

# BC HIGH MUN 30

→ *Warring Summit: Sengoku Period Background Guide*



Chair: Andrew Engel

Co-chair: Kevin Camy

## **Welcome Letter from the Chair:**

Esteemed Delegates,

Greetings and hello to everyone! Welcome to BC High MUN 30. My name is Andrew Engel and I am a senior at Boston College High school. I will be chairing the Warring Summit: Sengoku Period Committee and am honored to chair this committee as this will be my first time chairing. At my school some of the extracurriculars I am involved with are Capitaining the sailing team, Project citizenship, and Hyde Center for Global scholars along with being in Model UN. This is a bittersweet moment seeing this will be my last BC High MUN and look forward to starting a new chapter in college.

I am eager to meet all delegates in this committee and am excited to examine both differing perspectives and outlooks. I find that open debate and respect for others' opinions is the best way to reach a solution to a problem. Given the current political climate it is essential that we listen and comprehend others' views. I can't wait to see what each delegate will bring to the table and the solutions that are reached. I have participated within Model UN at BC High for the past 4 years and have been at this event for the past 3 years. Thank you everyone for the patience and understanding in these times of uncertainty and applaud your enthusiasm.

This committee has spent a significant amount of time on this topic and is a very important one. Sengoku Jidai is a key event in world history, specifically Japanese history, as it was a time where Japan was able to fight for power, but also helped instigate a centralized and unified government at the end of the period.

Please feel free to contact us for any questions at [aw.engel22@students.bchigh.edu](mailto:aw.engel22@students.bchigh.edu). I encourage all of you to send their papers to me prior to the conference to be considered for the

Ben Maher Award. I hope to hear from all of you. I wish everyone luck, and thank you for coming!

Sincerely,

Andrew Engel, Réseaux Sociaux (He/Him)

## **Welcome Letter from Co-Chair:**

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to BC High Model UN 30. I hope all of you are well. My name is Kevin Camy and I will be the co-chair of this committee. This is my fourth year in Model Un and it has been an experience. This my second time co-chairing a committee and I hope I serve you in the best way. Two years I had the opportunity to chair the BHOC committee. The committee itself was very interesting and listening to everyone speak their points were great. Being in that position will help me to make an inclusive and energetic and vibrant environment. Last year, I co chaired the Boko Haram committee on zoom but it was a sensational experience. Outside of Model Un, I am a part of Sports Debate, Latin quizbowl, and Philosophy Club. I am a part of the Michael D White leadership program at my school and I am a senior mentor .I like watching wrestling and sports, debating with others, (especially with my father regarding politics), and teasing my five younger siblings.

This is going to be my last BC High conference. It's been a journey and one I will never forget. I have had so much fun and I have been so fortunate to be a part of this group and to meet fabulous people. Let's have a great conference.

If you have any questions, or concerns, or wish to send your position papers, email me at [k.camy22@students.bchigh.edu](mailto:k.camy22@students.bchigh.edu). Until we meet, have a superb day.

Yours truly,

Kevin Camy, Charge D' Affairs

## **Introduction:**

From 1467 CE to 1615 CE, Japan was in a state of constant civil war. This became known as the Sengoku Period. Due to the collapse in Japan's feudal system, a power-vacuum emerged. The Sengoku Jidai, or the Warring States Period of Japan, was a period of conquest, mistrust, betrayal, violence, and instability. Some of the key figures during this period were Oda Nobunaga, Tokugawa Ieyasu, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, and Hattori Hanzo and they had high impact on Japan. The period began following the end of the violent Onin War in 1477, towards the end of the Ashikaga for conflict of power. Some historians consider the end of the Sengoku period to be in 1567, when Shogunate. The main time period of the Sengoku Jidai lasted from 1467 to 1567, with a whole century of Japan, who acted as a "vassal" to the shogun. However, it was not technically until 1603 with the rise of the Oda Nobunaga that took over the city of Kyoto. Tokugawa Shogunate and Tokugawa Ieyasu did the war actually end within Japan.

At the end of the Onin War in 1467, the important figures who became Daimyos (powerful landholders of Daimyos) also used the time period after the Onin War to assert power as regional warlords. However, daimyos frequently had altering jobs and tasks during Japan; at the beginning of the 8th-10th centuries, most acted as landlords, while during the Ashikaga shogunate before the Onin War, many acted as military governors. During the Sengoku period, Daimyos were consistently at conflict with each other, which led to fewer holding land and in charge of the military; eventually most ended up as subjects of the Tokugawa family's power over Japan and the differing territories. Shoguns were considered to be the "Commander in under Tokugawa Ieyasu. In addition to Daimyos during this time period, Shoguns played the most important role of the time, many were puppet leaders to Japan, while shoguns had the real

authority; therefore, Chief” of the military and had most of the control over the nation. While there were emperors, whoever had control of the shogun, had power over Japan.

