

MOMUN 2026

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The Yakuza That Breathed Fire

Directed by Jane Maguire

Character Guide

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Syndicate Leadership & Organized Crime

Taoka Kazuo

Third kumicho (boss) of Yamaguchi-gumi



The Oyabun. Taoka Kazuo rose to power as the head of the Yamaguchi-Gumi soon after WW2 ended. The Yamaguchi-Gumi consists of 10,000 members; Kazuo's wish is to command Japan. However, with great power comes great danger- Kazuo has worked for all that he has, and now must fight to keep it. His influence and power are in danger of being threatened by rival gangs who seek to improve their control and influence in the region. However, this may also lead to an opportunity for expansion. If he plays his cards right, he may be able to obtain the upper hand and eradicate rival gangs, consolidating power for himself. One slip, however, could mean losing his empire to a rival gang or facing a government crackdown.

Oda Hideomi (“Joji Oda”)

Founder of the Oda-gumi



Oda Hudemoni, nicknamed Joji Oda, is the founder of another prevalent gang- the Oda-gumi. With a great crisis comes great expansion opportunities. Oda Hideomi is in a precarious position. If he uses his manpower and resources correctly, he may well expand his reign and influence to become even greater than the Yamaguchi-Gumi. One small slip-up, however, and everything he’s worked for comes crumbling down. Oda

Hideomi is a man who values traditionalism above much else, donning a traditional Yakuza tattoo and valuing proper samurai values. Throughout this committee, he will focus on solidifying, protecting, and expanding his power. He will opt for continued cooperation with the police and law enforcement and view the Yamaguchi-Gumi as his rivals.

Yanagawa Jiro

Leader of the Yanagawa-gumi

Leader of one of the most powerful gangs, with an estimated over 5,000 members at his fingertips.



Yanagawa Jiro is a force to be reckoned with. A significantly smaller gang than the Yamaguchi-Gumi, Yanagawa Jiro has a special talent for the business, and particularly the entertainment industry. What the Yanagawa-gumi lacks in manpower, they make up for in strategy. They're well known and heavily influential amongst the business industry, and have strong connections to show business and even right-wing activities, which is incredibly uncommon for Yakuza groups. Yanagawa Jiro is known as a leader for his strong

sense of justice and humanity, setting him apart from many other gang leaders and contributing to his charismatic abilities to make connections and forge useful alliances. This also contributes to his strong alliances with local police and lawmakers, compared to other gangs. Throughout this committee, the goals of Yanagawa Jiro are straightforward. He intends to expand his influence, utilizing the power vacuum, particularly in Dotonbori, to gain control and eventually rival, if not overtake, the Yamaguchi-gumi. He intends to do this peacefully, through deals and handshakes, intending for as few citizens to be harmed as possible. However, if necessary, he will not hesitate to deploy as much force as gets the job done.

Yamaguchi Harukichi

Founding figure of the Yamaguchi-gumi

Yamaguchi Harukichi is one of, if not the most, influential figures in this committee. He founded the Yamaguchi-gumi in the early 20th century, organizing dock workers in Kobe, and established the principles of the group early on. He works closely with Taoka Kazuo, while Kazuo runs the day-to-day operations of the gang, Harukichi focuses on maintaining the philosophy and group identity of the Yamaguchi-gumi. He's able to expertly manage disputes and internal affairs throughout the organization, and his strong connections throughout the city, including with businesses and the law, allow him essentially free rein of Osaka. While Yamaguchi Harukichi has the power and authority to command the largest crime syndicate in Japan, most of the power he utilizes comes in the form of negotiations and exploiting connections. This is an invaluable skill throughout this committee, as the status of the Yamaguchi-gumi is threatened and rival gangs attempt to take over, Yamaguchi Harukichi works to solidify and increase power throughout the group, protecting their reputation and status as the most powerful gang in Japan, and expanding as much as possible.

