

Nobunaga Oda

& his Retainers

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織田 信長

Background/History

- Born June 23, 1534
 - in Owari Province
 - 2nd son of Oda Nobuhide
- Fascinated with Western weaponry
 - firearms introduced in 1543
 - often played with tanegashima (Japanese matchlock rifle)



Marriage

- Married Nouhime in 1549
 - daughter of Daimyo Saito Dosan
 - brought peace between clans
 - rumoured to be a spy
- Unable to conceive
 - concubine, Kitsuno, bore 3 children
- Unknown whereabouts after death
 - very little recorded history



Achievements

- Unified Owari province
 - ends aggression within clan, 1559
 - proves his suitability to become leader
- Created alliances between neighboring Daimyo
 - pact with Motoyasu Matsudaira (Ieyasu Tokugawa)
 - noticed talents of Hideyoshi Toyotomi
- Weakened surrounding clans
 - Saito, Rokkaku, Miyoshi, Asakura, Azai, and Takeda
- Rose to absolute power
 - load, fire, duck method
 - began idea of unification



Death

- Battle between Mori clan
 - Hideyoshi requests backup
 - sends Akechi Mitsuhide to assist
- Mitsuhide sends men to Honno-ji
 - sets temple on fire
 - Nobunaga commits harakiri
 - dies June 21, 1582
- Possible motives
 - personal ambition
 - grudge
 - tricked
 - asked of him



Battle at Okehazama 1560

- First major battle
- Scenario:
 - Yoshimoto was headed towards Kyoto, captured two strongholds important to Nobunaga
 - Nobunaga vs Imagawa Yoshimoto (most powerful warlord on the Pacific Coast)
 - 1,500 vs. 25,000
- Deciding factors:
 - surprise
 - weather
 - status of troops
- Results:
 - many samurai lords joined him, including Tokugawa Ieyasu



Battle of Nagashino 1575

- Scenario:
 - Takeda laid siege to Nagashino Castle
 - Nobunaga & Ieyasu vs Takeda
 - first battle using primarily guns.
 - 38,000 vs 15,000
- Deciding Factors:
 - position of the army
 - stockades protecting the gunners
- Results:
 - retreat after 10,000 of Takeda's men killed
 - 8 of Takeda's leading generals killed



Siege at Mount Hiei

- September 29, 1571 - Buddhist monks were in opposition to Nobunaga because he “shamed” them
- Scenario:
 - Buddhist monks from the Tendai tribes caused devastation to Nobunaga’s forces and assassinate his family and officers
 - Nobunaga vs Warrior Monks
 - 30,000 vs unknown
- Deciding Factors:
 - numbers
 - no mercy
- Results:
 - 20,000+ innocents and warriors killed



Last Stand

- June 21, 1582 - Kyoto, Honno Temple
- Scenario:
 - Nobunaga's three main generals sent off to prepare to finish off the last three remaining rival clans
 - Nobunaga vs Mitsuhide
 - a few pages and bodyguards vs. an army
- Factors:
 - surprise
 - numbers
 - fire
- Result:
 - Nobunaga's death



Retainer: **Shibata Katsuie** 柴田 勝家

- Born in 1522
- Originally a retainer to Oda Nobuyuki, Nobunaga's younger brother
- Treason - 1557 plotted with Nobuyuki against Nobunaga
 - upon defeat Nobunaga has Nobuyuki executed
 - Nobunaga spares Katsuie impressed by his loyalty and bravery
- Served in many battles including the Battle of Okehazama (1560) against the Imagawa, the Oda's war with the Saito of Mino (1561-1563), and The Battle of Nagashino (1575)
- 1582 Nobunaga is betrayed at Honnō-ji by Akechi Mitsuhide, defeated by Hideyoshi
- War broke out between Shibata and Hideyoshi
- Surrendered - committed seppuku and set the Kitanoshō castle on fire
- Died June 14, 1583
 - wrote his own death poem



Retainer: **Niwa Nagahide** 丹羽 長秀

- October 16, 1535 - May 15, 1585
- Retainer to Oda and Toyotomi and eventually became a Daimyo
- Married Nobunaga's adopted daughter
- Tasked with the overview of construction of Azuchi Castle
- Led a military parade procession in 1581 for the Emperor and missionary observants
- Gained rule over Echizen Province and Kaga Province, worth 1,230,000 koku, making him the most powerful retainer/daimyo
- Died in 1585, records conflict whether he died of illness or suicide



