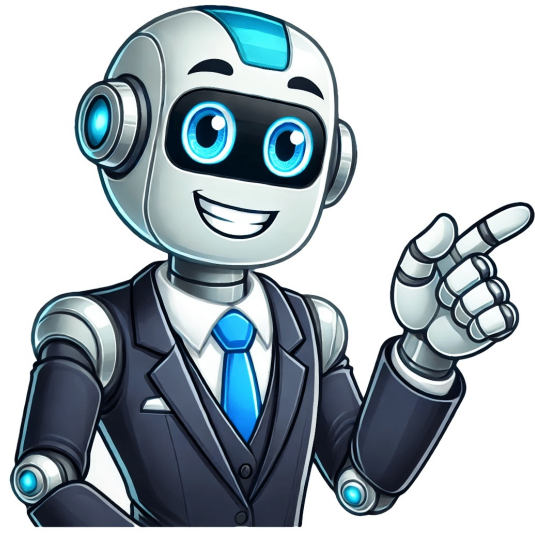


I'm not a bot





There are numerous references to rinin in both Japanese and global culture, from appearances in films by the great director Akira Kurosawa *Seven Samurai* (1954) and *Yojimbo* (1961) to the Disney+ series, *Shgun* (2024). Rinin have inspired books, artworks, plays and videogames, including *Ghost of Tsushima* (2020) and *Rise of the Rnin* (2024).A rinin is a masterless samurai.If a samurai loses their master, either through the death or overthrow of their lord or their own downfall, they would become a rinin. According to the samurai code, known as bushido, losing their status should be followed by committing seppuku, or ritual suicide, in order to escape dishonour.Read more | A history of samurai warfareIf they did not, a rinin was condemned to becoming a wandering vagrant, unable to find another position or take work carried out by the lowly classes. The word means wave man in reference to how they drifted over the land.A Japanese painting on silk, in a traditional Japanese style, of a Samurai warrior riding a horse.. (Photo by The Print Collector/Print Collector/Getty Images)The only difference between a rinin and a samurai is that the latter had a master, such as a feudal lord, or daimyo, whereas a rinin was masterless.The difference to their lives, however, was stark. Whereas samurai were in one of the top classes of the strict social hierarchy of feudal Japan, above farmers, artisans and merchants, rinin lost their prestige and social standing. Rinin were generally held to the fringes of society in their samurai and peasant times, and during the Edo period, having lost their stipend and means of survival, they had to turn to crime, begging, or other means to survive. This could be legitimate means, such as manual work or being bodyguards for merchants, but many turned to crime, becoming bandits or thugs for gangs. That said, the status of the rinin did depend on the period they lived in. The Sengoku period of the 15th and 16th centuries, for instance, was a time of continuous civil war and chaos, so there was a high demand for warriors. If a lord died in battle, their samurai could always find employment with another one.Read more | The true story of the samurai Yasukeln The Edo period that came in the late 16th-century, however a time of stability when Japan was ruled by a military dictatorship, the shogunate there was less need for experienced fighters. Samurai still served their lords, but more often with administrative duties than martial. A rinin at this time had few options.Circumstances shifted again in the 19th century when rinin found a new purpose: intense nationalism. They banded together to try and expel foreigners who were starting to arrive in Japan in greater numbers. Some samurai even chose to leave their lords so that they could become a revolutionary rinin.Following the Meiji Restoration of 1868, which brought an end to the shogunate and re-established imperial rule, the samurai lost their privileges, and were eventually abolished. And no samurai meant no rinin.Read more | Why is a mythical catfish to blame for earthquakes in Japan?The term still exists today, though. It now most often refers to a high school graduate who has yet to find a place at university so has to spend a year wandering through their education as it were or a loyal, hardworking employee, known as a salaryman, who finds themselves without a job.Samurai without a lord or master "Ronin" redirects here. For other uses, see Ronin (disambiguation).This article needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed.Find sources:"Ronin"news newspapers books scholar JSTOR (January 2023) (Learn how and when to remove this message)A woodblock print by ukio-e master Utagawa Kuniyoshi depicting famous rinin Miyamoto Musashi having his fortune toldUkio-e woodblock print by Yoshitoshi depicting Oishi Chikara, one of the forty-seven rinin in feudal Japan (c.1185/1868), a rinin (/ronin/ ROH-nin; Japanese : IPA: [ɔi], 'drifter' or 'wandering man', lit.'unrestrained or dissolute person') was a samurai who had no lord or master, and in some cases, he also severed all links with his family or clan.[1]A samurai became a rinin upon the death of his master, or after the loss of his master's favor or legal privilege.[2][3]In modern Japanese, the term is usually used to describe a salaryman who is unemployed or a secondary school graduate who has not yet been admitted to university.[4][5]The word rinin was usually translated to 'drifter' or 'wanderer'; however, per kanji, r (a) means "wave" as on the water, as well as "unrestrained, dissolute", while nin (n) means "person". It is an idiomatic expression for "vagrant" or "wanderer", someone who does not belong to one place. The term originated in the Nara and Heian periods, when it referred to a serf who had fled or deserted his master's land. It later came to be used for a samurai who had no master. In medieval times, the rinin were depicted as the shadows of samurai, master-less and not honorable. According to the Bushido Shoshinshu (the "Code of the Warrior"), a samurai was supposed to commit seppuku (also harakiri, "belly cutting", a form of ritual suicide) upon the loss of his master.[6][7] One who chose not to honor the code was "on his own" and was meant to suffer great shame. The undesirability of rinin status was mainly a discrimination imposed by other samurai and by daimy, the feudal lords.[citation needed]Like other samurai, rinin wore two swords.[8] Rinin used a variety of other weapons as well. Some rininually those who lacked moneywould carry a b (staff around 1.5 to 1.8m (5 to 6ft)) or j (smaller staff or walking stick around 0.9 to 1.5m (3 to 5ft)) or a yumi (bow). Most weapons would reflect the ry (martial arts school) from which they came if they were students.[citation needed]During the Edo period, with the shogunate's rigid class system and laws, the number of rinin greatly increased; confiscation of fiefs during the rule of the third Tokugawa shgun Iemitsu resulted in an especially large increase of their number.[2] During previous ages, samurai were able to move between masters and even between occupations. They could also marry between classes. However, during the Edo period, samurai were restricted, and wereabove allforbidden to become employed by another master without their previous master's permission.