Honda Jinsuke

Leader of the Honda-kai

The Honda-kai. A powerful gang rivalling Yagawa-gumi, similar in size. The power in the Honda-kai not only stems from their manpower and economic advantage over many other gangs in Japan, but also from their alliance with the Yamaguchi-gumi. This alliance, having been formed soon after World War 2, makes the Honda-kai a dangerous force throughout Japan. But it also means the Honda-kai is at the mercy of the Yamaguchi-gumi, rather than completely autonomous. Ultimate protection, and the most dangerous sacrifice. Will the Honda-kai continue to exist as the little brother of the famous Yamaguchi-gumi, poised under their wing and trapped there? Or will they break away, ensuing the ultimate risk, but potentially reaping the reward of independence? The Honda-kai has historically made the majority of its profits off illegal gambling, but with the increased government surveillance and the current opportunity for expansion in the protection and loan sharking industry, its economic lens may shift elsewhere. If the Honda-kai were to begin existing separately from the Yamaguchi-gumi, their members would have to choose as to where their loyalties lie, and Honda Jinsuke would have to make a compelling case.

Sugawara Michisugu

Post-war Ultranationalist

After World War 2, Japan went through a period of demilitarization and was impacted by greater American influences. Many, including Michisugu, were incredibly opposed to this, seeing their culture and beloved nation slip away. Michisugu's power comes largely from his influence; he's a successful business owner, owning a real estate company. This has allowed him to work closely with many of the gangs represented in this committee room. Like many other right-wing ultranationalists, Michisugu is incredibly right-wing, a political stance most Yakuza gangs tend to shy away from. So, naturally, Michisugu has tended to end up working with the Yagnagwa-gumi most. His power and influence stem from his connections; he's managed to be on friendly terms with all the gangs in this committee and is well known in the business and political world. From this, he hopes to return Japan to its traditional Japanese culture, rid the country of its heavy American influence, and keep the economy strong by any means necessary. Being an Ultranationalist, he's not concerned with the well-being of other Nations, believing that Japan is far superior to any and every other country. This may lead him to support more violent or extreme measures if he thinks they could be of use to his goals.



Police and Law Enforcement

Kusumi Yoshio

Senior official in the Osaka Prefectural Police

A powerful man, Kusumi Yoshio was an active police officer whilst Japan dealt with some of the worst organized crime, violence, and instability it's seen in many years. Social and political instability often means law enforcement has to do what needs to be done for the protection of their citizens, even if it means defying politicians and superiors. Yoshio, an experienced officer, has about three dozen units under his command, though funding is tight and the Americans are breathing down their necks. Yoshio will have to consider how best to protect the people of his city with the limited resources and unstable leadership. Will this mean forging alliances with the gangs of Osaka to supplement funding, get crime down, and get guys on the inside of the criminal world? Does this mean attempting to eradicate the crime syndicates? Can Yoshio protect his officers and the citizens of Osaka whilst following the orders of politicians? It's also important to note how much government access Yoshio could obtain, if need be. This may be of interest to foreign influences, if the situation ever arose...

Sato Eiichi

National Park Agency Liaison for Kansai

Kyoto, Kobe, and Osaka. Three major economic powerhouses, all encompassing a region called Kansai. Dense population, strong economy, perfect environment for the Yakuza to thrive, and the most vulnerable to the current threat. Eiichi, as a higher-up in the National Park Industry, works closely with the police, such as the Osaka Police. Construction, logging, fishing, and other industries which the Yakuza dominate are under heavy influence of Eiichi, who can easily destroy construction projects, delay real estate deals or revoke fishing permits- and has the power to do something if someone else violates this. This puts him in a precarious and dangerous position. On the one hand, the economy is struggling, and his budget is very, very low. On the other hand, the increased involvement of the Yakuza in these industries could be devastating and dangerous for the local workers, not to mention the environment. Eiichi works closely with police in Kyoto, Kobe, and Osaka, meaning his influence and range are far and wide- if he chooses to continue to work with the police and counter the influx of the Yakuza at this time, he must act fast and decisively. He would be responsible for triggering and guiding police investigations and enforcement, despite not commanding police. Sato Eiichi is a man who has a high degree of control over valuable land and development space; he's hard to bypass, a useful man to be on good terms with. Someone you want to owe you a favour.