Retainer: **Akechi Mitsuhide** 明智 光秀

- March 10, 1528 - July 17, 1582
- Began by serving Shogun Ashikaga Yoshiaki
- Suggested Nobunaga be Ashikaga's "official protector"
- Continued to serve Ashikaga and decided to also serve Nobunaga in 1569
- Is given Kameyama Castle for pacifying Tamba Province
- Betrays Nobunaga at Honnō-ji in 1582 by assembling an army and setting the temple on fire
- Reigned as Shogun (13 days), upon fleeing Mitsuhide is said to have died en route to Sakamoto
- Rumoured to have been killed by a peasant warrior by the name of Nakamura with a bamboo spear
 - other rumors say he started a new life as a priest named Tenkai



Retainer: **Toyotomi Hideyoshi** 豊臣 秀吉

- February 2, 1536 (or March 26, 1537) - September 18, 1598
 - information about him before 1570 is not certain
- Born not samurai lineage, but to a peasant family
- Joined the Imagawa clan as a servant to their ruler
- Joined the Oda clan in 1558 as Nobunaga's sandal-bearer
- Helped Nobunaga achieve victory at Inabayama Castle in 1567
 - this helped him rise in rank, eventually becoming a distinguished general
- Victories at the Battle of Anegawa (1570) and Siege of Nagashima (1573) lead Nobunaga to appoint Hideyoshi as daimyo of the Omi Province
- Took control over many provinces and clans as a means of unifying Japan
 - confiscated peasants from owning weapons
 - melted down swords to create a statue of Buddha
- Regarded as Japan's second "great unifier"
- Succeeded his former lord, Oda Nobunaga, and brought an end to the Sengoku period



Retainer: **Hori Hidemasa** 堀 秀政

- 1553 - June 28, 1590
- Became Nobunaga's page at the age of 13
- Was assigned prefect in charge of construction of Shogun Ashikaga's residence at the age of 16
- After the death of Nobunaga in 1582, he remained loyal to the Oda clan
- Oversaw construction of a mansion for Portuguese missionaries
- Led Hideyoshi's forces in the Battle of Yamazaki (1582), Battle of Komaki and Nagakute (1584), and Kyushu Campaign (1587)
- Commanded in battle at the 1590 Siege of Odawara for the final time
 - captured a number of surrounding fortifications
 - during the fifth month he fell very ill and died
 - his lands and posts were inherited by his eldest son, Hori Hideharu



Retainer: **Sakuma Nobumori** 佐久間 信盛

- 1528 - February 18, 1582
- Entrusted with caring for young Oda Nobunaga
- Nobunaga's most trusted and important retainer
- Placed in charge of the Oda clan's largest army in 1576 at Honganji Temple after the death of the previous officer
 - forced to end the war with a truce in 1580 after ten years of no progress
- Banished by Nobunaga in 1580 to live as monks on Mt. Koyasan
 - due to past failures and lack of interest in military affairs
 - was more interested in tea parties
- Died two years later



Samurai Spirit

“One realm, under one sword”

- Oda Nobunaga

- Ambitious beginnings
 - began with a region and band of samurai
- Ruthless and Pragmatic
 - Atheist but believed in freedom of religion
- Fascinated by European Culture
 - collected western art, arms, and armor
 - first shogun to wear european clothes
 - friendly to foreigners and missionaries
 - supported first Christian Church in Kyoto built in 1576



Shogunate Influence

Policy

- Modernized Warfare
 - new war tactics, weapons & armor
 - stone castles & iron warships
- Expanded Economy & Trade
 - free market system
 - built roads between castle centers
- Organized New Warrior System
 - ability over Status
 - rice output over land size
- Separation of Church and State
 - restricted buddhist influence on policy



Shogunate Influence

Culture

- Supported the Arts
 - Japanese Tea Ceremony
 - paintings by Kano Eitoku
- Gardens and Architecture
 - built gardens and castles
 - covered exterior in gold
 - interior decorated and painted by Kano Eitoku
- Sumo Wrestling Tournaments
 - 1,500 Sumotori assembled at Azuchi Castle in February 1578