[citation needed]Because the former samurai could not legally take up a new trade, or because of pride, many rinin looked for other ways to make a living with their swords. Those rinin who desired steady, legal employment became mercenaries that guarded trade caravans, or bodyguards for wealthy merchants. Many other rinin became criminals, operating as bandits and highwaymen, or joining organized crime in towns and cities. Rinin were known to operate or serve as hired muscle for gangs that ran gambling rings, brothels, protection rackets, and similar activities. Many were petty thieves and muggers. The criminal segment gave the rinin of the Edo period a persistent reputation of disgrace, with an image of thugs, bullies, cutthroats, and wandering vagrants.[2] After the abolition of the Samurai, some of the rinin continued with their thuggery and their mercenary work and activities, such as participating in the infamous assassination of Korean Empress Myeongseong of the Joseon Dynasty in 1895, the Eulmi Incident.[citation needed]Graves of the forty-seven rinin at Sengaku-jiUntil the Sengoku period, peasants accounted for the majority of daimy armies, so they accounted for the majority of ronin.[citation needed]Especially in the Sengoku period, daimy needed additional fighting men, and even if a master had perished, his rinin was able to serve new lords. In contrast to the later Edo period, the bond between the lord and the vassal was loose, and some vassals who were dissatisfied with their treatment left their masters and sought new lords. Many warriors served a succession of masters, and some even became daimy. As an example, Td Takatora served ten lords. Additionally, the division of the population into classes had not yet taken place, so it was possible to change one's occupation from warrior to merchant or farmer, or the reverse. Sait Dsan was one merchant who rose through the warrior ranks to become a daimy.[citation needed]As Toyotomi Hideyoshi unified progressively more significant parts of the country, daimy found it unnecessary to recruit new soldiers. The Battle of Sekigahara in 1600 resulted in the confiscation or reduction of the fiefs of large numbers of daimy on the losing side; consequently, many samurai became rinin. In the 19th century, the majority of the Way of the Samurai series is always an archetypal ronin who wanders into the setting one day and must choose a faction to work with or find a way to unite them against a greater foe. The 2020 video game Ghost of Tsushima features many rinin as part of the story, including Ryuzo (Leonard Wu), the childhood friend of the protagonist Jin Sakai. In the 2020 video game Genshin Impact, the first playable character from the nation of Inazuma, Kaedehara Kazuha, became a rinin not too long before the game's events. The 2023 video game Honkai: Star Rail features Acheron, a rinin from the fallen planet of Izzmo, as a playable character starting from version 2.1. The protagonist of the 2024 video game Rise of the Rinin is a rinin navigating the tumultuous period of 19th-century Japan, making pivotal choices that influence the nation's future.Japan portalGonin Gumi groups of households which united for collective protection against rininJapanese holdoutKnight-errant, a similar figure in western literatureShinsengumiYouxiaWikimedia Commons has media related to Rinin." "Rnin, Japanese warrior". Encyclopedia Britannica. Retrieved 2009-08-29. ^ a b c d Stéphane Lun (2021). A Guide on Shinsengumi: the
background and management. ^ Till, Barry (2005). The 47 Ronin: A Story of Samurai Loyalty and Courage. Pomegranate. p. 21. ISBN 978-0-7649-3209-0. ^ Akhihiko Yonekawa. Beyond Polite Japanese. page 25. Kodansha 2001. ISBN 94-700-2773-7 at Japanese-English dictionaries: Archived 2013-02-12 at archive.today or Archived 2013-02-19 at archive.today Hubbard, Ben (2014-06-02). Samurai: Swords, Shoguns and Seppuku. The History Press. ISBN978-0-7509-5725-0. ^ Rankin, Andrew (2012-11-20). Seppuku: A History of Samurai Suicide. Kodansha USA. ISBN 978-1-56836-448-3. ^ history, Kallie Szczepanski Kallie Szczepanski has a Ph D in; College, Has Taught at the; U.S, High school level in both the; Korea, "What Was a Ronin in Feudal Japan?". ^ Forbes, Andrew; Henley, David (2012). Forty-Seven Ronin: Tsukioka Yoshitoshi Edition. ^ David (2012). Forty-Seven Ronin: Utagawa Kuniyoshi Edition. Chiang Mai: Cognoscenti Books. ASINB00ADQM81L. ^ Stewart, Sara (1 April 2015). "Frasman, Owen casualties of bloody bad 'Lst Knights' Retrieved from "we were samurai who lost their master, becoming wanderers and often seen as disgraced. Warior masters, roin lived in poverty, some turned to crime while others tried to keep their honor. A notable group of ronin became famous for avenging their master's death, later becoming symbols of loyalty. A ronin was a samurai warrior in feudal Japan without a master or lord known as daimyo. A samurai could become a ronin in several different ways: his master might die or fall from power or the samurai might lose his master's favor or patronage and be cast off. The word "ronin" literally means "wave man," so the connotation is that he is a drifter or a wanderer. The term is quite pejorative, as its English equivalent might be "vagrant". Originally, during the Nara and Heian eras, the word was applied to serfs who fled from their masters' land and took to the road they would often turn to crime to support themselves, becoming robbers and highwaymen. Over time, the word was transferred up the social hierarchy to rogue samurai. These samurai were seen as outlaws and vagabonds, men who had been expelled from their clans or had renounced their lords. During the Sengoku periodfrom 1467 to approximately 1600, a samurai could easily find a new master if his lord was killed in battle. In that chaotic time, every daimyo needed experienced soldiers and ronin did not remain masterless for long. However, once Toyotomi Hideyoshi, who reigned from 1585 to 1598, began to pacify the country and the Tokugawa shoguns brought unity and peace to Japan, there was no longer any need for extra warriors. Those who chose the life of a ronin would usually live in poverty and disgrace. What was the alternative to