

For years the Lesser Daimyo had lived in peace, secure in the non-aggression philosophy of their Toda Lord, a man distinguished in wisdom, art, and battle. He had been the guarantor of the peace in his province for many decades. But without provocation the Toda family was attacked by a league of ambitious daimyo from nearby provinces. The Lesser Lords flocked to the Toda banner, and the army strength was expanded with mercenary forces and masterless samurai. The Toda alliance prevailed.

Alas, in the ensuing battles the Toda Lord was killed, and his eldest son became the heir. Here was a young man cut from different cloth—cunning where his father was wise, ambitious where his father was content. The Young Wolf realized that he had assembled a powerful and successful army to resist the aggression against his family's holdings. Why not, he reasoned, now use this instrument to enlarge the Toda name by absorbing the smaller holdings adjacent to his own, those very clans that had recently stood with his family?

Several small holdings joined with him in the enterprise, seeing a chance to better their own fortunes. Some resisted the usurpation of their lands. Others vacillated, waiting for a sign before deciding whether to bolt or submit. The monasteries of the province watched the unfolding saga.

The Lesser Lords were picked off one by one, by treachery, intimidation, or internal weakness. Too late the survivors coalesced into two forces, the Western Righteous Rebellion Army and the Eastern Righteous Rebellion Army. Young Wolf Army assembled to strike the root out their resistance.

The region's monasteries attempted to remain above the fray. Too late they realized that Young Tiger would build a new social order. The Young Tiger would reward the Ronin and his allied Vassal Lords with grants of land, which could only be monastery land. Belatedly they don their armor, organize their peasants, and rush to restore the balance of power in the province.

The stage is set for a confrontation in which allegiances, betrayals, and opportunism would all be played out in the heat of battle.

SCENARIO FOR THE EASTERN RIGHTEOUS REBELLION ARMY

Dire news. Word has arrived that your Western compatriots have been destroyed by a detachment of Young Wolf Army. The victorious enemy are marching to rejoin the main battle force that has you pinned down in Red Tori Forest. When they arrive you will be seriously outnumbered. Should you attack or take up your defensive positions, awaiting the final blow? In any case, your wives and children are prepared to make the final sacrifice to daimyo honor. The stage is set.

SCENARIO FOR THE DAY OF BATTLE

But wait! A young noble sent to Edo to plead your case for support by the Imperial Court chanced to meet one of Young Wolf's minions, who was researching the land grants to the monasteries. The worthy young man uncovered the plan to distribute monastery lands to the Young Wolf's newest vassals, the mercenary leaders and masterless samurai. Knowing that the

crisis was at hand, he sent word in secret both to the leaders of the Eastern Righteous Rebellion Army and to the monasteries, revealing the plan. The ruling monks realized the threat, donned their armor, organized the peasants, and rushed to try to save the day, and their fortunes. Will they arrive in time?

SCENARIO FOR HONORABLE SUCCESSION ARMY

Good news. A detachment of your army has crushed the Western Rebellion Army and is marching to rejoin the main force that is containing the Eastern Army in Red Tori Forest. When they arrive, Young Wolf will have a substantial advantage in numbers, though Red Tori Forest provides a formidable defensive position. It is clear that the forces that rebelled against Young Wolf have no choice but to fight to the death. Vassals both old and new begin to count up the spoils soon to be theirs.

SCENARIO AFTER DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES ON THE BATTLEFIELD

Treachery! Carelessness! Betrayal! Somehow the monasteries have unearthed the plan to distribute their land to the new vassals of Young Wolf. Hastily they have armed themselves and their tenants, and at this very moment are marching to preserve the status quo (and, of course, their own holdings). When will they arrive? Where?