>22</sup> Sansom, George (1961). *A History of Japan: 1334–1615*. Stanford: Stanford University Press

The Yamana were one of the two main clans that attempted to gain power in the Onin War. Their loyal support for the Ashikaga in their overthrow of the Kamakura Shogunate landed them many important government positions and connections. They were awarded many wealthy and plentiful lands throughout Japan, and grew their power to great heights. During the Onin War, they pledged allegiance to Ashikaga Yoshimi, leading to conflict with the Hosokawa. The Yamana quickly formed an alliance with the Ouchi to combat the Hosokawa. After their defeat, the Yamana seemed to be weakened by the newfound Hosokawa-influenced shogun, however, they still maintain some power. While they may not control Kyoto, their military is strong and their allies loyal. The Yamana clan still has not forgiven nor forgotten about the transgressions against them by the Hosokawa, and seek to take control of the shogunate once and for all.<sup>23</sup>

### Ashikaga



The Ashikaga clan, at the time of the start of this committee, possess the title of Shogun. However, it should be noted that they are heavily influenced by the Hosokawa and therefore is aligned with their interests. The Ashikaga gained power after the ousting of the Kamakura Shogunate, which was achieved by the buildup of a coalition of disgruntled clans. As the Ashikaga continued their rule, their grip on the provinces of the country began to slip. When a dynastic dispute occurred, the Hosokawa and Yamana clans rushed to fill the power vacuum in the capital, Kyoto. This led to the destruction of the city and the influencing of the Ashikaga by the Hosokawa. However, the Ashikaga, while weak now, still possess great potential for power, and, in principle, still have authority over Japan. Their military and economy are strong even without their capital, and are ready to secure themselves from any threat to their clan.<sup>24 25</sup>

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23 Sansom, George (1961). *A History of Japan: 1334–1615*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

24 <https://jref.com/articles/ashikaga-clan.256/>

25 Sansom, George (1961). *A History of Japan: 1334–1615*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

## Imagawa



The Imagawa clan was created when Ashikaga Kuniuji, grandson of Ashikaga Yoshiuji, founded the clan in the 13th century. The Imagawa supported the Hosokawa during the Onin War, but saw very little fighting. They continue to be on good terms with both the Hosokawa and the Ashikaga. Despite their size, they have a larger than average army, but suffer from a lack of leadership. They have good relations with the Takeda, but that could change at any moment based on the newfound chaos. The Imagawa is not a clan to be underestimated.<sup>26</sup>

## Hatakeyama



The Hatakeyama clan began as a branch of the Taira clan, but after political scheming and a bloody battle, became descendants of the Ashikaga clan. They aligned themselves closely with the Ashikaga in their attempt to take power, and were rewarded handsomely. During the Onin War, they backed the Hosokawa. The clan, however, became riddled with corruption and intrigue over the course of the war, and soon split into rival branches within the clan. The Hatakeyama reside in 2 extremely important areas that serve as very strategic strongholds. The Hatakeyama are disunited and should take steps to stabilize themselves before embroiling the clan into another conflict.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> [http://www2.harimaya.com/sengoku/html/imaga\\_k.html](http://www2.harimaya.com/sengoku/html/imaga_k.html)

<sup>27</sup> [https://wiki.samurai-archives.com/index.php?title=Hatakeyama\\_clan](https://wiki.samurai-archives.com/index.php?title=Hatakeyama_clan)

## Kono



The Kono clan claims to be directly descended from the ancient Emperor Kammu. They held land on the northwestern portion of the island of Shikoku, and are at odds with the Hosokawa over control of the island. The Kono clan supported the Ashikaga in their ascent to power, but strangely withdrew their support midway through the conflict, leading to a small feeling of resentment by the Ashikaga. During the Onin War, they sided with the Yamana in order to combat increasing Hosokawa influence. More recently, the Hosokawa aligned Chosokabe clan has been threatening the lands of the Kono. While the Chosokabe holds very little land as of the end of the Onin War, their presence can be felt through aid from the Hosokawa. The Kono clan must safeguard itself from Hosokawa aggression if it wants to have a bright future.<sup>28</sup>

## Ogasawara



The Ogasawara clan was created in the 13th century, and established an early power base in the Shinano province of Japan. The Ogasawara chose to distance themselves from the Onin War occurring in Kyoto, establishing themselves as a largely neutral but isolationist minded clan. They generally oppose most attempts of reunification of Japan if it affects the safety of their territories. The terrain of