becoming a ronin? After all, it was not the samurai's fault if his master suddenly died, was deposed from his position as daimyo or was killed in battle. In the first two cases, ordinarily, the samurai would go on to serve the new daimyo, usually a close relative of his original lord. However, if that was not possible, or if he felt too strong a personal loyalty to his late lord to transfer his allegiance, the samurai was expected to commit ritual suicide orseppuku. Likewise, if his lord was defeated or killed in battle, the samurai was supposed to kill himself, according to the samurai code of bushido. This was how a samurai preserved his honor. It was how a samurai retained pride without a lord, becoming what is called ronin (masterless). According to the Code of the Samurai, rinin were supposed to immediately commit ritual suicide upon the death of their master and if they did not, they were looked upon with great shame. A group of these rinin however, had other ideas.VengeanceDespite revenge against Kira strictly prohibited, a group of forty-sevenof the rinin lived on with one mission:avenge Asano's death by killing Kira. Swearing a secret oath, the forty-seven set about meticulously planning their attack, with their leader ishi at the helm.Suspecting such an attack, Kira and his home in Edo were guarded heavily. With heavy suspicion surrounding the the rinins next move, they disbanded, taking up jobs as various tradesmen, merchants and even monks.Nate Ledbetter joins Matt Lewis to recount the events of the celebrated Battle of Nagashino - and to present a new perspective on the battle that saw samurai traditions confront the power of the gun.Listen Nowishi himself, knowing that Kira would send spies after him, embroiled himself in a life of debauchery, frequenting drinking houses and brothels to give the impression that he was no longer an honourable samurai. Kira needed to believe him cowardly and uninterested in avenging his master for their plan to work.The storming of Kiras mansionAfter hearing such reports from his spies, Kira indeed saw himself safe from attack, and let down his guard. The rinin then secretly gathered in Edo. In their undercover roles as workmen and merchants, they had been able to gain access to Kiras house, making note of its layout and those who worked and lived there.They held a final dinner, confirming their carefully designed attack plan and emphasised that they would spare any women, children, and other vulnerable people they may encounter on their mission. On 15 December, 1702 they stormed Kiras mansion, eventually forcing their way into his chambers, but mysteriously found no sign of him. They knew he couldnt have been far however, as his bed was still warm.The rinin attack the principal gate of Kiras mansion by Katsushika Hokusai (Image Credit: Public Domain)After an extensive search, the rinin discovered the entrance to a secret courtyard hidden behind a large scroll, and inside found the man they were looking for confirmed by an ugly scar across his face, inflicted by Lord Asano when he was a child. The ronin then turned the tables on Kira, forcing him to beg for his life. Kira was spared, but the ronin escaped this fate, after being pardoned by the shgun. They were buried in front of their masters tomb, having fulfilled their duty by him.Grave of Lord Asano Naganoi at Sengaku-ji temple, Tokyo (Image Credit: Public Domain)In this act the rinin restored honour to Lord Asano's family, allowing his younger brother to re-establish their name and affording their fellow rinin uninvolved in the revenge plan to find employment out of disgrace.Helen Carr takes a road trip to York to discover more about the early years of one of British history's most notorious figures - Guy Fawkes. She traces his childhood, through his school days to his religious conversion from Protestantism to Catholicism.Watch NowSignificance to the Japanese peopleOver the years, the tale of the forty-seven rinin has come to symbolise loyalty, sacrifice, persistence, and honour in Japanese culture. From as early as two weeks after the event, various dramatised depictions of the story arose, such as in traditional kabuki and bunraki performance arts.Since then,countless numbers of books, plays, and films on the topic have been released across Japan and indeed the world, taking on various forms and artistic focuses. Whatever varying angles or messages these decide to portray however, the original tale of bravery will forever be grounded in truth.A testament to this arrives every year on 14 December at the graves of the rinin and their master, in which a festival is observed to celebrate the devout loyalty and honour of the real people who lived it. Japanese: (Rounin) or (Roushi) DefinitionThe defining characteristic of a ronin is that he was a former samurai separated from service to a daimyo. The kanji that spell out the term "ronin" are literally translated as "wave person," as if he were set adrift to be tossed upon the waves of life. Sometimes, the term "ronin" is translated as "masterless samurai". There are quite a few chambara/jidaigeki films featuring ronin as main characters, including the very famous film Seven Samurai (Shichinin no Samurai) in which some Sengoku period farmers hire ronin to protect their farms from the depredations of clan wars and banditry. The ronin seeking samurai retainers during the Edo period, and the ronin who have been expelled from their masters' land and taken to the road they would often turn to crime to support themselves, becoming robbers and highwaymen. The ronin who were the shogun's direct retainers were known as hatamoto (bannermen). So strictly speaking, the term "ronin" refers to bushi who were not samurai retainers. However, many people throughout the ages have used the term "samurai" as a generic term indicating any bushi. Ronin were allowed to continue to bear a family name and wear the distinctive two swords that they wore when they were clan samurai. However, they effectively existed outside of the official class structure (samurai, farmers, artisans, merchants) that existed from the late Sengoku period through the Edo period. Most ronin lived in poverty without fixed incomes.Becoming a RoninA bushi usually became ronin in one of four ways:A clan or fief was defeated and abolished in battle, or the shogunate authorities reduced a fief in size or abolished the fief entirely (this is what happened with the well-known 47 ronin of Ako han who eventually mounted an attack upon the man they saw as being responsible). The samurai involved all would become ronin. Unless the lord of that fief took his retainers with him to his new fief, the samurai in his service would become ronin.A samurai was dismissed from service by his daimyo. During the Tokugawa era, according to the Buke Shohatto, no daimyo was allowed to take into service a ronin who had been dismissed by his original daimyo.A samurai voluntarily left his fief, with or without his daimyos permission, and thus became a ronin.A bushi was born as a ronin; he was the son of a ronin.Ronin during the Sengoku PeriodDuring the Sengoku era (1467-1603), there were numerous inter-clan conflicts. Many samurai changed masters during this
