

CARTER BREHM - CHAPTER 13 READING QUESTIONS

1. Trace the failure of the Taika reforms and its political result.

- a. The Taika reforms were intended to align an indigenous Japanese political system with a traditional Chinese political system. However, this did not sit well with the wealthy families and local rulers. The reluctance of the Japanese aristocracy and Buddhist monks led to the failure of the Taika reforms so that instead of imperial power, the regional lords had more say in the government.

2. Compare the Japanese government between the Gempei Wars and the Onin War.

- a. After the Gempei wars, different types of private militaries had more power. In addition, a scholar gentry formed despite the resistance of aristocratic families. A shogun stood as emperor, which was a highly sought position. When the Ashikaga fought for the shogunate, they placed a puppet on the throne to distract the people from who the real leader was.

3. Describe the nature of Japanese society and economy during the period of the daimyos.

- a. As the period advanced, warfare moved from heroic battles to the more modern warfare seen today. This harmed the status of women, the economy, and political stability.

4. Compare the cultural differences between Vietnamese and Chinese.

- a. The Chinese tried to influence Vietnamese culture, and they succeeded on most fronts. However, the women of Vietnam desired more than the current women's rights of China, and so Vietnamese culture is more based around the family unit rather than the government, which leads to better treatment for women.

5. Compare the common elements of Chinese culture of all three of the satellite civilizations.

- a. All satellite states maintained a firm grasp on Buddhism. Both Vietnam and Korea borrowed heavily from the Chinese political system, but Japan was able to develop a completely different indigenous system. Korea's social structure and dress was almost exactly the same as China, but Vietnam resisted and made their own.

6. Compare east Asian civilization with other postclassical civilizations.

- a. The main difference between the civilizations was that the others communicated heavily between each other. This facilitated development of Christianity and trade, which the East Asian civilizations did not participate in with the west. This was especially apparent because Korea, Vietnam, and China used Buddhism and Confucianism compared to the Orthodox Christianity of the western civilizations.