

Chapter 13: Japan, Korea, Vietnam



Japan's Imperial Age

- 5th c: Yamato clan emerged as emperors
- 6th -7th c.: Chinese culture increasingly influences Japan
- Taika, Nara, and Heian periods (7th to 9th centuries)
 - Tremendous borrowing from China (Sinification)
- 645 CE: Taika Reforms
 - Copy Chinese style of rule in Japanese government
 - Try to develop bureaucracy to limit power of aristocracy; opposed by aristocracy
 - Confucianism rejected; Japan held birth in esteem, not education

Heian Period

- 794: Capital moved from Nara to Heian (later Kyoto)
 - Chinese influence declined
 - 838: Japanese embassies to Tang China stopped
 - Taika reforms abandoned
 - Power of aristocratic families increases (Fujiwara)



Court Life in the Heian Era

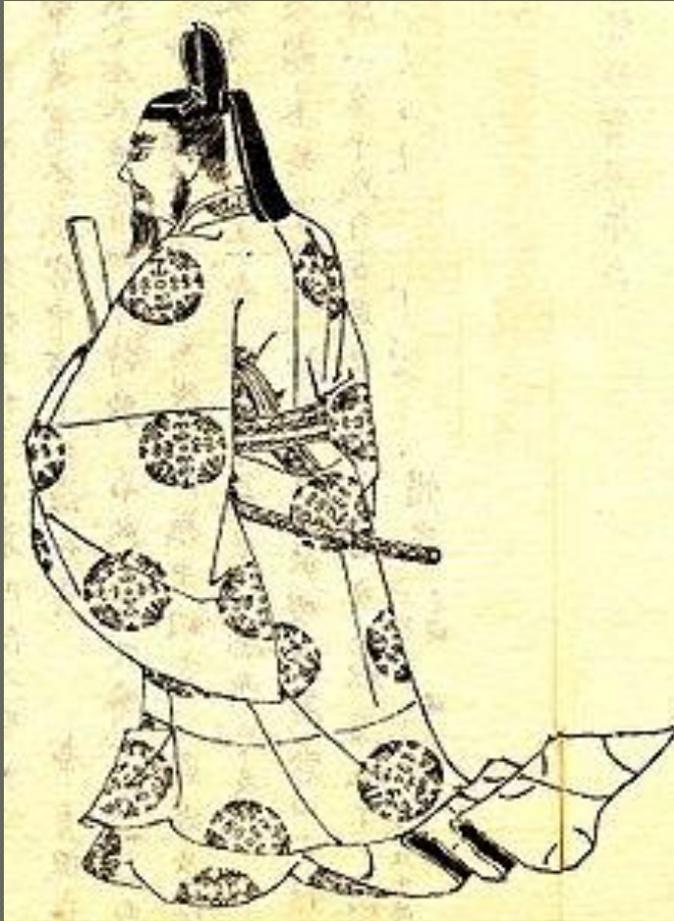


- Extremely refined; based upon codes of behavior
- Aesthetic enjoyment
- Literary Golden Age: poetry, love notes, stories
 - Women and men take part in literary production
 - Lady Murasaki's *Tale of Genji*
- Growing isolation of the court provided opportunities for regional lords with a more military orientation to seize effective control of Japan.

Quick Review Question

What were the Taika Reforms?
How would you describe the Heian Era?

Increase of Powerful Families



- Fujiwara, Taira, Minamoto
- Aristocrats begin to rebel against Chinese influence in imperial government
- Aristocratic families begin to dominate government and shape policies through the accumulation of their own armies and large estates
- Many aristocrats become *bushi* (regional war-lords) who administer these territories and armies
- Aristocrats marry into imperial family to control policy
- Cooperate with Buddhists and create elite cult within Buddhism