time. A bushi who came from a defeated clan could attach himself to another clan and serve as a samurai retainer. It is unclear as to whether or not there were greater numbers of ronin created by the defeat of clans than there were ronin seeking samurai retainers during the Edo period. The ronin who were expelled from their masters' land and taken to the road they would often turn to crime to support themselves, becoming robbers and highwaymen. The ronin who were the shogun's direct retainers were known as hatamoto (bannermen). So strictly speaking, the term "ronin" refers to bushi who were not samurai retainers. However, many people throughout the ages have used the term "samurai" as a generic term indicating any bushi. Ronin were allowed to continue to bear a family name and wear the distinctive two swords that they wore when they were clan samurai. However, they effectively existed outside of the official class structure (samurai, farmers, artisans, merchants) that existed from the late Sengoku period through the Edo period. Most ronin lived in poverty without fixed incomes.Becoming a RoninA bushi usually became ronin in one of four ways:A clan or fief was defeated and abolished in battle, or the shogunate authorities reduced a fief in size or abolished the fief entirely (this is what happened with the well-known 47 ronin of Ako han who eventually mounted an attack upon the man they saw as being responsible). The samurai involved all would become ronin. Unless the lord of that fief took his retainers with him to his new fief, the samurai in his service would become ronin.A samurai was dismissed from service by his daimyo. During the Tokugawa era, according to the Buke Shohatto, no daimyo was allowed to take into service a ronin who had been dismissed by his original daimyo.A samurai voluntarily left his fief, with or without his daimyos permission, and thus became a ronin.A bushi was born as a ronin; he was the son of a ronin.Ronin during the Sengoku PeriodDuring the Sengoku era (1467-1603), there were numerous inter-clan conflicts. Many samurai changed masters during this time. A bushi who came from a defeated clan could attach himself to another clan and serve as a samurai retainer. It is unclear as to whether or not there were greater numbers of ronin created by the defeat of clans than there were ronin seeking samurai retainers during the Edo period. The ronin who were expelled from their masters' land and taken to the road they would often turn to crime to support themselves, becoming robbers and highwaymen. The ronin who were the shogun's direct retainers were known as hatamoto (bannermen). So strictly speaking, the term "ronin" refers to bushi who were not samurai retainers. However, many people throughout the ages have used the term "samurai" as a generic term indicating any bushi. Ronin were allowed to continue to bear a family name and wear the distinctive two swords that they wore when they were clan samurai. However, they effectively existed outside of the official class structure (samurai, farmers, artisans, merchants) that existed from the late Sengoku period through the Edo period. Most ronin lived in poverty without fixed incomes.Becoming a RoninA bushi usually became ronin in one of four ways:A clan or fief was defeated and abolished in battle, or the shogunate authorities reduced a fief in size or abolished the fief entirely (this is what happened with the well-known 47 ronin of Ako han who eventually mounted an attack upon the man they saw as being responsible). The samurai involved all would become ronin. Unless the lord of that fief took his retainers with him to his new fief, the samurai in his service would become ronin.A samurai was dismissed from service by his daimyo. During the Tokugawa era, according to the Buke Shohatto, no daimyo was allowed to take into service a ronin who had been dismissed by his original daimyo.A samurai voluntarily left his fief, with or without his daimyos permission, and thus became a ronin.A bushi was born as a ronin; he was the son of a ronin.Ronin during the Sengoku PeriodDuring the Sengoku era (1467-1603), there were numerous inter-clan conflicts. Many samurai changed masters during this time. A bushi who came from a defeated clan could attach himself to another clan and serve as a samurai retainer. It is unclear as to whether or not there were greater numbers of ronin created by the defeat of clans than there were ronin seeking samurai retainers during the Edo period. The ronin who were expelled from their masters' land and taken to the road they would often turn to crime to support themselves, becoming robbers and highwaymen. The ronin who were the shogun's direct retainers were known as hatamoto (bannermen). So strictly speaking, the term "ronin" refers to bushi who were not samurai retainers. However, many people throughout the ages have used the term "samurai" as a generic term indicating any bushi. Ronin were allowed to continue to bear a family name and wear the distinctive two swords that they wore when they were clan samurai. However, they effectively existed outside of the official class structure (samurai, farmers, artisans, merchants) that existed from the late Sengoku period through the Edo period. Most ronin lived in poverty without fixed incomes.Becoming a RoninA bushi usually became ronin in one of four ways:A clan or fief was defeated and abolished