Matsuda Ichiro

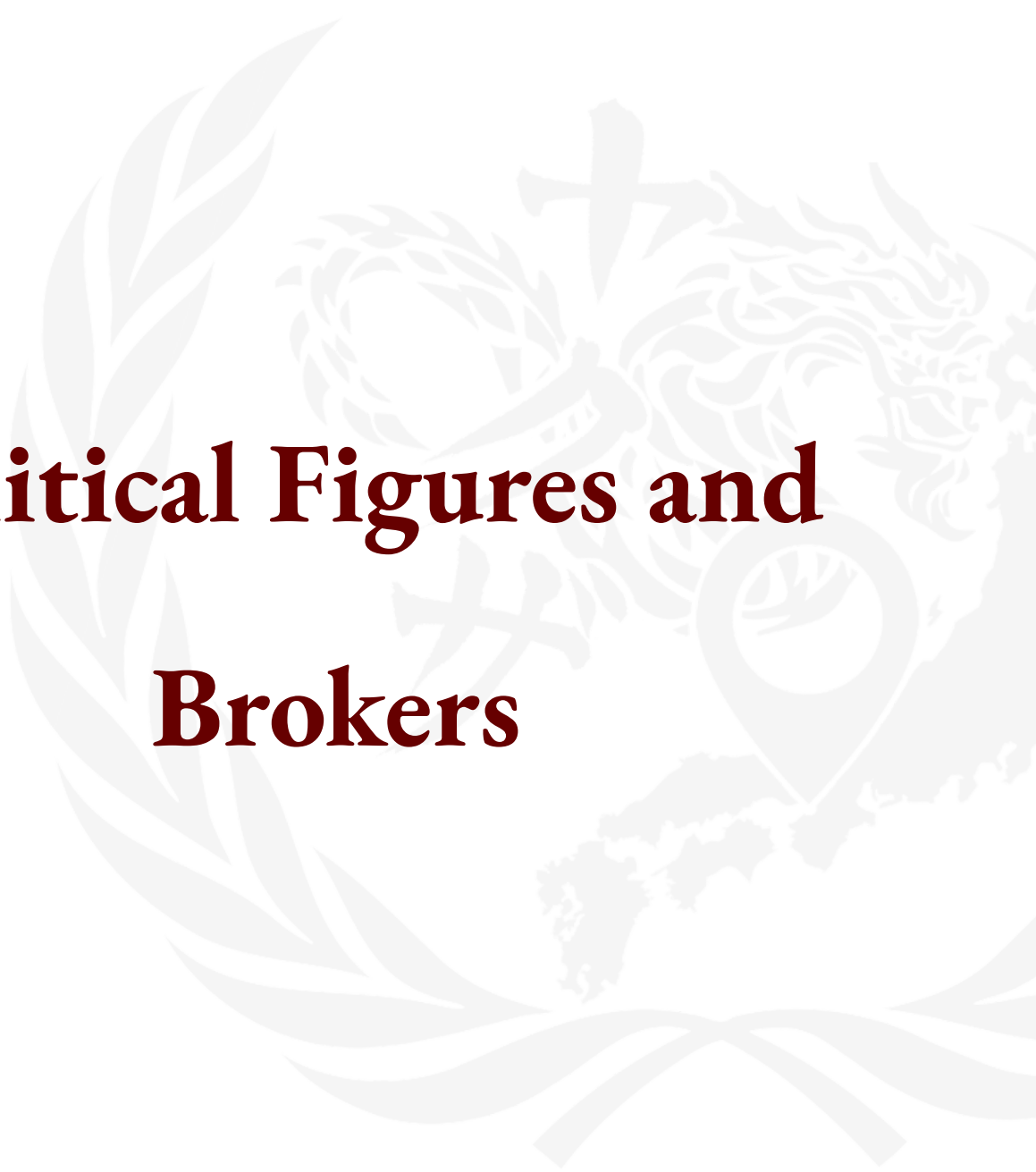
Osaka District Public Prosecutor

Ichiro is one of the most important people in the legal section of Osaka. Throughout this committee, he will need to work closely with the police, politicians, and other major government figures. Ichiro's main goal is to keep the streets of Osaka safe, one criminal put away at a time, but not every case is worth delving into. Ichiro decides a criminal is unlikely to be convicted; he feels no reason to waste his time trying to persecute them, and they go free. This makes him a powerful and useful man to any Yakuza gang looking for a "jail break", so to speak. While Ichiro may be devoted and loyal to his country, he suffers from the same struggling economy as all other government servants, which may incentivize him to make decisions contradictory to his morals. Ichiro has a wide range of not only influence, but also knowledge, given his connections to organized crime, the police, and politicians, having access to essentially all police intelligence and financial records. Currently, as Osaka falls into a power vacuum with various gangs fighting to push each other out, Ichiro is in a position where he may be able to tilt the balance of power. If he were to prosecute a rival gang in exchange for money and evidence, or file charges faster or slower depending on what needs to happen...

