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Tokugawa Loyalism during Bakumatsu-Boshin War [Encyclopedia Entry]

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contriving to increase tensions by accusing Hideyori of planning rebellion, Ieyasu led an army to Osaka in 1614 and laid siege to its castle. Early in 1615, Ieyasu offered a peace in return for the destruction of the castle's outer defenses. When that was done, Ieyasu resumed his attack and took the castle. Hideyori and his family committed suicide.

Ieyasu, through war, adept alliances, skilled administration, and outright treachery, had completed the unification of Japan begun by Nobunaga and Hideyoshi and ended its long era of political chaos. By carefully planning for his succession, he ensured that the Tokugawa shōgunate would survive his death. After the destruction of Osaka, Ieyasu returned to Sumpu, became ill, and died on June 1, 1616.

Ryun Reed

See also: Oda Nobunaga; *Sakoku*; *Sankin kōtai* (Alternate Attendance); Sekigahara, Battle of; Toyotomi Hideyoshi.

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Tokugawa Loyalty: Boshin War

The number of supporters of the Tokugawa shōgunate dwindled after its second punitive mission against the Chōshū domain failed in 1866. Few vassal *daimyō* (*fudai*) answered the shōgunate's call to arms, and among those who did, their large armies fought without enthusiasm. Some fought only because they happened to be near Chōshū, such as the Kokura domain, which was

invaded by Chōshū samurai. In 1867, the last shōgun, Yoshinobu, led a coalition army to Kyoto to “free” the emperor from the grasp of enemy influences, but was stopped in the villages of Toba-Fushimi, where the shōgunate lost again, despite outnumbering its opposition. Preempting those who desired to eliminate him as an enemy of the court, Yoshinobu returned his title of shōgun to the emperor, resigning from his position as head of the shōgunate.

Following the loss at Toba-Fushimi, many vassal *daimyō* hedged their bets and declared loyalty to the court. Most of them did not participate in the fighting, some refused to resist the court, and others claimed that because the shōgun had resigned, there was nothing left to defend. From the winter of 1868 to the summer of the following year, a mixed group of *daimyō*, samurai, and commoners fought against the advancing Satsuma- and Chōshū-led armies, many, but not all, in the name of Tokugawa loyalty. In general, resistance occurred in three interconnected regions: Edo and the surrounding countryside, the domains of the Northeast, and a final battle in the north at Hakodate.

The most fervent Tokugawa loyalists could be found among the Tokugawa liege vassal samurai, whose fate was tied to the shōgunate. Oguri Tadamasa, who had served the shōgunate as a finance commissioner and foreign affairs magistrate, was the most vocal among those who wanted to fight against Satsuma and Chōshū. After his view failed to convince the shōgun to fight, the shōgun fired him. He retired to his fief and was later executed, the only shōgunate vassal to suffer this fate. Other colleagues formed units of low-ranking samurai and commoners, like their emperor-zealot counterparts, the *shishi*, to maintain stability in Edo. The largest of these, the Shōgitai, eventually received authority to protect Yoshinobu. The group

quickly amassed 3,000 to 4,000 members who engaged in guerrilla warfare against the invading army. They were finally defeated by government troops during the battle of Ueno in the summer of 1868.

Many loyalists fled to the northwest, where they joined 26 domains to fight against the Meiji government's troops, in what is called the Boshin War. Although some were vassal *daimyō* of the Tokugawa family, little evidence suggests that they fought out of a sense of loyalty to the Tokugawa family. In fact, they imitated the imperial loyalist domains by propping up their own imperial family member, Prince Rinnōji, and created a royalty-centered government like the new Meiji one. Even so, much of the fighting occurred in the Aizu domain, one of the three *daimyō* families closely related to the Tokugawa. The Aizu-led coalition lost in the fall of 1868.

Former shōgunate samurai and survivors of the fighting in Aizu led a final rebellion against the emperor's armies under the leadership of Enomoto Takeaki, head of the shōgunate's navy. Rather than turn over the shōgunate's eight warships, as negotiator Katsu Kaishū had promised, Enomoto sailed them from Edo to the north in the summer of 1868. Disaffected samurai, *daimyō*, and even a few French military advisers who worked for the shōgunate joined him in Hakodate, Hokkaidō. Enomoto attempted to establish a rival government, the republic of Ezo. This group held the first elections on the Japanese islands, but failed to convince a Tokugawa family member to come lead their newly formed nation. Thousands of troops clashed with the government's army, losing to them in the summer of 1869. Enomoto was later pardoned and became Minister of the Navy.

The Boshin War and Tokugawa loyalism was short-lived, having been destroyed by

the fall of 1869. Many former Tokugawa samurai, like Enomoto and Katsu Kaishū, found employment with the Meiji government, especially in vital fields such as foreign affairs, finance, and the navy. The bloodiest fighting in Aizu scarred local history there, much as warfare affected the American South after the Civil War. Even in Aizu today, when people there refer to "the war," it signifies not World War II, but the Boshin War.

Michael Wert

See also: Aizu Samurai Spirit; Boshin Civil War; Hitotsubashi Keiki (Tokugawa Yoshinobu); Katsu Kaishū; Meiji Ishin Shishi; Mito School; Tokugawa Bakumatsu Military Reforms.

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Tokugawa Nariaki (1800–1860)

Born in Mito-han in 1800, Tokugawa Nariaki studied with the Mito scholars Aizawa Seishisai and Fujita Tōko, both of whom were key advisers. His political outlook