History 285
Modern East Asia
Emory University, Fall Semester, 2008
First Essay

Core Text

Directions
First, as you read, keep your textbook at hand, or an online encyclopedia, to refer to when you run across terms you do not understand. And please also keep a list of any terms you’re still not sure about or any questions you have.

Second, choose one of the two questions below on which to focus your essay. If you wish, you may address your own topic. Support your points with reference to specific page numbers, in parentheses. Your essay must not exceed 1000 words (4 pp).

Third, send your essay to both of the following email addresses:
historyofchina@gmail.com
histmr@emory.edu

They are due Sunday 21 September by 8:00 PM. Please also make sure that they are in a readable format: plain text, .rtf, or .doc. We will discuss the book on Tuesday 23 September.

Topics
• Reflect on the images of China and/or the Chinese that emerge in these pages, keeping in mind that the author is Japanese.

• The Battles of Coxinga is obviously a work of fiction based loosely on historical events. Nonetheless, what aspects of Chinese history did Chikamatsu get right?

• Does Chikamatsu see China and Japan having a shared culture? If so, how are Japan and China different?