Yamada Takeshi

Local vice division Commander (Osaka)

While the bureaucrats and politicians argue in their protected offices, Yamada Takeshi, a commander in the Osaka Prefectural Police, is on the ground in the midst of the action. His focus is on organized crime, prostitution, and gambling. Exactly the mantra of the Yakuza. He supervises a team of highly skilled police officers across 6 prefectures, encapsulating over 1,500 officers, both in the group of cops and detectives. Takeshi focuses on planning and executing raids and arrests. His goals are to eradicate organized crime from the tangles of Japanese culture, and right now is the perfect time to strike and dismantle. Gangs are at their weakest. Takeshi must implore hard work, nuance, and creativity if he's going to use this situation to increase his influence and keep the city safe. He has significant intelligence and surveillance on Yakuza member actions from his detectives and cops. His main role is to utilize that intelligence, deciding when and how to strike, and to work with the government, prosecutors, and potentially other organized crime gangs to carry out his operations. The same challenges apply as with all other government-paid workers in this committee- the economy is suffering, and the budget is tight. Bribes will likely be offered; it's up to Takeshi whether or not to take them.



Political Figures and Brokers

Kishi Nobusuke

Prime Minister and LDP power broker

Kishi Nobusuke. Arguably the most important and powerful character in this committee- but also the one with the most precarious position. The Americans are breathing down his neck, but their support has also been somewhat of a saviour in these trying times. As the problem of organized crime brings the nation of Japan to the brink of ruin, will Nobusuke be able to work with the people of his government to bring this great nation back to a state of safety and security? Nobusuke must focus not only on the eradication of organized crime, but also on the economic stability and global relations, particularly with America. Historically, many people working for the government (police, prosecutors, etc), given their inconsistent paychecks and unstable jobs, have been known to turn to accepting bribes and general disloyalty. His goal in this committee will be to work with others to develop plans and policies to reduce the power and influence the Yakuza have historically held and attempt to move towards being independent once again, rather than reliant on American support. His role comes in controlling the conditions under which Japan operates, through policies, appointments, utilization of influence, and control of the government internally.

Tanaka Kakuei

Influential LDP construction and economic policy leader

Tanaka Kakuei- an incredibly influential political figure in Japan. His main focus is on economic and infrastructure policies, and his main power comes through his networks of connections, influence, and money. He has the power to shape the economic structure of Japan, and the competing influence of the Yakuza is nothing but a hindrance. He works with local governance across Japan; as such, having detailed intel which is not available to many others in this committee room. Throughout this power vacuum and time of instability, he focuses on returning Japan to the economic powerhouse it once was, no longer reliant on black markets and drug trades. These plans, which may ultimately result in greater economic stability, are currently riding on little to no funding. Would it be worth it to rely on Yakuza support in the short term, in the name of long-term improvement? He may not control the national budget, but he can influence certain projects, particularly if those projects could benefit certain groups, which may, in turn, be inclined to help fund them. Yakuza activities often intersect with construction, real estate, and labour contracting, meaning policies and projects Kakuei pushes or rejects have direct impacts on the activities of local gangs.

Shiina Etsusaburo

LDP strategist

A political operator- the man on the inside. Etsusaburo understands the game of politics, is trusted by high-level figures, and is deeply involved in the management of the ruling party- the Liberal Democratic Party. Etsusaburo is responsible for the main decision-making of the party; he'll work closely with the other economic and political figures throughout this committee to devise and execute plans for strengthening Japan's economy, independence, and ridding the nation of organized crime. He may work with foreign governments, particularly related to economic advancement and repairing diplomatic ties. He has significant sway in local elections; while he can't control votes, he can influence them. He has an important say in who gets put up for election and what policies are able to move forward. He will focus on maintaining political stability, particularly through who's appointed in the police and prosecution departments. In the time of vulnerability for the Yakuza, but also a time of great potential growth, Etsusaburo needs to make sure he hits fast and hard. Etsusaburo is also one of the most public-facing figures in this committee; he has the opportunity to address the public and greatly influence their opinions, shaping how every situation is perceived. This is an invaluable upper hand in the life of politics.