in battle, or the shogunate authorities reduced a fief in size or abolished the fief entirely (this is what happened with the well-known 47 ronin of Ako han who eventually mounted an attack upon the man they saw as being responsible). The samurai involved all would become ronin. Unless the lord of that fief took his retainers with him to his new fief, the samurai in his service would become ronin.A samurai was dismissed from service by his daimyo. During the Tokugawa era, according to the Buke Shohatto, no daimyo was allowed to take into service a ronin who had been dismissed by his original daimyo.A samurai voluntarily left his fief, with or without his daimyos permission, and thus became a ronin.A bushi was born as a ronin; he was the son of a ronin.Ronin during the Sengoku PeriodDuring the Sengoku era (1467-1603), there were numerous inter-clan conflicts. Many samurai changed masters during this time. A bushi who came from a defeated clan could attach himself to another clan and serve as a samurai retainer. It is unclear as to whether or not there were greater numbers of ronin created by the defeat of clans than there were ronin seeking samurai retainers during the Edo period. The ronin who were expelled from their masters' land and taken to the road they would often turn to crime to support themselves, becoming robbers and highwaymen. The ronin who were the shogun's direct retainers were known as hatamoto (bannermen). So strictly speaking, the term "ronin" refers to bushi who were not samurai retainers. However, many people throughout the ages have used the term "samurai" as a generic term indicating any bushi. Ronin were allowed to continue to bear a family name and wear the distinctive two swords that they wore when they were clan samurai. However, they effectively existed outside of the official class structure (samurai, farmers, artisans, merchants) that existed from the late Sengoku period through the Edo period. Most ronin lived in poverty without fixed incomes.Becoming a RoninA bushi usually became ronin in one of four ways:A clan or fief was defeated and abolished in battle, or the shogunate authorities reduced a fief in size or abolished the fief entirely (this is what happened with the well-known 47 ronin of Ako han who eventually mounted an attack upon the man they saw as being responsible). The samurai involved all would become ronin. Unless the lord of that fief took his retainers with him to his new fief, the samurai in his service would become ronin.A samurai was dismissed from service by his daimyo. During the Tokugawa era, according to the Buke Shohatto, no daimyo was allowed to take into service a ronin who had been dismissed by his original daimyo.A samurai voluntarily left his fief, with or without his daimyos permission, and thus became a ronin.A bushi was born as a ronin; he was the son of a ronin.Ronin during the Sengoku PeriodDuring the Sengoku era (1467-1603), there were numerous inter-clan conflicts. Many samurai changed masters during this time. A bushi who came from a defeated clan could attach himself to another clan and serve as a samurai retainer. It is unclear as to whether or not there were greater numbers of ronin created by the defeat of clans than there were ronin seeking samurai retainers during the Edo period. The ronin who were expelled from their masters' land and taken to the road they would often turn to crime to support themselves, becoming robbers and highwaymen. The ronin who were the shogun's direct retainers were known as hatamoto (bannermen). So strictly speaking, the term "ronin" refers to bushi who were not samurai retainers. However, many people throughout the ages have used the term "samurai" as a generic term indicating any bushi. Ronin were allowed to continue to bear a family name and wear the distinctive two swords that they wore when they were clan samurai. However, they effectively existed outside of the official class structure (samurai, farmers, artisans, merchants) that existed from the late Sengoku period through the Edo period. Most ronin lived in poverty without fixed incomes.Becoming a RoninA bushi usually became ronin in one of four ways:A clan or fief was defeated and abolished in battle, or the shogunate authorities reduced a fief in size or abolished the fief entirely (this is what happened with the well-known 47 ronin of Ako han who eventually mounted an attack upon the man they saw as being responsible). The samurai involved all would become ronin. Unless the lord of that fief took his retainers with him to his
new fief, the samurai in his service would become ronin.A samurai was dismissed from service by his daimyo. During the Tokugawa era, according to the Buke Shohatto, no daimyo was allowed to take into service a ronin who had been dismissed by his original daimyo.A samurai voluntarily left his fief, with or without his daimyos permission, and thus became a ronin.A bushi was born as a ronin; he was the son of a ronin.Ronin during the Sengoku PeriodDuring the Sengoku era (1467-1603), there were numerous inter-clan conflicts. Many samurai changed masters during this time. A bushi who came from a defeated clan could attach himself to another clan and serve as a samurai retainer. It is unclear as to whether or not there were greater numbers of ronin created by the defeat of clans than there were ronin seeking samurai retainers during the Edo period. The ronin who were expelled from their masters' land and taken to the road they would often turn to crime to support themselves, becoming robbers and highwaymen. The ronin who were the shogun's direct retainers were known as hatamoto (bannermen). So strictly speaking, the term "ronin" refers to bushi who were not samurai retainers. However, many people throughout the ages have used the term "samurai" as a generic term indicating any bushi. Ronin were allowed to continue to bear a family name and wear the distinctive two swords that they wore when they were clan samurai. However, they effectively existed outside of the official class structure (samurai, farmers, artisans, merchants) that existed from the late Sengoku period through the Edo period. Most ronin lived in poverty without fixed incomes.Becoming a RoninA bushi usually became ronin in one of four ways:A clan or fief was defeated and abolished in