

29. Unrest in the farm villages and the collapse of the Tokugawa Shogunate

29.1 The Opium War and the Asian resistance

When the capitalism evolved from the Industrial Revolution of the 18th century England, strong nations such as the US and the Europe sought to dominate the entire lands of the earth as their colonies and markets. A plain outcome was the Opium War.

England exported opium, produced from poppies in India, to Qing (China) and acquired immense wealth through triangular trade involving India and Qing. In 1840 (Tenpo 11), after the Qing dynasty confiscated opium and prohibited trade with England, England waged war forcing the Qing Dynasty to surrender. Hong Kong, acquired through leasehold by England via the Nanjing Treaty of 1842 (Tenpo 13), became the base of East Asian domination. The Chinese defeat and part-colonization rang alarm bells over Japan's continuing national isolation policy.

29.2 Opening the nation and development after that

The first World Powers to demand the opening of the nation was the US. Matthew Galbraith Perry, Commander General of the American East India Fleet arrived in Uraga Port, Sagami (Kanagawa Prefecture) in 1853 (Kaei 6) to demand Japan's opening to the world. Perry returned to Japan the following year (1854, Ansei 1) to ink up the Japan-US Treaty of Amity and Commerce, bringing open country status to Japan. The situation set a turning point on foreign issues of Japan. This treaty also gave rise to a sharp change in domestic affairs.

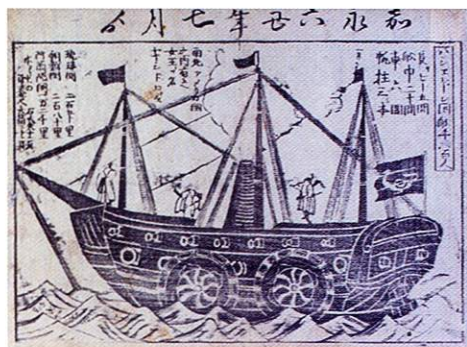


Fig.173 Kurohune-Zu (The black ships woodcut). Warships of the world powers visiting Japan in the last days of the Tokugawa shogunate were known as Kurohune.

In 1858 (Ansei 5) The Tokugawa Shogunate successively entered into commercial treaties with the US, Holland, Russia, England and France. Trade with these countries started from May the next year. The main export items at first were raw silk, tea and silkworm eggs. Because the Tama region, close to Yokohama Port, was also a raw silk production center, its regional economy inevitably felt huge fluctuations.

29.3 Transformation of villages

Since the middle 18th century, a century before open nation policy, small items production had markedly developed in agricultural villages of the Kanto region, giving rise to Edo region economic zones. Representative products were: vegetables, cereals by Edo suburbs; cotton cloth by Hitachi (Ibaraki Prefecture), Shimotsuke (Tochigi Prefecture) and raw silk, silk cloth by Joshu (Gunma Prefecture). However, a market economy penetrated villages and production items became limited by market demand. The farmer's life shifted from self-sufficiency and farm management deteriorated, bringing ruin to many farmers. Furthermore, poor harvests, due to repeated natural disasters brought continuing famine, while increases in annual tributes of goods or labor forced collapse in the farming stratum that was the fundamental of the shogunate social structure. Japan's social structure was bound to change.

29.4 Village alteration after the opening of the nation

In 1859 (Ansei 6) when trade began with European powers, marked local economic change appeared in the Tama region near Yokohama. For example, wood fuel from the Fussa region had long been shipped to

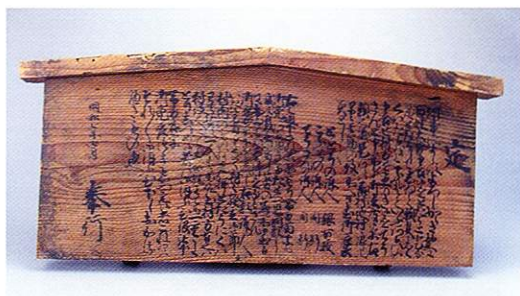


Fig.174 Kosatsu of prohibiting notice for factional activities. The shogunate prohibited factional groups which might foster antishogunate feeling. A notice board posted in April 1770 (Meiwa 7) informed of the shogunate's intention to control factionalism, petitions of force and defections and of rewards for informants against these actions.

local economic change appeared in the Tama region near Yokohama. For example, wood fuel from the Fussa region had long been shipped to Edo until one farmer of Fussa Village ventured into wood fuel trade in the newly opened port of Yokohama. Thus Yokohama based traders appeared, in violation of traditional business practices.