Sakai Toshino

Osaka municipal assembly member

An elected politician, working to serve the people of Osaka at a district level, Toshino is by the people, for the people. While the other political figures in this committee are focused on large-scale efforts and the direction of Japan as a whole, Toshino is focused and involved locally in Osaka. He's much more familiar with the actual goings on of the city, budgets, citizens, gang involvement, and small businesses. These local connections and inside knowledge are invaluable for this committee. His power is relationship-driven, focused on the lives of individual people. This influence is useful in pushing certain projects, programs, and policies forward based on what's beneficial and necessary for the people of his district. During this time of increased and dangerous Yakuza activity, Osaka's nightlife, construction, and small business sectors are most heavily impacted. Toshino will monitor this impact and intervene if necessary by bringing issues to the light of higher-level politics and connecting individuals and businesses to local authorities. Toshino is known for being social, approachable, and charismatic, often connecting with a wide range of people.



Economic and Labor Figures

Yamane Koji

Dock workers' union intermediary

Koji plays a crucial role, navigating between unions, employers, and the workers themselves. The Yakuza themselves were born out of dock workers' unions, so the present-day unions and workers play an integral role in navigating this crisis. Koji works to oversee all major ports, union guidelines and projects, including their roles in local politics. Logistics under pressure is where Koji operates, which is exactly what you may be struggling with now. Considering his wide range of connections, similar to *some* of the political figures in this committee, his main power comes from his reputation and relationships, with important connections to local politicians. One of the Yakuza's most important mechanics is their influence on labour unions, meaning many issues they cause will be mediated and monitored through Koji, who may bring them to politicians and authorities if need be. This job becomes more and more important as the Yakuza influence expands and various gangs compete for territory. Koji has some unofficial economic authority, being able to influence who gets work or to slow down operations. He can prevent strikes by mediating disputes about wages and working conditions, or he can disrupt by encouraging workers to strike. He mainly works at a bridge between various interests, connecting workers to employers to labour union officials to politicians. With an influx of Yakuza, there may also come various factions attempting to influence hiring and control dock operations. It's Koji's job to allow or not allow this to happen- depending on what suits his interests.

Nakamura Shigeo

Consortium leader of entertainment districts in Osaka

Shigeo plays an important role in representing and politically protecting the nightlife areas of Osaka. The entertainment industry is caught between the crosshairs of politics, economics, business, and organized crime. This industry represents many, such as clubs, bars, theatres, restaurants, and more. Shigeo represents the interests of these districts on the political level. He may coordinate between business owners, government officials, and service providers, managing concerns such as permits, security, and reputation, while managing private businesses meeting public regulations. Within the government, he may negotiate and argue for policies favourable to business owners, and push back against restrictions, or “red tape”. Shigeo holds important knowledge throughout this committee by understanding the stances of each business, where they may be at risk, and which ones are expanding. This kind of understanding of the region can be invaluable to predicting the future of the business industry and, therefore, where the Yakuza may be headed, and knowledge of where they’ve been. He also has considerable influence amongst businesses themselves, on how they choose to operate and behave.

Kobayashi Ichizo

Head of Hankyu Group (Construction Group)