battle, or the shogunate authorities reduced a fief in size or abolished the fief entirely (this is what happened with the well-known 47 ronin of Ako han who eventually mounted an attack upon the man they saw as being responsible). The samurai involved all would become ronin. Unless the lord of that fief took his retainers with him to his new fief, the samurai in his service would become ronin.A samurai was dismissed from service by his daimyo. During the Tokugawa era, according to the Buke Shohatto, no daimyo was allowed to take into service a ronin who had been dismissed by his original daimyo.A samurai voluntarily left his fief, with or without his daimyos permission, and thus became a ronin.A bushi was born as a ronin; he was the son of a ronin.Ronin during the Sengoku PeriodDuring the Sengoku era (1467-1603), there were numerous inter-clan conflicts. Many samurai changed masters during this time. A bushi who came from a defeated clan could attach himself to another clan and serve as a samurai retainer. It is unclear as to whether or not there were greater numbers of ronin created by the defeat of clans than there were ronin seeking samurai retainers during the Edo period. The ronin who were expelled from their masters' land and taken to the road they would often turn to crime to support themselves, becoming robbers and highwaymen. The ronin who were the shogun's direct retainers were known as hatamoto (bannermen). So strictly speaking, the term "ronin" refers to bushi who were not samurai retainers. However, many people throughout the ages have used the term "samurai" as a generic term indicating any bushi. Ronin were allowed to continue to bear a family name and wear the distinctive two swords that they wore when they were clan samurai. However, they effectively existed outside of the official class structure (samurai, farmers, artisans, merchants) that existed from the late Sengoku period through the Edo period. Most ronin lived in poverty without fixed incomes.Becoming a RoninA bushi usually became ronin in one of four ways:A clan or fief was defeated and abolished in battle, or the shogunate authorities reduced a fief in size or abolished the fief entirely (this is what happened with the well-known 47 ronin of Ako han who eventually mounted an attack upon the man they saw as being responsible). The samurai involved all would become ronin. Unless the lord of that fief took his retainers with him to his new fief, the samurai in his service would become ronin.A samurai was dismissed from service by his daimyo. During the Tokugawa era, according to the Buke Shohatto, no daimyo was allowed to take into service a ronin who had been dismissed by his original daimyo.A samurai voluntarily left his fief, with or without his daimyos permission, and thus became a ronin.A bushi was born as a ronin; he was the son of a ronin.Ronin during the Sengoku PeriodDuring the Sengoku era (1467-1603), there were numerous inter-clan conflicts. Many samurai changed masters during this time. A bushi who came from a defeated clan could attach himself to another clan and serve as a samurai retainer. It is unclear as to whether or not there were greater numbers of ronin created by the defeat of clans than there were ronin seeking samurai retainers during the Edo period. The ronin who were expelled from their masters' land and taken to the road they would often turn to crime to support themselves, becoming robbers and highwaymen. The ronin who were the shogun's direct retainers were known as hatamoto (bannermen). So strictly speaking, the term "ronin" refers to bushi who were not samurai retainers. However, many people throughout the ages have used the term "samurai" as a generic term indicating any bushi. Ronin were allowed to continue to bear a family name and wear the distinctive two swords that they wore when they were clan samurai. However, they effectively existed outside of the official class structure (samurai, farmers, artisans, merchants) that existed from the late Sengoku period through the Edo period. Most ronin lived in poverty without fixed incomes.Becoming a RoninA bushi usually became ronin in one of four ways:A clan or fief was defeated and abolished in battle, or the shogunate authorities reduced a fief in size or abolished the fief entirely (this is what happened with the well-known 47 ronin of Ako han who eventually mounted an attack upon the man they saw as being responsible). The samurai involved all would become ronin. Unless the lord of that fief took his retainers with him to his new fief, the samurai in his service would become ronin.A samurai was dismissed from service by his daimyo. During the Tokugawa era, according to the Buke Shohatto, no daimyo was allowed to take into service a ronin who had been dismissed by his original daimyo.A samurai voluntarily left his fief, with or without his daimyos permission, and thus became a ronin.A bushi was born as a ronin; he was the son of a ronin.Ronin during the Sengoku PeriodDuring the Sengoku era (1467-1603), there were numerous inter-clan conflicts. Many samurai changed masters during this time. A bushi who came from a defeated clan could attach himself to another clan and serve as a samurai retainer. It is unclear as to whether or not there were greater numbers of ronin created by the defeat of clans than there were ronin seeking samurai retainers during the Edo period. The ronin who were expelled from their masters' land and taken to the road they would often turn to crime to support themselves, becoming robbers and highwaymen. The ronin who were the shogun's direct retainers were known as hatamoto (bannermen). So strictly speaking, the term "ronin" refers to bushi who were not samurai retainers. However, many people throughout the ages have used the term "samurai" as a generic term indicating any bushi. Ronin were allowed to continue to bear a family name and wear the distinctive two swords that they wore when they were clan samurai. However, they effectively existed outside of the official class structure (samurai, farmers, artisans, merchants) that existed from the late Sengoku period through the Edo period. Most ronin lived in poverty without fixed incomes.Becoming a RoninA bushi usually became ronin in one of four ways:A clan or fief was defeated and abolished in