The roads that connected east and west Japan ran through Mino province (modern-day Gifu), and there was the saying during the Sengoku Period (1467–1600) that if you “Control Mino, and you control the nation.” Having conquered Mino by defeating the Saito clan in 1567, Oda Nobunaga (1534–1582) set his sights on unifying the country. He summed up this ambition through the slogan “*tenka fubu*”, which is often translated as “Rule all under heaven by military force.” Nobunaga also created a seal featuring the slogan, which he used to legitimize and impart authority to his written laws. Under this slogan, Nobunaga would eliminate the Ashikaga Shogunate, defeat numerous samurai clans, and reduce the power of the Buddhist temples. He also freed commerce in his castle towns, removed toll gates from his territories, and worked to provide economic stability.