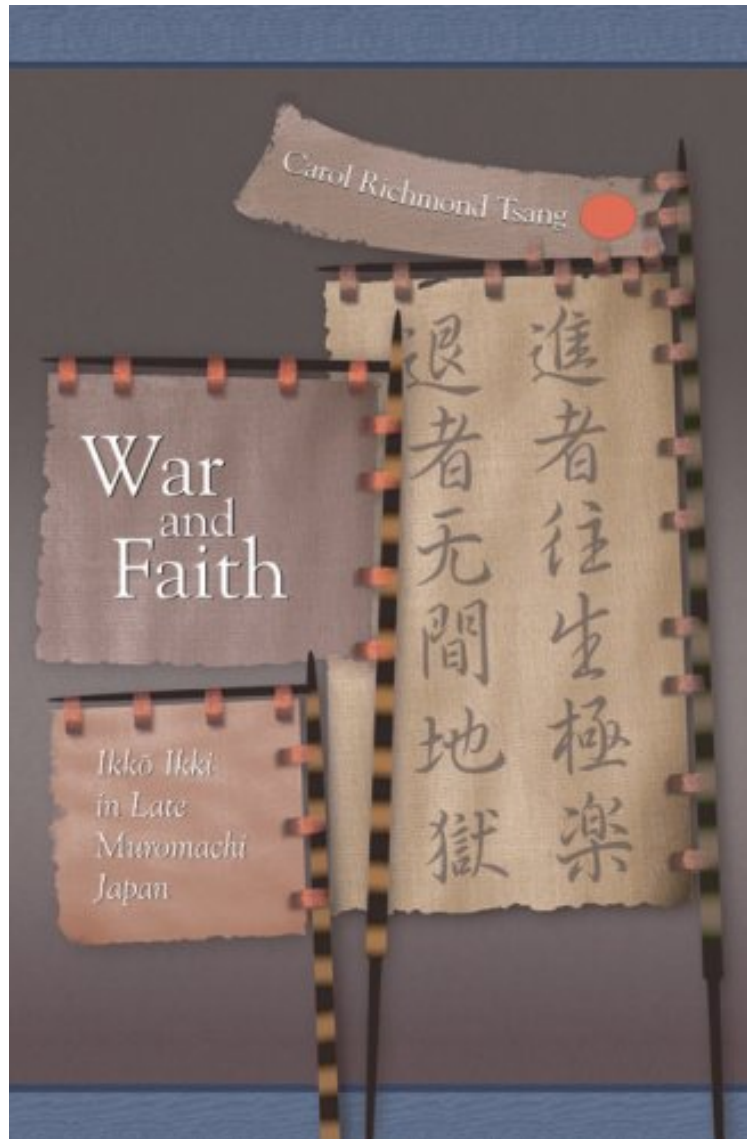


(Get free) War and Faith: Ikko Ikki in Late Muromachi Japan (Harvard East Asian Monographs)

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Carol Richmond Tsang

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Carol Richmond Tsang : War and Faith: Ikko Ikki in Late Muromachi Japan (Harvard East Asian Monographs) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised War and Faith: Ikko Ikki in Late Muromachi Japan (Harvard East Asian Monographs):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An important yet relatively untouched part of Japanese history. By S. Bola I am an American living in Fukui Japan, where the Ikko-shu played a big hand in the development of the region.

Fukui and nearby Kaga Province (now part of Ishikawa Prefecture) were long the stronghold of the Ikko Ikki, and many important battles took place here, battles that had huge impacts on the nation as a whole. For too long these battles have gone unnoticed by historians. This book finally gives a voice to these conflicts, and paints a vivid picture of who the Ikko were, what their motivations were, and ultimately what happened to them. I give this book five stars because of the importance of the subject matter, and the mountains of research that must have gone into writing this book. However, if I was to complain, I would say only that I wish some time was committed to important regional battles, including the Battle of Kuzuryu River, which had a lasting effect on the Ikko, ultimately leading to the Dai-sho Ikki which is extensively covered in this book. I would also liked to have heard some about the Hokuriku Ikki after Oda established himself in the region. There is little mention of the Ikki occurring in Echizen in the mid to late 1570s, nor the final stand of the Ikko at Torigoe Caslte or Kanazawa Castle. Still, the absolute best book on the subject and a must read for anyone with even a passing interest in the Ikko. Also recommended for anyone interested in Japanese history.

During the sengoku era--the period of "warring provinces" in fifteenth- and sixteenth-century Japan--warlords vied for supremacy and sought to expand their influence over the realm. Powerful religious institutions also asserted their military might by calling upon their adherents to do battle against forces that threatened their spiritual and secular interests. The Honganji branch of Jodo Shinshu (True Pure Land Sect) Buddhism was one such powerhouse that exercised its military will by fanning violent uprisings of ikko ikki, loosely structured "leagues of one mind" made up of mostly commoners who banded together to fight for (or against) any number of causes--usually those advanced by the Honganji's Patriarch. Carol Richmond Tsang delves into the complex and often contradictory relationship between these ikko leagues and the Honganji institution. Moving beyond the simplistic characterization of ikki as peasant uprisings, the author argues cogently for a fuller picture of ikko ikki as a force in medieval Japanese history. By exploring the political motivations and machinations of the Honganji and the diverse aims and allegiances of its ikko followers, Tsang complicates our understanding of ikko ikki as a multifaceted example of how religion and religious belief played out in a society in conflict.

About the Author? Carol Richmond Tsang is an independent scholar.