

Yoshikawa, Eiji. *Taiko*. New York, NY: Kodansha International, 1992. ISBN: 978-4770015709. pp. 653-663.

Sometimes the best explanation we can have of a culture is through fiction. Pay attention to how people interact, how decisions are made, and what roles Zen, honor, and death play in all of it.

- How is negligence portrayed?
- How are women portrayed?
- How are non-Samurai servants portrayed?
- How are the Akechi warriors and their leader portrayed?
- What does the battle scene tell us of the world outside it?

Beaseley, W. G. "The Unifiers." Chapter 7 in *The Japanese Experience: A Short History of Japan*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2000. ISBN: 978-0520225602. pp. 116-127.

The work of unifying Japan after hundreds of years of civil war was far more than a military venture. It was a legal tour-de-force, built from many policies that had never been attempted before. However, the particular form of those policies tell us a lot about Japanese society after that time and had a formative impact on modern Japanese culture.

- What is meant by "Nobunaga mixed the cake, Hideyoshi baked it, Ieyasu ate it."?
- What role did the emperor have during Sengoku?
- How did the demands of civil war change social structures in Japan?
- What aspects of civil war society were reinforced by and which gave way to unification?
- What do the restrictions created by Hideyoshi tell us about society before them?
- How did the fiefdom change after unification?
- How did yield measuring change the political relationship to land?
- How did the policy of having Daimyos live in Edo strengthen the administration?
- What are the differences between Japanese civil war feudalism and European, and between Japanese unification and modern states?

Berry, Mary Elizabeth. "The Sword Hunt." and "Freezing the Social Order." Chapter 5 in *Hideyoshi*. Cambridge, MA: Council on East Asian Studies at Harvard University, 1989. ISBN: 978-0674390263. pp. 102-111.

Hideyoshi took a society built on strife, and solidified it totally -- everyone had their place, and every aspect of society reinforced those divisions. Doing this within his court alone would have been an incredible feat, but the fact that he did it through the actions of countless other men of power is truly astonishing.

- What are the advantages and disadvantages of personal correspondence versus law?
- How do notions of time and space change with unification?
- What preconditions contributed to the success of the sword hunt?
- What significance did a landless military aristocracy have for Japanese culture?
- How did the Samurai identity and lifestyle change after Hideyoshi?
- What qualities made the total locking down of Japanese society possible?

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