Tokugawa Japan

Day One

The mission for Day 1 is to decide who should be treated as a full and recognized state. The Dutch East India Company and the Zheng maritime network were hybrid enterprises that possessed significant powers. And yet both struggled to take up a place in state-to-state diplomacy. At the same time, the Zheng and the Qing both competed for legitimacy. The Zheng claimed that the Qing were Manchu usurpers with no rights to the Chinese throne while the Qing argued variously that the Zheng were pirates or should take up a place as loyal tributary vassals.

Readings


Feel free to consult outside sources if you find them useful in formulating your stance.

What you want:

You have forged a political order in which you occupy a place at the center. You maintain it by carefully choosing and vetting your partners and allies. Those like Korea or the Ryukyu kingdom which confirm an image of Tokugawa supremacy are allowed in, while those who do not conform to your worldview are barred from stepping foot in your realm. You possess abundant quantities of silver, copper, weapons, and other goods widely in demand in maritime East Asia, and you are a huge consumer market. You want to keep things the way they are as long as you profit from the status quo.
What you don't want:

You're suspicious of any power that threatens to upset the balance of power in maritime East Asia. You're worried that any slight to your prestige in the region will undercut your authority and this may have domestic consequences as you preside over a system with 200 plus semi-autonomous domanial lords. You will not tolerate any challenge to your authority.

What you want to achieve:

You think both the Zheng and the VOC can be unreliable pirates. However, you also view the Qing as barbarians unfit to rule over China, and an existential military threat. You are a key swing vote. You need to be persuaded which one to support.

Day One

Stage 1 (before class) – Do the assigned readings, prepare your position

Stage 2 (before class) – Write a diplomatic letter to the Dutch East India Company (VOC)

Stage 3 (class) – Discuss and deliberate over the letter (10-15 min.)

Stage 4 (class) – Receive embassies (10-15 min.)

Stage 5 (class) – First convention. Present your side's case. Your group should designate a representative to present your case before the others (15-20 min.)

VOTE: RECOGNIZE VOC OR ZHENG - ACCORD ONE PARTY LEGITIMACY

Stage 6 - News arrives

Stage 7 (class) – Send an embassy (10 min.)

Stage 8 (class) – Second convention (15-20 min.)

VOTE: RECOGNIZE THE VOC OR THE ZHENG OR THE QING - ACCORD ONE PARTY LEGITIMACY
Day Two

The VOC and the Zheng are at war. Both sides want to engage in unrestrained maritime hostilities in pursuit of their interests, while receiving legal guarantees and protection from land-based powers against their enemy. Cambodia, Siam, and Tokugawa Japan are caught up within this conflict. The goal of day 2 is to rule on these questions of offensive maritime warfare and which ships are protected.

Readings

• Adam Clulow and Xing Hang, “Restraining Violence on the Seas: The Tokugawa, the Zheng Maritime Network, and the Dutch East India Company” (forthcoming), draft

Feel free to consult outside sources if you find them useful in formulating your stance.

Your Objectives:

Although you depend upon foreign trade to a certain extent, your economy is largely agrarian and domestically oriented. You are mainly concerned about the possibility of maritime violence adversely affecting the security of your coastline and social order at home. You are determined to avoid any conflicts that end up blockading your access to the outside world via the sea lanes. On the other hand, you can cooperate with and provide legal guarantees for those maritime powers that bring security and order to maritime East Asia. You would be willing to open up some of your markets to maintain this beneficial relationship.
Day Two

**Stage 1** (before class) – Do the assigned readings, prepare your position

**Stage 2** (before class) – Write a diplomatic letter to the Zheng Maritime Network

**Stage 3** (class) – Discuss and deliberate over the letter (10-15 min.)

**Stage 4** (class) – Receive embassies (10-15 min.)

**Stage 5** (class) – First convention. Present your side's case. Your group should designate a representative to present your case before the others (15-20 min.)

VOTE: ALLOW OR RESTRAIN VOC OR ZHENG

**Stage 6** - News arrives

**Stage 7** (class) – Send an embassy (10 min.)

**Stage 8** (class) – Second convention (15-20 min.)

REACH A CONSENSUS WITH CAMBODIA AND SIAM ON WHAT KIND OF ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN