



# SENGOKU

The Megagame of Power Politics in Old Japan

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## TEAM BRIEFING - THE BAKUFU

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The Bakufu is the central administration of the Shogun based in the capital. It carries out many of the routine functions of the Shogun, even in his absence.

At the moment, the Bakufu is in a difficult position. The current Shogun is only a boy, and is in voluntary exile (ie. he is not in Kyoto where he should be). Technically speaking, the Bakufu can only act in the name of the Shogun. In practice, it has a number of things it can do:

**a. Raise Armies in the Shogun's name.** The Bakufu can raise a small number of its own troops - a sort of Shogun's guard of up to a maximum of 5,000 men. These will normally be raised at Kyoto. The Bakufu can also require (in the Shogun's name) any Daimyo to provide troops and/or command a Bakufu Army. In the past the Shogun's armies would keep the peace and maintain the authority of the Shogun in the land. In recent times this central authority has declined, so Daimyo may or may not answer the Bakufu's call to arms.

Despite this, Daimyo still have to at least pay lip-service to the demands of the Shogun, so they are unlikely to refuse outright, but usually give some feeble excuse.

**b. Tax.** The Bakufu's direct income derives for a number of taxes from all over the place - mostly on certain trade and manufactured items. The Bakufu controls very little rice land directly. In addition to this the Shogun can demand a levy from any or all Daimyo to fund some major activity. Again, as the Shogun's authority has declined, so the response to this has fallen away.

**c. Award titles.** This is regarded as important by the Daimyo, since a title affects an individual's status among his peers. Even when the titles carry little real direct benefit, they are much sought after as status symbols. Technically speaking these titles come from the Emperor, but the Bakufu administers the system. For example, Daimyo like to be given titles like "Constable of Ichi Province" even when their armies actually control that province since it confers some legitimacy on them.

**d. Produce Shogunal Edicts.** A fully-functional Shogun in power can issue Edicts. These might declare certain daimyo as outlaws, or cover one of the above items (raising armies, taxation or awarding titles). As other issues arise, so edicts or laws are announced. The Bakufu is responsible for drafting these and ensuring that everyone knows about them.

**e. Run the judicial process.** Lords can appeal to the Bakufu for judgements on legal matters or over disputes concerning the rights to

titles, inheritance etc. In this regard the Bakufu as a sort of Court of Appeal.

### **Income of the Bakufu**

Direct rice taxes in parts of Yamashiro of 1 rice point  
Cash taxes from various sources of 5 cash points

### **The Succession**

In the past, the Shogun has appointed his heir from his family. The Ashikaga family have been Shoguns for many generations (over 200 years in fact).

The current 13th Shogun is Ashikaga Yoshiteru (age 14) who was made Shogun six years ago and who has fled to Omi Province with his father Ashikaga Yoshiharu to avoid capture by the Miyoshi Clan. The Miyoshi control Yamashiro Province, and have taken control of Kyoto by forcing the Governor, Matsunaga Hisahide, to swear allegiance.

For this reason the Bakufu must take account of the military situation and the power of the Miyoshi clan. Without the Shogun, they have no right to order Bakufu about, but you in turn cannot completely ignore them because of their military power.

A new, non-Ashikaga Shogun cannot be announced unless the following conditions are met:

- a. The current Shogun either retires or dies without an heir.
- b. No other Ashikaga pretender is available.
- c. The potential new Shogun is of a sufficiently high-class family
- d. The new Shogun has to be in a position of pre-eminent military and political power (this may be hard to prove).
- e. The Emperor must approve of the appointment (this is normally a formality - the last time the Emperor objected was over 200 years ago - precipitating a war between the Emperor and the Bakufu - guess who won!)

### **Player Team**

The Bakufu is a sort of faceless bureaucracy, so players in this team do not represent named individuals, but take on tasks as necessary. The main tasks are:

- a. **Military matters** - raising armies etc.
- b. **Political matters** - deals with edicts and dynastic matters to do with the Shogunate. Also deals with emissaries from the various Daimyo.
- c. **Tax matters** - keeps track of income, additional money from other teams etc.

If a player Daimyo is made Shogun, the Bakufu Team automatically become part of his team, but continues as before. Players from the Daimyo's team cannot take over any of the Bakufu duties (after all, they are not properly trained, hereditary civil servants).



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