battle, or the shogunate authorities reduced a fief in size or abolished the fief entirely (this is what happened with the well-known 47 ronin of Ako han who eventually mounted an attack upon the man they saw as being responsible). The samurai involved all would become ronin. Unless the lord of that fief took his retainers with him to his new fief, the samurai in his service would become ronin.A samurai was dismissed from service by his daimyo. During the Tokugawa era, according to the Buke Shohatto, no daimyo was allowed to take into service a ronin who had been dismissed by his original daimyo.A samurai voluntarily left his fief, with or without his daimyos permission, and thus became a ronin.A bushi was born as a ronin; he was the son of a ronin.Ronin during the Sengoku PeriodDuring the Sengoku era (1467-1603), there were numerous inter-clan conflicts. Many samurai changed masters during this time. A bushi who came from a defeated clan could attach himself to another clan and serve as a samurai retainer. It is unclear as to whether or not there were greater numbers of ronin created by the defeat of clans than there were ronin seeking samurai retainers during the Edo period. The ronin who were expelled from their masters' land and taken to the road they would often turn to crime to support themselves, becoming robbers and highwaymen. The ronin who were the shogun's direct retainers were known as hatamoto (bannermen). So strictly speaking, the term "ronin" refers to bushi who were not samurai retainers. However, many people throughout the ages have used the term "samurai" as a generic term indicating any bushi. Ronin were allowed to continue to bear a family name and wear the distinctive two swords that they wore when they were clan samurai. However, they effectively existed outside of the official class structure (samurai, farmers, artisans, merchants)
that existed from the late Sengoku period through the Edo period. Most ronin lived in poverty without fixed incomes.Becoming a RoninA bushi usually became ronin in one of four ways:A clan or fief was defeated and abolished in battle, or the shogunate authorities reduced a fief in size or abolished the fief entirely (this is what happened with the well-known 47 ronin of Ako han who eventually mounted an attack upon the man they saw as being responsible). The samurai involved all would become ronin. Unless the lord of that fief took his retainers with him to his new fief, the samurai in his service would become ronin.A samurai was dismissed from service by his daimyo. During the Tokugawa era, according to the Buke Shohatto, no daimyo was allowed to take into service a ronin who had been dismissed by his original daimyo.A samurai voluntarily left his fief, with or without his daimyos permission, and thus became a ronin.A bushi was born as a ronin; he was the son of a ronin.Ronin during the Sengoku PeriodDuring the Sengoku era (1467-1603), there were numerous inter-clan conflicts. Many samurai changed masters during this time. A bushi who came from a defeated clan could attach himself to another clan and serve as a samurai retainer. It is unclear as to whether or not there were greater numbers of ronin created by the defeat of clans than there were ronin seeking samurai retainers during the Edo period. The ronin who were expelled from their masters' land and taken to the road they would often turn to crime to support themselves, becoming robbers and highwaymen. The ronin who were the shogun's direct retainers were known as hatamoto (bannermen). So strictly speaking, the term "ronin" refers to bushi who were not samurai retainers. However, many people throughout the ages have used the term "samurai" as a generic term indicating any bushi. Ronin were allowed to continue to bear a family name and wear the distinctive two swords that they wore when they were clan samurai. However, they effectively existed outside of the official class structure (samurai, farmers, artisans, merchants) that existed from the late Sengoku period through the Edo period. Most ronin lived in poverty without fixed incomes.Becoming a RoninA bushi usually became ronin in one of four ways:A clan or fief was defeated and abolished in battle, or the shogunate authorities reduced a fief in size or abolished the fief entirely (this is what happened with the well-known 47 ronin of Ako han who eventually mounted an attack upon the man they saw as being responsible). The samurai involved all would become ronin. Unless the lord of that fief took his retainers with him to his new fief, the samurai in his service would become ronin.A samurai was dismissed from service by his daimyo. During the Tokugawa era, according to the Buke Shohatto, no daimyo was allowed to take into service a ronin who had been dismissed by his original daimyo.A samurai voluntarily left his fief, with or without his daimyos permission, and thus became a ronin.A bushi was born as a ronin; he was the son of a ronin.Ronin during the Sengoku PeriodDuring the Sengoku era (1467-1603), there were numerous inter-clan conflicts. Many samurai changed masters during this time. A bushi who came from a defeated clan could attach himself to another clan and serve as a samurai retainer. It is unclear as to whether or not there were greater numbers of ronin created by the defeat of clans than there were ronin seeking samurai retainers during the Edo period. The ronin who were expelled from their masters' land and taken to the road they would often turn to crime to support themselves, becoming robbers and highwaymen. The ronin who were the shogun's direct retainers were known as hatamoto (bannermen). So strictly speaking, the term "ronin" refers to bushi who were not samurai retainers. However, many people throughout the ages have used the term "samurai" as a generic term indicating any bushi. Ronin were allowed to continue to bear a family name and wear the distinctive two swords that they wore when they were clan samurai. However, they effectively existed outside of the official class structure (samurai, farmers, artisans, merchants) that existed from the late Sengoku period through the Edo period. Most ronin lived in poverty without fixed incomes.Becoming a RoninA bushi usually became ronin in one of four ways:A clan or fief was defeated and abolished in battle, or