



The Formation of Edo

1590: Tokugawa Ieyasu comes to Edo, following an order from Toyotomi Hideyoshi to relocate.
1598: Toyotomi Hideyoshi dies.
1600: The Tokugawa forces are victorious over the Western Army in the Battle of Sekigahara.
1603: Tokugawa Ieyasu becomes "Sei Taishogun" (literally "Great general who subdues the barbarians") and founds the Edo shogunate.
He orders the daimyo (feudal lords) from each area to undertake construction in Edo town, cutting through the high ground of Kandayama and reclaiming the land of Hibiya-irrie inlet, so the town of Edo expands rapidly. The five major highways and the system of stations and post horses are developed.
1612: Edo is divided into neighborhoods (machiwari). Development starts from the Nihonbashi Honcho-dori area.
1615: The Toyotomi family is destroyed in the Summer Campaign of Osaka.
1635: The alternative residence system (sankin-kotai) is set out in the Laws of Military Households (Buke Shohatto), and new samurai residences for the daimyo and their families are built.

Tsutaya Juzaburo

Tsutaya Juzaburo was one of Edo's foremost publishers. He released ukiyo-e woodblock print works, including those of Kitagawa Utamaro and Toshusai Sharaku, making them famous. He also established a store named "Koshodo," Koshodo was located on present-day Nihonbashi Odenma-Honcho Dori Street, and an explanatory signboard has been created here.



"Ichikawa Ebizo" work by Toshusai Sharaku
"Ukiyoe" by the Ukiyoe Preservation Publication Society/National Diet Library Digital Collection

Three Great Dojos of Edo

The three great dojos of Edo were three major kenjutsu (Japanese swordsmanship) dojos that boasted great popularity in Edo during the final years of the Tokugawa Shogunate: Chiba Shusaku's Genbukan of the Hokushin Itto-ryu style, Saito Yakuro's Renpeikan of the Shindo Munen-ryu style, and Momono Shunzo's Shigakukan of the Kyoshin Meichi-ryu style. People often said, "For skill, Chiba; for power, Saito; for spiritual strength, Momono," and many of the people who played active roles in the transition from the late Edo period to the Meiji Restoration studied kenjutsu at these dojos. Apparently, Sakamoto Ryoma mainly trained at the Okecho Dojo of Chiba Shusaku's younger brother, Sadakichi.

- Members of the Genbukan: Sakamoto Ryoma, Yamanami Keisuke, Yamaoka Tesshu, etc.
- Members of the Renpeikan: Takasugi Shinsaku, Kido Takayoshi (Katsura Gogoro), Ito Hirobumi, etc.
- Members of the Shigakukan: Takechi Zuizan (Takechi Hanpeita), Okada Izo, etc.

Tosa Domain Nakayashiki

(Secondary Residence)
Samurai from Tosa Domain (Kochi Pref.) such as Sakamoto Ryoma, Takechi Hanpeita, and Okada Izo, all famous as nationalist patriots (shishi) at the end of the Edo period, lodged at the Tosa Domain Nakayashiki (in the present-day area around Chuo City Office) and focused on their kenjutsu training. The Genbukan, where Sakamoto Ryoma received his Hokushin Itto-ryu initiation and mokuroku (license), stood on modern-day Ippachi-dori street near Iwamotocho Station, and an explanatory signboard, "Remains of Genbukan and Yochijuku," has been created here.



Sakamoto Ryoma
In the possession of Kochi Prefectural Museum of Folk History



Chiba Shusaku "Genbukan" / Tojo Bunzo (Ichido) "Yochijuku"
Nihonbashi-Kita Kanda Hen no ezu (section)/Taisho City Library Digital Archives

Tokinokane-dori St.

Formerly: Kanetsukido-jimmichi (the old road to the bell tower)

① Tokinokane / Yahantei



Yosha Buson
"Image of Yosha Buson," work by Goshun
In the possession of Kyoto National Museum

Toki-no-Kane in Nihonbashi Hongokuchu was Edo's first bell tower, set up to inform people of the time through its rings during the Edo period.
A house known as the Yahantei, home to haiku poet Hayano Hajin, stood in the area around this bell tower, and the poet Yosha Buson studied haiku poetry under Hajin here.

•A verse by Buson
At the convent / a cosmetic arrives / during the Ten Nights' Ceremony.
trans. Cheryl A. Crowley
*The Toki-no-Kane Bell Tower has been relocated to present-day Jishi Park in the remains of Denmacho Prison

② Nagasaki-ya



Picture of a Dutchman in Nihonbashi Nagasaki-ya
Picture Book of the Pleasures of the East (Ehon Azuma Asahi) 3 volumes, work by Katsushika Hokusai
National Diet Library Digital Collection

The Nagasaki-ya was an apothecary with an official relationship with the Edo government, and served as a place of lodging when the heads (Capitao) of the Dutch trading company periodically visited Edo.
This store was known as the "Dejima of Edo." It was one of the rarest places where interactions with Western civilization were possible in the state national isolation, and it is said that Japanese scholars of Dutch studies and medicine such as Hiraga Gennai and Sugita Gempaku paid visits to Seibold when he stayed there in the final years of the Edo period.

③ Oyama-ya



Oishi Kuranosuke
"Soga Chushingura nishikie narabi ni banruekashu"
National Diet Library Digital Collection

The Oyama-ya was an inn thought to have stood near a long-established tempura store called Tenmo, on modern-day Toki-no-Kane-dori street.
It is said that Chikara, the eldest son of Oishi Kuranosuke (famous as the former chamberlain of Ako Domain and one of the 47 ronin), stayed with a group of people here. On November 5, 1703, Oishi Kuranosuke joined the group at the inn, and 40 days later he went to have his revenge in the residence of Kira Kozunosuke in Honjo Matsuzakacho.

④ Denmacho Prison



Yoshida Shoin
"Yoshida Shoin" by Tokutomi Ichiro, Minyuha
National Diet Library Digital Collection

Denmacho Prison was a jail that housed prisoners. It is also the jail in which, in 1859, samurai Yoshida Shoin from Choshu Domain (Yamaguchi Pref.) was imprisoned in the Ansei Purge and executed.
Shoin had a major influence on nationalist patriots who were active during the Meiji Restoration, including Takasugi Shinsaku and Ito Hirobumi (the first Prime Minister of Japan), through the Shokasonjuku Academy that he ran. Kido Takayoshi and his other students later created an alliance between Satsuma and Choshu with the mediation of Sakamoto Ryoma.

•Yoshida Shoin's death poem (a short verse left for the world before his death)
Even if my body / decays on the fields of Musashi / my Japanese soul / will live forever.
trans. Henry van Drielen
*the engraved stone is currently in Jishi Park,