

Lecture 20

The Road to Reunification II

0. Intro

- Relationship between power and legitimacy in the governing of the country
- The development of warring states period **daimyo** during 16th century

1. Overview of the situation and trends in 16th century Japan

- a. The scene: no effective central authority; civil wars
- b. The spectators: the emperor and the imperial court
the Ashikaga shogun
most commoners
- c. The actors: **samurai** (“one who serves”),
daimyô (“big name” = domain lord)

2. Order out of chaos: The Three Great Unifiers

a. Oda Nobunaga (1534–1582): “He pounded the rice cake.”

- Consolidation of local power base around Owari province
- Enters Kyoto, 1568
- Burns Enryakuji, 1571
- Battle of Nagashino, 1575 (defeats Takeda Shingen)
- Ambushed by Akechi Mitsuhide in 1582

b. Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1536–1598): “He baked the rice cake.”

- Avenges Nobunaga
- Castle reduction policy, 1583-
- Comprehensive land survey and maps, 1583-1598
- Sword Hunt Edict of 1588
- Acquires imperial mandates and high court titles (but not shogun)
- Failed invasions of Korea/China, 1590s; dies 1598

c. Tokugawa Ieyasu (1546–1616) : “He ate the rice cake.”

- Battle of Sekigahara, October 1600
- Becomes shogun in 1603
- Works to secure Tokugawa line of shogun; dies 1616