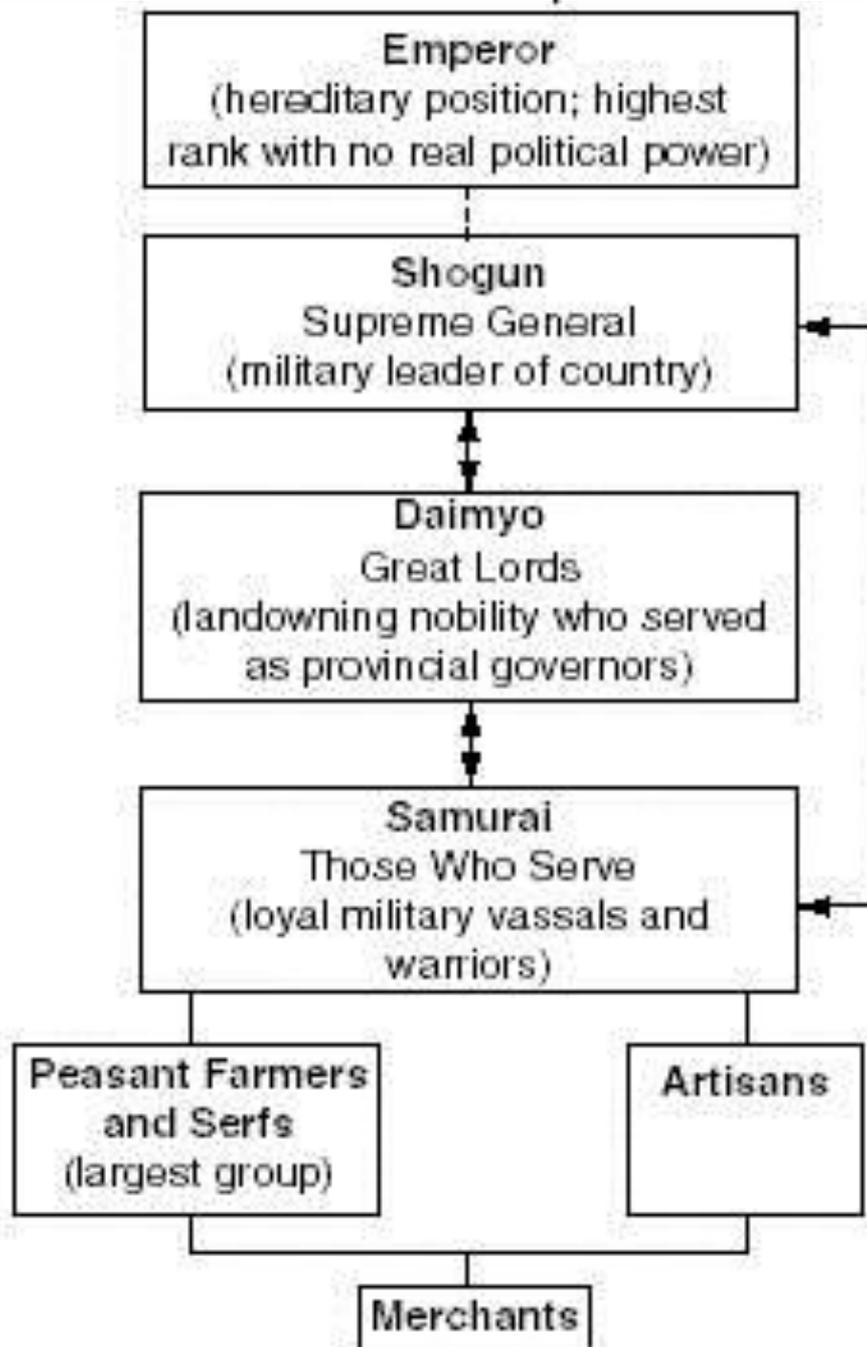
Creation of Feudal Japan

- Regional lords (*bushi*) administer small kingdoms, collect taxes, and build up private militaries
- Samurai (armed military troops) begin as loyal warriors to *bushi*
 - Martial arts esteemed
 - *Code of Bushido* stresses family honor and ritual suicide (*seppuku*) rather than defeat
- Serfs (peasants) lose status and freedom, and are treated as property of local lord
 - Turn to salvationist Buddhism (live morally pure lives on Earth)



Decline of Imperial Power and Creation of Shogunate

- Japanese feudalism means emperor's power declines
 - By 11th/12th c., aristocratic families dominate and are in control at court
- Kamakura Period (1185-1336)
 - 1180-1185: Gempei Wars
 - Taira vs. Minamoto families over political control of Japan
 - Minamoto victorious → control court
 - Kamakura Shogunate (1192-1333): Minamoto establish *Bakufu* (military government) headed by a *shogun* (military leader)
 - Emperor and court remain; Minamoto family and samurai have real control in shogunate
- Ashikaga Shogunate (1336-1573): collapse of centralized authority as emperor flees upon his refusal to recognize *shogun*



Japanese Feudalism

Chaos Continues in Ashikaga Shogunate

- Power of emperor and shogunate weakens through rebellions, civil war, lack of support, etc.
- 14th c: Period of civil war between aristocratic families
 - Bushi vassals acquire more land
 - Land then divided among samurai upon pledging loyalty to vassals to give military assistance when needed
- 1467-1477: Court rebellions continue, and Japan fragments into 300 small kingdoms led by warlords called *daimyos*
- Japan moves towards greater organization
 - Taxes are collected to fund public works projects (irrigation; roads)

Quick Review Question

Describe the Japanese feudal system.
What are the groups that comprise it?

Describe how the shogun relates to
Japanese feudalism.

Violence in Feudal Japan

- *Bushido* era deteriorates; era of barbarism emerges
 - Military division, social change, peasant violence
- Warfare becomes more brutal
 - Battles determined more by size and organization of warlord's forces than the outcome of ritualized samurai combat
 - Poorly trained peasant armies
 - Construction of castles



Feudal Europe vs. Feudal Japan



- Similar:
 - political structure, social structure, code of honor
- Difference:
 - Europe: simply a land-for-loyalty exchange
 - Japan: based upon group/family identity and loyalty
 - Cultural influences (Christianity vs. Buddhism)

Economy and Culture

- Economic growth is result of daimyo interest in trade, esp. with China
 - Development of standardized currency
- Increase in guilds
- Shinto + Zen Buddhism exist simultaneously
- Art is stylistically simple
 - Mimic monochrome Chinese style
 - Ink sketches
 - Screen and scroll paintings
 - Show natural beauty of Japan
 - Landscapes with tiny human figures
- Development of tea ceremonies and Zen Buddhist gardens



Korea

- Three Ancient Kingdoms: Koguryo, Paekche, Silla
- Sinification (adoption of / interest in Chinese culture)
 - Increases after Han Dynasty (cities, schools, writing, law code, and court organized like Chinese)
 - Koreans welcome Chinese influence
 - Power of aristocracy prevents total adoption of Confucianism
 - Buddhist art, monasteries
- 668: Tang Dynasty conquers Korea; now a tribute state
- 1231: Mongol invasion, followed by turmoil
- 1392: Yi dynasty founded, lasts until 1910



Vietnam

- When Tang armies invade, Viets actively resisted them.
 - Eventually Vietnam is made a tribute state
 - Sinification is forced upon Viets: Confucianism, government structure, contact through trade
- Culture of anti-Chinese resistance develops
 - Resistance from aristocracy, peasants, women
 - Distance from China aids resistance efforts
 - Independence by 939
- Rivalries in native Vietnamese ruling families until 19th century will leave Vietnamese oblivious to outside threats:



Quick Review Question

Describe Korea's attitude towards sinification.
Describe Vietnam's attitude.