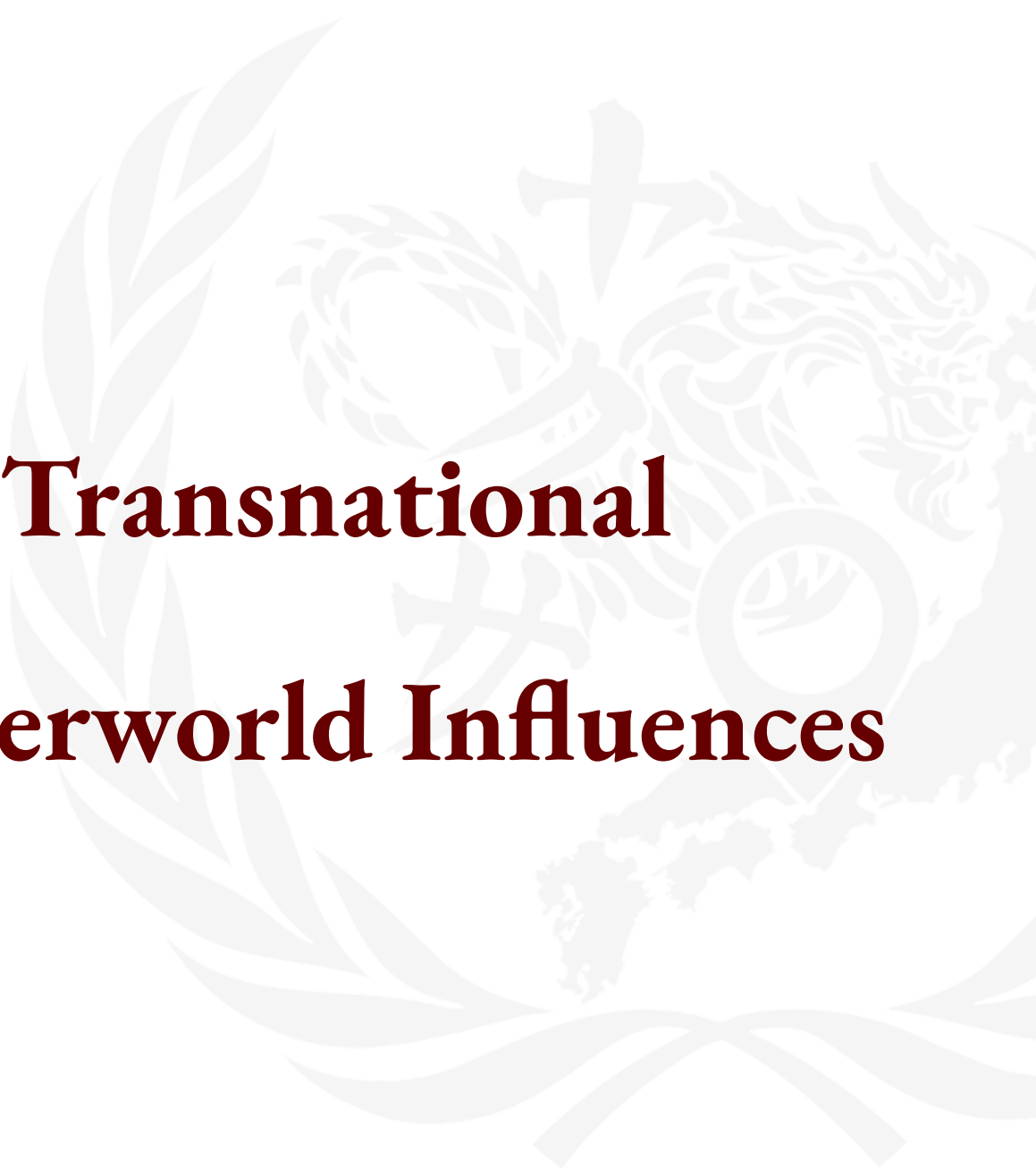
At the top of the corporate power chain, Ichizo is in a wildly different position than most characters who make up this committee. While the police and law enforcement, most of the economic and labour figures, and the political figures are paid by an unstable government in a crumbling economy, Ichizo is a vital character in the private sector. For a business leader, his enterprises are diverse: railways, real estate, construction, entertainment, and more. All lucrative businesses, all of which are under the watchful eye of the Yakuza. He oversees large-scale development projects and maintains integral relationships with government, business partners, and financiers. He has a vital influence on where and what to build technology-wise, and can heavily influence where growth happens. His political influence extends to bureaucrats and politicians, giving him great influence on public policy. As the influence of the Yakuza grows, Ichizo must think about how he can protect his businesses from the increasing gang pressure. He may work with government, law enforcement, or even begin to strike deals with the gang bosses themselves.

Matsusmoto Goro

Construction subcontractor

Goro, as a construction subcontractor, works under large firms directing the building and management of construction projects throughout Osaka. In the most direct contact with the work and lives of the labourers, Goro is in the most direct position to see the effects of policies and programs on the opportunities of the city. As the Yakuza influence expands throughout the region, particularly in the contracting and construction industry, Goro is in a position to best observe the expansions and impact of the Yakuza, acting as an intermediary between law enforcement, labourers, policy makers, larger firms, and sometimes even Yakuza members themselves. He has unofficial influence by being able to speed up or slow down projects, influence who gets hired, promoted, or let go based on what is beneficial for him and his allies. As a subcontractor, Goro is somewhat of a pressure point, the easiest to reach and possibly influenced or threatened by all parties.





