INHALT

Introduction	g
About this book	9
Internal conflict and civil war in 1860s Japan	10
The military revolution – Japanese military reforms between 1841 and 1868	14
Reform of the Shogunate — The new Takashima academy	14
Tentative steps towards rearmament	22
The Shogun makes a clean sweep – the new army	23
Command structure under the Tokugawa	25
The antagonists – Satsuma and Choshu	30
Satsuma	30
Choshu	34
Firearms – from matchlock to Gatling Gun	37
The example of Yonezawa	37
Foreign arms and Japanese armies	40
The influence of foreign arms dealers	48
The Shogunate, Imperial forces, and allies – an overview of the most important domains and their banners and insignia	54
The Tokugawa and their allies	56
Satsuma, Choshu and their allies	61
Other mon and standards	68
The combatants	75
Shishi – men of high ideals, or unmitigated lunatics?	75
Shinsengumi – shining heroes, or gang of thugs?	77
Samurai – the last battlecry of the old feudal élite	82
Modern Infantry	91
Shotai Militia	100
Campaigns and battles of the 1860s	106
The second punitive campaign against Choshu in 1866	106
"In this sign, conquer!" — the Battle of Toba-Fushimi (3 rd —6 th January 1868)	111
The first day (3 rd January 1868)	114
The second day (4th January 1868)	115



The third day (5 th January 1868)	117
The fourth day (6 th January 1868)	122
Why did Tokugawa Yoshinobu lose the battle despite a numerical superiority of three to one?	123
Aftermath	124
From Kyoto to Edo	125
The Battle of Ueno, 15 th May 1868	127
The Hokuetsu War in Nagaoka (May – August 1868)	130
The bloody siege of Aizu-Wakamatsu (6 th October – 6 th November 1868)	138
Sendai, Yonezawa and Shonai in the Boshin War	142
Last stand of the Shogunate party in Hokkaido – the surrender of Hakodate on 27 th June 1869	142
Important characters of the Bakumatsu period	151
Choshu's Young Blades	151
Katsu Kaishu and Saigo Takamori	153
Jules Brunet, true "Last Samurai"	157
After the battle, or the experiences of Dr William Willis	160
Imai Nobuo (1841–1918) and the long road to an ordinary life	163
Sources and further reading	166