## **Key Terms:**

**Shogun:** Is the military dictator of Japan during most of the period spanning from 1185 to 1868. Nominally appointed by the Emperor, shōguns were usually the de facto rulers of the country, and were arranged by a ruling clan. The members of the Shōgunate were usually all part of the same family or clan.

**Daimyo:** Powerful Japanese feudal lords who ruled most of Japan from their vast, hereditary land holdings. Subordinate to the shogun and nominally to the Emperor and the Kuge, Daimyō ruled from the 10th Century to the middle 19th Century in Japan

**Kuge:** Japanese aristocrats who work in the Imperial court in Kyoto.

**Kami:** translated as “god,” “lord,” or “deity,” but it also includes other forces of nature, both good and evil, which, because of their superiority or divinity, become objects of reverence and respect.

**Bushido:** code of conduct for Japan's warrior classes from perhaps as early as the eighth century through modern times. The word "bushido" comes from the Japanese roots "bushi" meaning "warrior," and "do" meaning "path" or "way." It translates literally to "way of the warrior."

**Bodhisattva:** are enlightened beings who have put off entering paradise in order to help others attain enlightenment. There are many different Bodhisattvas, but the most famous in China is Avalokitesvara, known in Chinese as Guanyin. Bodhisattvas are usually depicted as less austere or inward than the Buddha. Often can protect shrines.

**Japanese Feudal System:** describes the relationship between lords and vassals where land ownership and its use was exchanged for military service and loyalty. ... Unlike in European feudalism, these often hereditary officials, at least initially, did not own land themselves.

**Shinto Religion:** The word Shintō, which literally means “the way of kami” (generally sacred or divine power, specifically the various gods or deities), came into use in order to distinguish indigenous Japanese beliefs from Buddhism, which had been introduced into Japan in the 6th century.

## History of a Topic:

### *The Onin War*

The Onin War began when Ashikaga Yoshimasa lacked a proper heir to the throne, as he coaxed his younger brother, Ashikaga Yoshimi to become the new ruler. With the unpredicted birth of Yoshihisa between Ashikaga Yoshimasa and his wife Hino Tomiko, it was unclear who would take control, Yoshimasa's son or younger brother. This conflict led to the Onin War, as the Hosokawa Clan supported the rule of Yoshimi in power and Yoshimasa supporting his newborn son Yoshihisa for power, with some support from other clans and leaders at the time, notably Yamana Sozen, a monk who was in conflict with the Hosokawa Clan. The total amount of soldiers fighting was 270,000, declaring the Onin War one of the most sizeable wars fought in Japanese history.

Yet there was still some push back from each side on whether or not to actually engage in lives rather than strategically. This led to violence, bloodshed, and damage across Japan, as many buildings were destroyed and many clans faced immense casualties. At first, the main battles were because of the widespread violence and brutality of the war, many died or fled Japan, with the shogun losing its main power at the time, and daimyos sending their troops out to fight for their survival. Eventually, the war ended after eleven years with no declared winner and only a war-torn and disembodied Japan. However, while warlords were out financing and directing the war, lower ranked officials took over government positions, leading to new powerful figures and a new set of After a Hosokawa mansion was mysteriously set on fire, the war had officially started, with War. the Hosokawa clan seeking vengeance and retaliation. The war was historically known as a battle for survival, as many were fighting for their fought in Kyoto; however, it spread throughout most of Japan towards the latter part of the war. regional power struggles to manage in the new period of the Sengoku Jidai

### *The Battle of Okehazama, 1560*

After the Onin War, Japan was left in a confused state, with many divided city-states across the country ruled by different daimyos. The shogun was in shambles, with not one power ruling over Japan. Although Hosokawa Katsumoto, the ruler of the Hosokawa, had died in the