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<sup>28</sup> [https://wiki.samurai-archives.com/index.php?title=Kono\\_clan](https://wiki.samurai-archives.com/index.php?title=Kono_clan)

their holdings is mostly mountainous, and their military is trained to fight in such conditions. The Ogasawara have a somewhat strained relationship with the Uesugi clan, but a close relationship to the Takeda clan.<sup>29</sup>

## Takeda



The Takeda clan, founded in the 12th century, were based primarily in the Kai province of Japan. The Takeda were a militarily-minded clan that utilized impressive military strategy to both wage wars and defend their homeland. One such tactic was the use of cavalry charges at a time when horses were mainly used to protect flanks. The Takeda horsemen were feared by all who opposed them, and a single charge at the right moment could end a battle and rout the enemy. Most of the horses they used for their military were bred in the territory of the Nanbu clan, leading to good relations. Their scheming subjects in the Mori clan seem to be plotting some sort of rebellion, but as that is in its preliminary stages, it is not as pertinent as other issues. Takeda was not unchallenged, however, as their rivalry against the Uesugi clan led to frequent fighting. Even while both sides were enemies, they held immense respect for each other.<sup>30</sup>

## Uesugi



The Uesugi clan were the descendants of the Fujiwara clan, and gained much prominence starting in the early 14th century. The Uesugi were always seen as outliers when it came to Japanese daimyos, as they were much more north than the main part of Japan and less connected to the Ashikaga than other clans. It is safe to say that they are the main power in northern Japan, boasting a strong military, ample food production, and competent leadership. The clan still contains some flaws, as it has only recently united its branches, and is still in a fragile situation. In

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<sup>29</sup> Varley, Paul. (1967). *The Onin War: History of Its Origins and Background with a Selective Translation of the Chronicle of Ōnin*, p. 81

<sup>30</sup> "Takeda family". *Encyclopedia of Japan*. Tokyo: Shogakukan. 2012.

the past, the clan has tried to rebel against the Ashikaga, leading to sour relations. The clan itself stayed out of the Onin War, but faced internal conflicts of its own. Suffice it to say, the Uesugi have ambitions of a unified Japan under the Uesugi clan and have a great hatred, yet respect, to those who oppose them.<sup>31</sup>

## Satake



The Satake clan was created in the 12th century by Satake Masayoshi. They supported the Ashikaga in their ascent to power, and were given many scattered domains across northern Japan. Over time, this power degraded and they lost many of their more northern territories. The clan has a fierce rivalry with the Date clan, and still lays claim to the lands in which they lost. During the Onin War, they were able to bide their time, staying neutral, and build up a decent military. The Satake also are quick to adapt to technologies around them, and are open to any new inventions that will benefit their land.<sup>32</sup>

## Satomi



The Satomi clan was founded in the 13th century by Satomi Yoshitoshi. The Satomi clan was given various pieces of territory and had many pieces revoked over the course of its history. Starting where the Ogasawara are now, their clan grew and expanded, then shrunk into the land in which they control now. Due to this, they have a dislike for the Ogasawara, and also see themselves coming into conflict with the Satake. They consider Date as possible friends, and want to make sure they stay on good terms with the shogun.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> Sansom, George (1961). *A History of Japan: 1334–1615*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

<sup>32</sup> [http://www2.harimaya.com/sengoku/html/satake\\_k.html](http://www2.harimaya.com/sengoku/html/satake_k.html)

<sup>33</sup> Sansom, George (1961). *A History of Japan: 1334–1615*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

## Shiba



The Shiba clan was founded in the late 12th century by Shiba Yasuuji. The Shiba were early allies of the Ashikaga during their growth and quest for power, and thus were rewarded and kept as close allies. Originally, the Shiba clan was given the territories near Date and Nanbu, but were reassigned to the 2 areas that they control now. The Shiba sided with the Yamana in the Onin War, and now see themselves in a crisis. In their Owari territory (the southernmost one), the ambitious Oda clan seeks to rebel from Shiba control. In their Echizen province (the northernmost one), they risk a rebellion from the Asakura clan. This could have devastating effects if the Shiba do not take steps to stabilize their country and form alliances.

The Shiba also still are resentful that they were separated from their northern territory, and thus have an adversarial relationship with the Date and Nanbu clans.

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## Toki



The Toki clan was founded in the late 13th century under unclear circumstances.

