

Tokugawa Japan's Selective Rejection of New Technology Coming Out from Under the Gun

I. Age of the Country at War (1467–1600)

A. Period of “National Unification” (1568–1600)

1. Oda Nobunaga (1534–1582)
2. Hideyoshi (1536–1598)
3. Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543–1616) — founder of Tokugawa Shogunate
 - a. Battle of Sekigahara (1600)
 - b. took title of shogun (1603)
 - c. views of
 - (1) *Buke Hyaku Kajo*
 - (2) George Sansom, *A History of Japan* (1958–1963)
 - (3) Edwin O. Reischauer, *Japan: The Story of a Nation* (1970)

B. Japanese Views of Europeans and European Views of Japanese

C. Tokugawa Technological Achievements

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| 1. Engineering | 5. Postal service |
| 2. Mining and Metallurgy | 6. Medicine |
| 3. Mathematics — <i>wasan</i> | 7. Retail merchandising |
| 4. Agriculture | 8. Paper manufacture |

D. Centralization and the Turn Away from Foreign Influence

1. “Laws Governing Military Households” (1615)
2. *Sakoku* — “closed country policy” (1635)
3. Exclusion of Portuguese (1639)
4. Village regulations (1649)

II. Out from Under the Gun (1607–1853) — based on Noel Perrin, *Giving Up the Gun*, 1979

A. Introduction of Matchlocks — August 25, 1543

1. Tanegashima Island (guns called *tanegashima* [later *teppo*])
2. Lord Tokitaka (acted as entrepreneur)
3. “skip the introductions” — Battle of Uedahara (1548)
4. Battle of Nagashino (1575) — 3 ranks of 1000 each

B. Reasons for Turning Away from Guns

1. samurai opposed firearms — *Bushido*
2. geopolitical — islands are hard to invade
3. swords had great symbolic value
4. general reaction against outside influence
5. aesthetic — swords associated with elegant body movement

III. Anti-Tokugawa, anti-Confucian Intellectual Movements

1. *Kokugaku* = “national learning” — Kamo Mabuchi (1697–1769)
2. *Rangaku* = “Dutch studies” — Sugita Gempaku (1733–1817)
3. Honda Toshiaki (1744–1821), *A Secret Plan of Government* (1798)
– “four imperative needs”: gunpowder, metallurgy, trade, colonies