## The Island Kingdom of Japan

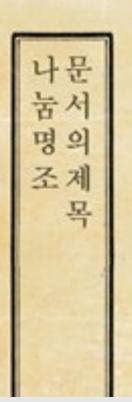
# Japan's Geography

While Japan was impacted by China culture, the island nation developed their own culture

Most of Japan is too mountainous to farm, but the mild climate allows what little farming to be successful

Fishing was/is VERY important to Japanese culture

However, Japan is in the region known as The Ring of Fire & subject to earthquakes & massive waves called tsunamis



## Early Japan

Early Japanese society was split into uji, or clans.

Each one had a chief & a special god or godess

Yamato clan would take control & set up the Yamato dynasty.

They had Amaterasu as their goddess & chose the rising sun as their symbol

Emperors would become revered as gods



### Religion & Korea

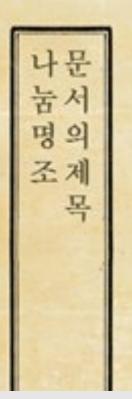
Shinto- Religion that worships the forces of nature "way of the kami"

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Shinto Shrines still are found around Japan today

Korea & Japan used to trade & keep in contact with each other, eventually knowledge from China entered the country





#### Chinese Influence

Eventually Prince Shotoku would send nobles to China to gain knowledge.

Japan would eventually take many different ideas from China to adapt them into their own culture

Soon Buddhism would change the landscape & introduce pagodas to Japan

Confucian ideas would gain popularity as did the emphasis on filial piety & respect for learning



## **Selective Borrowing**

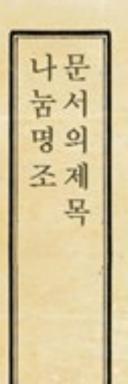
The process of adopting aspects of one culture, but modifying or discarding others

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Eventually Japan would take what they gained from China & morph it into their own culture

Japan would adopt kana- phonetic symbols representing syllables for writing





#### **Hein Period**

During this time Kyoto would become the capital & Emperors & court families gained power

Fine art, pavilions, & lotus pools became popular as did fine silk outfits

Sei Shonagon wrote a series of anecdotes called The Pillow Book

Muraski Shikibu- wrote the worlds first full-length novel, *The Tale of Genji*.



## Japan's Feudal Age

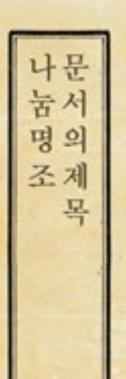
Soon rival clans would battle for control of the countryside, Emperor became a figure head



**Shogun-** Supreme Military commander of a region in Japan



Samurai- Warriors who served under the Daimyo "those who serve"



## Way of the Warrior

**Bushido-** "Way of the Warrior" code for samurai that emphasized honor, bravery, & loyalty

Samurai would go through extreme hardships for the code

Those who broke the code were expected to commit seppuku- ritual suicide



## **Feudal Society**

Women had to accept hardships for her husband & give him loyalty

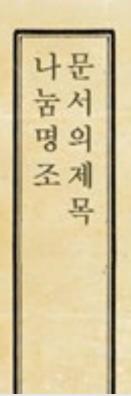
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Peasants would work Samurai lands & serve as foot soldiers during wars.

Merchants were viewed lower on the social scale as they were "obsessed with wealth"

The Mongols would try & invade Japan multiple times, only to succumb to typoons

Japan would credit the kamikaze, divine winds, as evidence they were under protection by the gods



### United Japan

Toyotomi Hideyoshi- commoner who becomes general that unites most of Japan under his control

Japan would eventually join under a centralized feudalism with a ordered government

New laws to keep tabs on daimyos were created, such as required living quarters for family

Soon the rise of the economy led to the rise of a very wealthy merchant class



#### **Feudal Culture**

Zen- Emphasis on self-reliance, meditation, & devotion to duty

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Soon new forms of entertainment & drama would be created for the masses

Noh Theater- Zen inspired drama with slow movement & carved masks

Bunraku- Puppet theaters to tell grand epic tales

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Kabuki Theater- A grand, colorful show with music dance & special effects