the shogunate authorities reduced a fief in size or abolished the fief entirely (this is what happened with the well-known 47 ronin of Ako han who eventually mounted an attack upon the man they saw as being responsible). The samurai involved all would become ronin. Unless the lord of that fief took his retainers with him to his new fief, the samurai in his service would become ronin.A samurai was dismissed from service by his daimyo. During the Tokugawa era, according to the Buke Shohatto, no daimyo was allowed to take into service a ronin who had been dismissed by his original daimyo.A samurai voluntarily left his fief, with or without his daimyos permission, and thus became a ronin.A bushi was born as a ronin; he was the son of a ronin.Ronin during the Sengoku PeriodDuring the Sengoku era (1467-1603), there were numerous inter-clan conflicts. Many samurai changed masters during this time. A bushi who came from a defeated clan could attach himself to another clan and serve as a samurai retainer. It is unclear as to whether or not there were greater numbers of ronin created by the defeat of clans than there were ronin seeking samurai retainers during the Edo period. The ronin who were expelled from their masters' land and taken to the road they would often turn to crime to support themselves, becoming robbers and highwaymen. The ronin who were the shogun's direct retainers were known as hatamoto (bannermen). So strictly speaking, the term "ronin" refers to bushi who were not samurai retainers. However, many people throughout the ages have used the term "samurai" as a generic term indicating any bushi. Ronin were allowed to continue to bear a family name and wear the distinctive two swords that they wore when they were clan samurai. However, they effectively existed outside of the official class structure (samurai, farmers, artisans, merchants) that existed from the late Sengoku period through the Edo period. Most ronin lived in poverty without fixed incomes.Becoming a RoninA bushi usually became ronin in one of four ways:A clan or fief was defeated and abolished in battle, or the shogunate authorities reduced a fief in size or abolished the fief entirely (this is what happened with the well-known 47 ronin of Ako han who eventually mounted an attack upon the man they saw as being responsible). The samurai involved all would become ronin. Unless the lord of that fief took his retainers with him to his new fief, the samurai in his service would become ronin.A samurai was dismissed from service by his daimyo. During the Tokugawa era, according to the Buke Shohatto, no daimyo was allowed to take into service a ronin who had been dismissed by his original daimyo.A samurai voluntarily left his fief, with or without his daimyos permission, and thus became a ronin.A bushi was born as a ronin; he was the son of a ronin.Ronin during the Sengoku PeriodDuring the Sengoku era (1467-1603), there were numerous inter-clan conflicts. Many samurai changed masters during this time. A bushi who came from a defeated clan could attach himself to another clan and serve as a samurai retainer. It is unclear as to whether or not there were greater numbers of ronin created by the defeat of clans than there were ronin seeking samurai retainers during the Edo period. The ronin who were expelled from their masters' land and taken to the road they would often turn to crime to support themselves, becoming robbers and highwaymen. The ronin who were the shogun's direct retainers were known as hatamoto (bannermen). So strictly speaking, the term "ronin" refers to bushi who were not samurai retainers. However, many people throughout the ages have used the term "samurai" as a generic term indicating any bushi. Ronin were allowed to continue to bear a family name and wear the distinctive two swords that they wore when they were clan samurai. However, they effectively existed outside of the official class structure (samurai, farmers, artisans, merchants) that existed from the late Sengoku period through the Edo period. Most ronin lived in poverty without fixed incomes.Becoming a RoninA bushi usually became ronin in one of four ways:A clan or fief was defeated and abolished in battle, or the shogunate authorities reduced a fief in size or abolished the fief entirely (this is what happened with the well-known 47 ronin of Ako han who eventually mounted an attack upon the man they saw as being responsible). The samurai involved all would become ronin. Unless the lord of that fief took his retainers with him to his new fief, the samurai in his service would become ronin.A samurai was dismissed from service by his daimyo. During the Tokugawa era, according to the Buke Shohatto, no daimyo was allowed to take into service a ronin who had been dismissed by his original daimyo.A samurai voluntarily left his fief, with or without his daimyos permission, and thus became a ronin.A bushi was born as a ronin; he was the son of a ronin.Ronin during the Sengoku PeriodDuring the Sengoku era (1467-1603), there were numerous inter-clan conflicts. Many samurai changed masters during this time. A bushi who came from a defeated clan could attach himself to another clan and serve as a samurai retainer. It is unclear as to whether or not there were greater numbers of ronin created by the defeat of clans than there were ronin seeking samurai retainers during the Edo period. The ronin who were expelled from their masters' land and taken to the road they would often turn to crime to support
themselves, becoming robbers and highwaymen. The ronin who were the shogun's direct retainers were known as hatamoto (bannermen). So strictly speaking, the term "ronin" refers to bushi who were not samurai retainers. However, many people throughout the ages have used the term "samurai" as a generic term indicating any bushi. Ronin were allowed to continue to bear a family name and wear the distinctive two swords that they wore when they were clan samurai. However, they effectively existed outside of the official class structure (samurai, farmers, artisans, merchants) that existed from the late Sengoku period through the Edo period. Most ronin lived in poverty without fixed incomes.Becoming a RoninA bushi usually became ronin in one of four ways:A clan or fief was defeated and abolished in battle, or