During the Ashikaga rise to power, they supported Ashikaga Takauji and were given a province of plentiful harvests and a decently sized population. However, during the Onin War, the Toki sided with the Yamana in invading Ashikaga lands. They managed to take the southern part of the Omi province before being advised to draw back by the Hosokawa. The Toki may seem like they are in a precarious

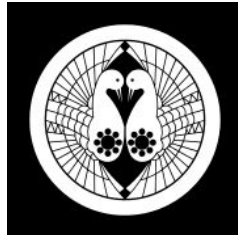
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<sup>34</sup> <https://www.revolvy.com/page/Shiba-clan>



position, however, they are able to hold their own, and are willing to help the Yamana take the shogunate when the time comes.<sup>35</sup>

## Nanbu



The Nanbu clan was founded in the middle Heian period, having connections to the early Takeda. The clan held various mid-level positions in the Kamakura government, and were largely split on the issue of support for the Ashikaga.

However, this divide within the clan was quickly remedied when the Ashikaga took power. During the Ashikaga reign, they were appointed as the “Defenders of the North,” and have had many run ins with the nomadic Ainu tribes to the north. The Nanbu were particularly good at breeding horses, which led to superb cavalry strategy within the army. The Nanbu have their rivals though, as the Date clan to the south may have ambitions of expansion, and the Shiba wish to reclaim some of their lost territories.<sup>36</sup>

## Date



The Date clan was founded in the year 1189 by Isa Tomomune as a gift to him by the first Kamakura shogun. During the Ashikaga rise to power, the Date clan opposed the Ashikaga’s court, but were not very affected by the outcome. During the Onin War, the Date tended to their own business and remained somewhat stagnant. The Date have always had a history of diplomatic excellence, and are able to form alliances when they are needed. The Date are wary of aggression from the Uesugi and the Shiba, and thus feel that they must safeguard against such threats. While the Date are on bad terms with the Nanbu, they would not be

<sup>35</sup> Nussbaum, Louis-Frédéric. (2005). "Saitō Dōsan" in *Japan Encyclopedia*, p. 809

<sup>36</sup> [http://www2.harimaya.com/sengoku/html/nanbu\\_k.html](http://www2.harimaya.com/sengoku/html/nanbu_k.html)

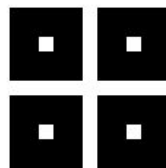
opposed to forming a temporary alliance with them to secure the north of Japan from other invading clans.<sup>37</sup>

## **Ikko-Ikki**



The Ikko-Ikki were not a clan or a daimyo in any sense of the term. In fact, they opposed the entire shogunate system. The Ikko-Ikki were decentralized groups of warrior monks that occupied monasteries and shrines, and they struck fear into the hearts of every clan in the nation. Their powerbase is spread all across the country, so it is hard to centralize, but also hard to tell where they might strike. The Ikko-Ikki follow the Jōdo Shinshū sect of Buddhism, and are mostly pacifists in nature. However, when they are provoked, their forces will erupt with fervor, destroying almost any army in their path. The Ikko-Ikki are not aggressive, and will try their best to stay out of disputes. Their strongholds lay along major trade routes, and have a huge influence on overland trade. The Ikko-Ikki will rarely form an alliance, and certainly will oppose any unification of the Japanese Islands.<sup>38</sup>

## **Amago/Kyogoku**



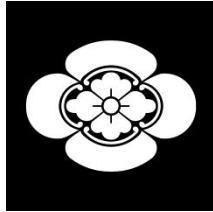
The Amago clan and the Kyogoku clan controlled most of the same provinces, and were intertwined in almost everything significant. Both were of the Sasaki parent house, and have very similar histories and traditions. During the Onin war, the clan supported the Hosokawa, and developed a strong rivalry with the Ouchi. The clan is at a crossroads as of now, as they are weak, surrounded by enemies, and riddled with infighting and corruption. Making sure that these home territories are secure and fortified from invaders is the priority of the Amago, and reconciliation with the Yamana and Ouchi is a present option.

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<sup>37</sup> Sansom, George (1961). *A History of Japan: 1334–1615*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

<sup>38</sup> Sansom, George (1961). *A History of Japan, 1334–1615*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. pp. 134–135, 207–209, 237.

## Isshiki



The Isshiki clan was founded in the 14th century by Ashikaga Kōshin. The Isshiki naturally supported the Ashikaga, and were rewarded with high positions in the government bureaucracy as a result. The Isshiki supported the Yamana in the Onin War but did not lose much from the outcome. The Isshiki are wary of growing Hosokawa power, as they share a border with the clan, and are split into two regions. The Isshiki are on good terms with the Ashikaga, but seeing as they are being influenced by the Hosokawa, that relationship is starting to deteriorate. The Isshiki also sense a growing threat from the Hatakeyama and must be wary of their actions.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> Sansom, George (1961). *A History of Japan, 1334-1615*. Stanford University Press. p. 90-91.

# Map of Japan: 1478