Following the opening of ports, cocoons and raw silk newly became export items for shipment to distant regions. The prices of products from raw silk from sericulture through to woven items rose due to increasing port trade. Hataya farmer/weavers shipped their cocoons and raw silk to Yokohama to gain the port's relatively high prices, bringing temporary decline to local textile manufacture. Soaring prices for raw silk brought rapid increase in various other commodity prices, confusion to regional economy and suffering for farmers. This confusion was an underlying cause of the Bushu-yonaoshi-ikki riot of 1866 (Keio 2).

29.5 Egawa's conscripted farmers and Haijima-shuku Union

In the Bunkyu era (1861 - 1863), a reversal in the power balance between the Tokugawa Shogunate and the imperial court arose from changing diplomatic policies stemming from port openings. Under the

VILLAGE NAME	YIELD (UNIT:KOKU)	NUMBER OF HOUSES (UNIT:KOKU)	POPULATION			PEASANT SOLDIER A	PEASANT SOLDIER B
			MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL		
Haijima Village	260.5410	25	80	71	151	1 }	1
Kumagawa Village	169.9140	60	139	146	285	1 }	
Sunagawa Village	2,016.0620	379	1,214	1,194	2,408	11	24
Kawasaki Village	104.2710	53	140	130	270	2	2
Nakato Village	1,403.7740	348	1,001	1,096	2,097	10	8
Yokota Village	117.9090	33	90	86	176	1	1
Imokubo Village	314.0670	81	194	199	393	2	2
Mitsugi Village	635.3650	95	276	260	536	2	6
Tonogaya Village	245.2180	73	216	225	441	1	2
Hakonegasaki Village	498.4310	138	360	366	726	3	4
Kishi Village	321.0800	73	216	198	414	1	2
Ishihata Village	575.1650	145	398	384	782	2	4
Fussa Village	926.2541	236	624	622	1,246	7	9
Nakato Shinden }	202.7460	53	178	173	351	1	1
Imokubo Shinden }							1
Hamura Village	983.2660	274	741	712	1,451	7	5
Tonogaya Shinden	255.2130	26	89	87	176	1	
Nakazato Shinden	145.9880	35	90	85	175		
Miyazawa Shinden	74.3300	16	50	48	98		
Ogami Village	102.0260	12	38	36	74	1	1
Jogawara Village	88.3620	26	75	66	141		
Total	8,584.9701	2,216	6,299	6,296	12,568	54	73

Fig. 175 Haijima-shuku Union data on peasant soldier. Peasant soldier A refers to 1863 (Bunkyu 3) and for peasant soldier B, 1864 (Ganji 1). Initially eight villages belonged to the Haijima-shuku Union including Iruma-gun Kamifujisawa Village (Iruma City, Saitama Prefecture) which later belonged to the Tokorozawa Union.

situation, the Shogunate altered policy on its directly controlled fiefs for more controllability, maintainability and stability.

In March 1863 (Bunkyo 3), Japan received four British warships demanding compensation for the previous year's *Namamugi* incident. The avoidance of war depended on the progress of negotiations. A rumor spread in Fussa that a dozen foreign war ships had come to Yokohama, throwing residents into uproar over the imminent possibility of war. On March 19, Kanto-torishimari-deyaku officer visited villages to help maintain safety and order. If war had broken out against the British, mob rule might have taken advantage of the situation to spread disturbances. Therefore, the shogunate ordered the Haijima-shuku Union to erect lookout towers in each village and to prepare villagers for patrol duties under the possible emergency conditions.

At this time, the magistrate responsible for the shogunate fiefdoms of Suruga, Izu, Kai, Musashi and Sagami was EGAWA Hidetatsu (Tarozaemon), known as a reverberatory furnace builder of Nirayama, Izu. In 1863 (Bunkyo 3), the shogunate approved magistrate Egawa's selecting of troops from among the farming population. The shogunate and some feudal domains conscripted sturdy farmers to raise troop numbers and to maintain coastguard and public order functions. Many farmer soldiers were assigned to shooting party. Magistrate Egawa's subordinate, KASHIWAGI Sozo, called Fussa village head TAMURA Jubee and Shibazaki Village (Tachikawa City) head SUZUKI Heikuro for consultation on peasant soldier conscription.

Peasant soldier training started in February 1865 (Ganji 2) in each Union village. In Haijima-shuku Union village, the precincts of Fussa



Fig.176 Nirayama reverberating furnace (Izunokuni City, Shizuoka Prefecture). Late in the Tokugawa shogunate cannon sizes increased so larger volumes of cast iron were required. The shogunate completed a reverberatory furnace, a Dutch designed metallurgical furnace, in 1856 (Ansei 3).

