The Unifiers

21H.154, Session 10
Changes in Warfare

- Less individual
- Rise of massive armies
- *Samurai* as professional officers
- Rise of a few key daimyō, thanks in part, to new technologies
Sengoku Daimyō

• 3 categories
• Former shugo, shugo deputies, upstarts
• Total autonomy in domains
• Stiff competition
Oda Nobunaga (1534-1582)
Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1537-1598)
Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543-1616)
Why Unify?

Rise of great unifiers?

Broader factors
- Material reality, i.e. population growth
- Ideology: imagining “Japan”
- Common practices

Other Currents
- Large-scale, complex warfare
- Large # soldiers = need for greater organization
- New technologies
- European contacts
Unification
16th c.
Oda Nobunaga (1534-1582)

- From a small domain (Owari)
- 1568: enters Kyoto with 30,000
- Deposes last Ashikaga shogun in 1573
What’s Nobunaga like?

- “Articles of 1570”; “Remonstrance of 1572”
- “The Assault on Mount Hiei and the Blessings of Nobunaga” (Chronicles of Lord Nobunaga)
- “Letters from the Battleground”
- “Regulation for the Province of Echizen”
View from Mt. Hiei towards Lake Biwa
Enryakuji (Mt. Hiei)
Nobunaga vs. Hideyoshi as Rulers

- “The Proud Tower”
- “The Free Market of Azuchi”
- “Decree”
- “Articles”
- “Regulations for the Municipality of the Honganji”
- “Restrictions on Change of Status”
- “The Laws and Regulations of the Taiko”
Oda Nobunaga

- Success=ruthless: not an exception?
- Religion as tool
  - 1571: burn down Enryakuji
  - 1573-80: Siege on Pure Land domain
- Firearms
Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1536-1598)

- Nobody
- Nobunaga’s “sandal man” in 1554
- Military leader by 1574
- 1589: imperial regent (kanpaku)
- 1590: unquestioned primacy
Toyotomi Hideyoshi

- Sense of destiny vs. self-consciousness
- Preeminent organizer
- Governance
  - Land surveys
  - Separation of warriors and peasants
  - Osaka castle
Toyotomi Hideyoshi

- Ruthlessness
- Warriors
- Christians
  - 1587: expulsion order
  - 1597: crucifixion of “26 Martyrs”
- Invasion of Korea (1592 and 97)
Hideyoshi’s Invasion of Korea

- 1592~1598
- ~200,000 mobilized
- Many key daimyō but not Tokugawa, Date
- Initial success: capture Seoul
Hideyoshi’s Invasion of Korea

• Siege of Busan (1592)
Hideyoshi’s Invasion of Korea

- 1593: Ming troops arrive
- Yi Sun-sin’s “Turtle Ships”
Yi Sun-Sin's Turtle Ships
Hideyoshi’s Invasion of Korea

• Stalemate, negotiation
• 1597: second invasion
• 1598: Hideyoshi dies; “Council of Five” orders troops back to Japan
Battle of Sacheon (1598)
“Ear Mound” (Kyoto)

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Why did he invade Korea?

- Extension of megalomania?
- “mad king” in old age?
- Erratic and ruthless:
  - 1596: orders his nephew and heir, Hidetsugu, to commit suicide and kills his entire family