war, the clan won; the Takeda and Saito clans rose up during this time period as well. Three important clans to come out of the Onin War were the Oda Clan, the Matsudaira clan, and the Imagawa Clan. In 1548, the Oda clan marched into Matsudaira territory to gain power and land over their area. The Matsudaira clan reached out to the Imagawa clan for help, to which the Imagawa clan agreed if the Matsudaira clan sent their eldest son as a hostage. The Matsudaira eventually agreed; however, the Oda clan intercepted the alliance and took the Matsudaira eldest son as their hostage. The Matsudaira clan told the Oda clan with an incendiary response to “kill the son” just to show how loyal they were to the Imagawa alliance<sup>4</sup>; meaning that in a sense, whether the Oda clan killed the son or not, the Matsudaira clan would still have figuratively won the conflict. Shortly after, the head of the Oda clan passes away, and the Imagawa clan makes a deal with the Oda clan, declaring that they will let the Oda clan live, if the Oda clan allows the Imagawa clan to take siege of the mansion that they have been trying to siege and they are allowed to take the Matsudaira son back, to which the Oda agree. Eventually, the Matsudaira clan took over Japan, with no central power, and severely fractured Japan into many different pieces. Imagawa Yoshimoto attempted to lay siege on Kyoto with the help of the Matsudaira; however, the Imagawa clan alliance had strengthened, until 1560, the beginning of the Battle of Okehazama. The Imagawa clan had to pass Oda territory in Owari. With his 25,000 soldier army, Imagawa Yoshimoto was confident on winning the region before marching into Kyoto, and decided to take rest near modern-day Nagoya, a gorge-like area around the village of Okehazama. Oda Nobunaga, head of the Oda clan, was familiar with the area; in the nighttime, he attacked and slaughtered the 25,000 soldier army of the Imagawa with only 2,500 soldiers of his own, and battle, as many retreated back to their region and returned to the farming life, while Oda Nobunaga eventually Yoshimoto was beheaded on the spot. The Imagawa was left in shambles after this. Ieyasu, found an alliance with Oda Nobunaga and the newly powerful Oda clan, after the Imagawa clan disintegrated from Japan.

### *The rise of Oda Nobunaga's Power (1580)*

After Oda Nobunaga's newfound authority, and alliance with Tokugawa Ieyasu, he planned to march into Kyoto; but first, he needed to reduce his obstacles along the way. Two clans have gained power across Japan. Eventually, the Matsudaira clan's new head, known as



Tokugawa the Azai clan, Nobunaga decided to betrothe his sister off to the lord of the Azai, and also tries to the way of Oda Nobunaga: the Azai clan and the Saito clan. To strengthen the alliance between father-in-law, Saito Dosan, was writing the acceptance of the allyship between the Saito clan and better ties with his father-in-law, or the ruler of the Saito clan. However, while Nobunaga's Eventually, with the help from Toyotomi Hideyoshi, a new figure for the Oda clan, Nobunaga is the Oda clan, Dosan's son beheads and kills him, and rejects the alliance between the two clans. able to take over the Saito region, and eventually Kyoto, in 1568. granted to be a lord by Nobunaga, and eventually acted as Nobunaga's adviser until his death. However, while Oda Nobunaga obtained power over Kyoto, he faced stark opposition fromhis competitors, including the Azai clan. However, his most fierce competition came from theIkko-Ikki warrior monks allied with the Miyoshi clan, who tried to take back Kyoto fromalliance, they were known to be more of a loose coalition that united. Nobunaga.Although the Ikko-Ikki warrior monks were a substantial threat to the Oda/Tokugawa Hideyoshi was also eventually However, after recruiting more peasantry and lower income individuals, their numbers and support were increasing, which became a threat to Nobunaga. Ishiyama Honganji, which created the most conflict for Nobunaga at the time. to the fact that the Ikko-Ikki warriors were monks who did not follow samurai code, many refused The Ikko-Ikki warriors had one designated temple named the small battles and military combat with the Ikko-Ikki forces, Nobunaga eventually made his way to pay taxes and rent, which Nobunaga was against, especially in his conquest of Japan.

After an attempt to attack the temple from the front, the Oda clan retreated to a siege for 10 years, one the temple of the Ishiyama Honganji to end the buddhist monks once and for all. After a failed While Nobunaga laid siege to the Ishiyama Honganji temple, the Azai clan and the Asakura of the longest sieges in Japanese history, outside of the Ishiyama Honganji temple. made a truce with the two clans, eventually killing them off in later years, and attacked the clan after Nobunaga with the warrior monks of the Enryaku-Ji.

In response, Nobunaga Shortly after the arson of the Enryaku-ji temple, Takeda Shingen, determined to take over Kyoto Enryaku-ji, set ablaze their temple, leaving no warrior monk, children, or women mercy. sniper, and his son, Takeda Katsuyori, the new successor of the throne who wasn't as decisive or through Mikawa lands, the land of Tokugawa Ieyasu. However, Takeda

Shingen is shot by a skilled man as his father takes over. Nagashino, which leads to the Battle of Nagashino. Nobunaga and Ieyasu send forces, and defeat Takeda's cavalry, with skillful arquebusiers.