Village's Hozoin Temple served for peasant soldier training. The idea of employing farmers for soldiering, maintaining public order or other purposes was emerging. A plan, which did not eventuate, was to call up peasant soldiers to guard Edo during regular troop dispatch to Choshu in May 1865 (Keio 1). Two years later (May in Keio 3), Egawa's peasant soldiers were ordered to guard Kannonzaki's Odaiba for about one month. Three peasant soldier dispatches were ordered from Haijiima-shuku Union village. These duties were completed in August.

29.6 The Bushu-yonaoshi-ikki riot

After ports opened for foreign commerce in 1859 (Ansei 6), the price of rice rose markedly due to frequent poor harvests and the Choshu Subjugation, so the populace felt pressure on life. At that time *Ikki* (riots) broke out throughout the country. In the Kanto area, June 1866 (Keio 2), two peasants of Kaminaguri Village (Saitama Prefecture), Monjiro and Toyogoro, led an appeal to the poor of Tama-gun and Koma-gun, from which the *ikki* riot broke out over a wide area. *Uchikowasi* (destroying) inspired people requesting discount of rice and other products and interest-free redemption of pawned articles.

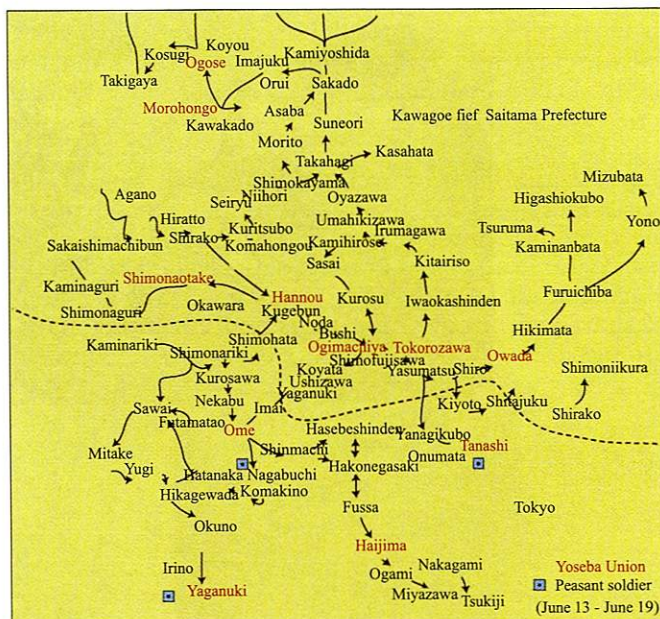


Fig.177 Bushu-yonoashi-ikki riot advancement routes.(Reference: Bushu-yonoashi-ikki riot Historical materials (1), Basic structure of the late Tokugawa shogunate).The total of Uchikowasi targets (forceful requests for discounted sales and pawn item redemption),known to date, is 202 towns and villages, including 520 households.

On the night of June 13, the Bushu-yonaoshi-ikki riot broke out in Kaminaguri Village. It expanded to the 15 counties of Bushu (Musashi Province) and 2 counties of Joshu (Kouzuke Province) within only seven days. This trend rapidly spread to the Fussa area. On the 15th, grain and sake shops were destroyed in Ome Village (Ome City), then on the 16th, the homes of Jubee, Fussa Village head; Hisajiro, Nakagami Village (Akishima City) and Kin'emon, Miyazawa Village (Akishima City) were destroyed.

The home of Jubee, Fussa Village head, suffered the greatest damage. Not only household utensils but also *tatami* mats and furniture were reduced to small pieces, rice to the last grain was scattered on the road, 18 sake barrels were upset, spilled sake making a small pond in the residence. All clothes, *futon* (bed clothes) and books were torn up and trampled. But the family members suffered no injuries.

The riot group advanced from Fussa, Miyazawa and Nakagami villages toward Hachioji Village, encountering defeat against magistrates' officers, peasant soldiers and *Hachioji Sennin Doshin* forces at Tsuijigawara (Akishima City). No peasant soldier of Haijima-shuku Union village appears in historical material concerning this Uchikowashi riot. The peasant soldiers may not have matched the Uchikowashi group's speed of advance. The total damage from the Uchikowashi was 202 sites including 520 houses in the Bushu and the Joshu districts.

Although the Uchikowashi movement collapsed, some Uchikowashi group requests were partially met. For example the high market prices were replaced by discounted prices, and excessive interest rates were lowered to acceptable and legal interest rate levels. The Haijima-shuku Unioni village, founded a protocol of poverty relief by wealthy citizens. Costs were shared within the Union village. Individual village burdens were also reduced.



Fig. 178 Local magistrate EGAWA Tarozaemon's residence (Izunokuni City, Shizuoka Prefecture). He was magistrated to five shogunal lands including Izu, Sagami and Musashi.