Transnational Underworld Influences

Hisayuki Machii

Korean-Japanese underworld figure

Despite the focus within this committee, there are organized crime syndicates everywhere. Trade among organized crime groups connects throughout Europe, Asia, the Americas, and more; primarily through drug and human trafficking. Machii maintains relationships with political and crime figures in Korea, keeping connected with Japanese politicians and crime groups. He plays an integral role in negotiation, organizing the transportation of people and goods, and navigating sensitive relationships, particularly with the law. In this time of economic instability, for anyone trying to gain an upper hand, foreign affairs is the way to do it, and the most lucrative way to do that is through Machii. He influences how resources move in and out of the Japanese border, and who's able to gain access. Particularly for the Yakuza and those looking to work with members of organized crime, Machii is a vital ally.

Kodama Yoshio

Right-wing financier and broker

Yoshio- one of the most powerful figures in this committee. Able to influence and move between money, politics, ideology, and even throughout the gangs of the underworld. As a financier and broker, Yoshio essentially funds, connects, and coordinates politicians, businesses, and even gang members. This gives him an incredible amount of influence, a man everyone wants on their side. He can fund projects he wants to see happen, bribe officials and gang members, and smooth the gears of bureaucracy in a way which suits him. His power isn't just in money; he's an influencer, dealmaker, peacebroker, and intermediary between numerous factions. Not to mention his influence outside of the borders of Japan, with connections to politicians in Russia, Colombia, and various states in the USA/provinces in Canada (British Columbia, Alberta, Texas, California, Long Island). His financial influence isn't something to be scoffed at; he's able to fund campaigns and political operations, and bring in the power of the Yakuza- most often the Yamaguchi-gumi when manpower is necessary. Financial power also brings in the power of knowledge, insider political knowledge, business, and even information about the goings on of high-ranking members of the Yakuza, making him a valuable person to have on your side. During this time of power instability, having Yoshio on your side essentially guarantees you a place at the table; having him against you seals your demise.



Law and Media

Shoriki Matsutaro

Media Tycoon

Matsutaro's power comes not in the form of arresting or implementing policies, but controlling and twisting the information that eventually makes it into the public eye. As a media tycoon, Matsutaro controls major information channels, including TV, newspapers, radio, etc. He manages journalists, the publication of information, and the distribution of information and media. His power comes in shaping the way the public sees just about everyone and every event in Japan. He can emphasize certain stories, reframe events, or even leave out bits of information that are inconvenient. Needless to say, if one were to get on his bad side, they may face the wrath of the media, the citizens, and even the government. He frames narratives, sets agendas, and chooses what gets attention, shaping public opinion and applying political pressure. Often, media outlets receive important information leaks, as the one in charge, Matsutaro, has to decide what information gets leaked and how that information can be used as leverage for influence, power, or money. If you have a narrative you want to believe and the money to push it, Matsutaro is the one to go to. He can incite public fear, outrage, or complacency at the drop of a hat.

Kuroda Kiyotaka

Investigative journalist

Where Matsutaro controls the narrative of the media and what people see, Kiyotaka is the one who risks his neck in the name of truth and public transparency. As an investigative journalist, Kiyotaka focuses not only on finding the truth, but specifically on uncovering hidden information. This means his main power throughout the committee is what he knows, and how he can wield that power. Knowledge is power, but in this context that power can be deadly. As the influence of the Yakuza expands, a bloody trail of corruption and misconduct is sure to follow, and Kiyotaka will find it. He focuses on hidden relationships, learning why people and businesses are really making the deals and pushing the policies which they are. His work may well threaten an entire system of influence, and trigger public outrage. Kiyotaka holds the key to the public narrative, meaning if he chooses to unleash a piece of information, it could mean the death of a politician's career, or the uncovering of a crime boss's life's work. Needless to say many have incentive to keep him quiet, if Kiyotaka can utilize that it could mean unspeakable levels of money and influence.

Seigen Tanaka

Political Activist

While outside formal power, Tanaka has the influence and support to shape and reshape the political landscape, particularly through public opinion. As a political activist, Tanaka organizes and mobilizes citizens around a political cause- in this case the violence of organized crime being allowed to run throughout the city of Osaka and Japan as a whole. Much of the power held by Tanaka is done so through his network of connections, political, international, businesses, and everything, and everyone- in between. He can cause incredible disruption to public and political order by rallying demonstrators, protestors, and by demonstrating visible support. Crowd pressure has been known to stop bills, shut down businesses, and even put a stop to gang activities. Tanaka's power comes from pressure, connections, and influence. While he may be limited in formal authority, he has a band of loyal followers surrounding him.