



# SENGOKU

The Megagame of Power Politics in Old Japan

## **TEAM BRIEFING - HONGAN-JI TEMPLE**

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Abbot Shonyo is the leader of one of the largest and most powerful Buddhist Sects in Japan - the Monto (or Ikko) sect.

The provinces and areas the sect controls are as follows:

KAGA - 23 points (from rice-tax revenues of province)

NOTO – 1 point from the rice tax

ISHIYAMA Fortress - Value 2 cash points (from donations from sect members)

The Samurai are very jealous of the temple's pre-eminent position in Kaga province (which one of the earlier Abbots wrested from the control of the Togashi Clan 60 years ago).

The sect was founded by Shinran over three centuries ago. It took its name from its great temple in Kyoto (the Imperial Capital) which was built by the daughter and grandson of Shinran. At the time of the 8th Abbot Rennyō the sect was expelled from Kyoto by the monks of the Hieizan Sect and the base for the sect was transferred to Omi Province and thereafter to Echizen Province about eighty years ago. About ten years after that the sect found a home at Yamashino near to Kyoto again.

19 years ago the sect completed construction of its current headquarters at Ishiyama near the city of Osaka in Settsu Province. This large 'cathedral' is built on a rocky prominence and is surrounded by ramparts and moats, to ensure the holy place is not easily defiled by the profane.

The Sect has been often attacked by samurai throughout the last century (in particular in an attempt to wrest control of Kaga Province from the sect), and to date these attacks have been successfully beaten off - the fervour of the members of the IKKO-IKKI becoming famous in recent years.

### **The Monto-shu Sect (The 'True Pure Earth' Sect)**

This sect is also known as the Ikko-shu and the Jodo-shinshu.

This is a buddhist sect founded by Shinran-Shonin over 300 years ago. The sect teaches that man cannot be saved by his works or prayers but only by the mercy of Amida Buddha.

### **TEAM PLAYERS**

Abbot SHONYO - chief abbot of the Monto Sect and abbot of Hongan-ji.

Abbot SHONKWAN - Administrator of KAGA province.

Abbot AKUAN - leader of temple guards of Hongan-ji (ie. the temple's general).

Abbot DAFUYU - in charge of diplomatic relations with other temples and the diamyo.