### *Rise of Hideyoshi, 1582*

After Nobun's rise, the Honno-ji incident occurs in which he is betrayed at the Battle of Nagashino where in the temple Oda Nobunaga, Tokugawa Ieyasu is there and is killed and retreated back to Mikawa with the help of his trusted ninja. Hideyoshi, in response to Nobunaga's death, makes his way back to Kyoto and attempts to attack Hattori Hanzo. Mitsuhide, to ensure his power, killed every Nobunaga heir within the Kyoto Area. Local Daimyos met and have Oda Nobunaga's grandchild Oda Hidenobu take the throne and control of Japan, so 2 year old Hideyoshi could grow up

Under Hideyoshi, Japan had a central government for which domestic policy was possible. Although Hideyoshi wanted the title of shogun, he was unable to achieve it because he was lower class; instead he decided to become a regent or kampaku, and was officially given the name and could control Japan until Hidenobu grows up. Hideyoshi built the Osaka castle after Nobunaga's destruction of the Ishiyama Honganji temple. Toyotomi Hideyoshi. Nobunaga accepted at the time; in response, to combat any individuals from lower class from achieving the nobility that he had achieved, he made all peasants give their weapons, which Hideyoshi, being a stout Buddhist, was against the rise of Christianity that the same power he had, he also changed the tax system across Japan: he taxed based on how much melted to create a large statue of the Buddha.

In addition to preventing individuals from attaining shogun, and daimyo at the top, while the samurai, peasants, and merchants followed, and banned rice each region could produce. He also helped make a long lasting caste system, with the emperor, unsuccessful campaigns against China through Korea, which left many casualties on both sides, travel for peasants, which led to settlement and productivity across Japan. He also led two Mitsuhide, and led to a "military stalemate" between Korea and Japan. After quelling resistance from

### *Rise of Tokugawa Ieyasu [end of the Sengoku Period, 1598]*

Hideyoshi was close to the end of his life and passed without an heir resulting in the council of 5 elders to take control. Samurai, many of whom were disappointed in failed invasion attempts of Korea, backed a new regime, the Tokugawa under Tokugawa Ieyasu who was very powerful. In 1600, the Battle of Sekigahara began between Tokugawa Ieyasu, and Ieyasu is not over yet. Ishida Mitsunari. Ishida asked for help from the Kobayakawa against Tokugawa and agreed to help in the main Battle of Sekigahara; however, the Kobayakawa ended up attacking Ishida forces after the leader of the Kobayakawa's past conflicts with Ishida Mitsunari and loyalty to Tokugawa Ieyasu. After the defection of the Kobayakawa, many other allies of Ishida also defected and retreated, leaving Tokugawa Ieyasu victorious.

In response to the Battle of Sekigahara, Tokugawa Ieyasu was declared the new shogun of Japan, after he redistributed land and gave wealth to those who were loyal to him after many years. Then came a peaceful transition of power from Tokugawa Ieyasu to his son Tokugawa Hidetada. Sengoku Jidai then came to an end in 1615.

## **Problems/Obstacles/Threats/Strengths/Weaknesses:**

There was no stability in the government in central Japan. It left villages to form their own governments and at times pair up with other villages. The villages gained strength making their own laws and rebuilding their communities. They would engage in local battles between the *daimyo*. This was a strength that villages took advantage of.

- Oda Nobunaga brought stability to central Japan's government. He enlarged Japan's territory because of his knowledge of firearms and martial skills. He brought an end to the warring period and brought unification to Japan making it stronger than it had been before.
- Weakness was brought to central authority by the upheaval in 1570. The *daimyōs* took control as the central government. Many of them would be undermined by more qualified people. The aristocracy was overthrown by the subordinates because of the rejection of a *quid pro quo*.

## **Characters:**

- 1. Akechi Mitsuhide**
- 2. Azai Nagamasa**
- 3. Chōsokabe Motochika**
- 4. Date Masamune**
- 5. Honda Tadakatsu**
- 6. Hosokawa Gracia**
- 7. Imagawa Yoshimoto**
- 8. Ishida Mitsunari**
- 9. Izumo no Okuni**
- 10. Katakura Kojūrō**
- 11. Kobayakawa Hideaki**
- 12. Komatsuhime**
- 13. Kuroda Kanbei**
- 14. Kyōgoku Maria**
- 15. Maeda Matsu**
- 16. Maeda Toshiie**
- 17. Maeda Toshimasu**
- 18. Matsunaga Hisahide**
- 19. Miyamoto Musashi**
- 20. Oda Nobunaga**

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