

Japan 50 Lecture Notes (Spring 2021)

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1 Early Japan

1.1 Geography of Japan

Japan sits on the intersection of four different tectonic plates, so it is in an earthquake-prone area (called the Ring of Fire). Japan used to be connected to the mainland, but got separated a while ago. Furthermore, the coast of Japan (that is now underwater) used to not be underwater.

1.2 The Paleolithic (pre-ceramic) Time Period

- This time period was from 32000 to 13000 years ago (end of Pleistocene)
- Humans lived in rock shelters and caves.
- People were hunter-gatherers—they hunted large animals like Nauman's elephant, Giant deer, and Mammoths (in Hokkaido).

There aren't many remains left of this time period.

1.3 The Jōmon Period (12000 - 400 BCE)

- Jōmon means “rope pattern” and refers to a style of clay pottery.
- People were still a part of hunter-gatherer societies.

1.3.1 Jōmon Technology

- Pottery had a technological purpose
 - Food preservation, cooking
 - Salt production (food preservation)
 - Trade from the coast to Inland

Pottery also had cultural and symbolic meaning, by transmitting patterns from one generation to the next.

- Hunting
 - Traps, Hunting tools, Arrows
 - Boar, deer, fish
- The people began to settle in multiple households and built storage buildings
- The population grew from 22000 to 360000 from 6000 BCE to 3500 BCE

1.4 The Yayoi Period (400 or earlier to 200 BCE)

1.4.1 Key Facts

- “Yayoi” is a neighbourhood of Tokyo
- Spread from Kyūshū north and east
- Migrants from Korean peninsula mixing with Jōmon?
- New technologies for farming and warfare
- The emergence of political units

1.4.2 Yayoi Technology

- Plant cultivation
 - Dry cultivation (millet, barley, wheat, etc.)
 - Wet cultivation (rice agriculture)
- Use of iron, bronze, glass, cloth, and wood

1.4.3 Yayoi Society

- Increasingly hierarchical (some people are designated as “special”)
- Evidence of warfare (weapons, fortifications, signs of violence in skeletal remains)
- Contact in the Korean peninsula, appearance in Chinese records

One characteristic of the Yayoi is that they made large bronze bell-shaped items that they buried underground. They could have been used to represent power. The Yayoi also buried their dead in a jar.

Note. Japan first appears in a text from the Wei Dynasty, where the Chinese document things about Japan.

1.5 The Kofun Period (mid 200s to late 500s)

- “Kofun” are large mounded tombs.
- The size of the mounds represents the status of the deceased.
- There’s a lot of influence from Korean burial methods.
- The graves contained mirrors, swords, armour, and saddles.
- There were also clay statues called “haniwa”, which were put on the ground surrounding the tomb.

1.5.1 Kofun Culture

- Frequent warfare (especially in the 300-400s).
- Frequent contact with Korean kingdoms and Chinese imperial states (400s onwards).
- Early stages of centralised state (late 400s, 500s).
- Emergence of Yamato court in the Kinai
 - Conquest of other regions on Japanese islands.
 - Very limited, highly specialised use of writing.
 - Elite lineages called “uji”(clans), formed by groups specialising in different occupations.
 - Emergence of a hereditary royal lineage.

Many gifts are given/obtained by the Japanese during this time period, and the gifts originate from far away places. They are gradually traded across continents to get to Japan. Receiving gifts indicated that you were a person with status.

In exchange for military help, the smaller (and more Southern) Korean civilisation of Baekje trades with “Wa” (Japan) in order to fend off the large Korean civilisation, Goguryeo.

Early inscriptions of characters are found on swords (even though most of Japan is still illiterate), which indicate Japan’s prevalence towards conquest. The scribes who could write often put their own names down onto the swords (the kings didn’t know because they couldn’t read).

Later on, China splits into two kingdoms and Korea splits into three different kingdoms, so the political situation in Japan gets more and more complicated.

1.6 Late Tomb Period (Sixth Century)

- Frequent contact and conflict with Korean kingdoms.
- The emergence of hereditary royal lineages.
- Different clans emerge, i.e. Ōtomo, Mononobe, Soga.
- Power is shared among various factions.
- Gradual monopoly of court by the Soga (possible of Korean origin).
- Adoption of Buddhism.
- Limited, highly specialised use of writing.

1.7 Asuka Period (592-710)

1.7.1 Asuka Facts

- Asuka is the site of the Yamato court during most of the 7th century.
- Main Events:
 - 607: Early hints of imperial vision (letter to Sui emperor in China).
 - 645: Decline of the Soga lineage/assertion of royal power (Taika reforms).
 - 663: Defeat of Paekchon River.
 - 672: Jinshin War
- First state of imperial-style state.
- State bureaucracy becomes fully literate.
- Strong influence from the Korean peninsula.

1.7.2 Suiko and Prince Shōtoku

- Suiko (r. 592-628) was the first of six female rulers in the 7th to 8th centuries
- Prince Shōtoku (574-622)
 - Known in life as “Prince of the Upper Palace”.
 - Assisted Suiko in government.
 - Hagiographic portrayal as Buddhist, Confucian, and Daoist sage.

1.7.3 Letter to the Sui Emperor (607)

The emperor of Japan (Suiko) sends a letter to the emperor of China, who dismisses this and says “don’t ever make me listen to barbarian letters that contain this kind of insolence again”.

Note. The imperial vision at this point is very imaginary—the government embellishes things in order to imbue the surroundings with a sense of political authority. The hope is to turn this imaginary vision into some sort of reality.

1.7.4 Asuka Buddhism

- Buddhism first arrives in Japan in the mid-sixth century.
- Temples built around the Asuka capital throughout the seventh century (models of Mount Sumeru).
- Early Japanese Buddhism is an eclectic cult that focuses on health and longevity.

Religion offers the majestifying of political authority via large sculptures/architecture.

1.7.5 Decline of the Soga (645)

- The Soga were the most powerful court lineage.
 - Sponsored Buddhism (which came from Korean peninsula).
 - Married daughters to rulers.
- Main branch of the Soga lineage was defeated by a young prince called Naka no Oe (later Emperor Tenchi) and by leader of the Nakatomi lineage (who received the name “Fujiwara”).
- Marks the beginning of reforms to centralise power in the ruler.

1.7.6 Defeat of Paekchon River (663)

- Conflict over the Korean peninsula between the Silla and Tang court, and the Paekche, Koguryo, and Yamato.
- Paekche and Koguryo are destroyed (they become refugees to Yamato).
- Silla unifies the peninsula and turns against Tang.
- Silla influence on Yamato.

1.7.7 Jinshin War (Civil War)

- A war between the younger brother and son of previous ruler.
- The younger brother wins and becomes the first ruler to adopt the title “Heavenly Sovereign”.
- Emperor Tenmu (r. 672-686).
- Development of literate state.
- Building of first imperial-style capital, which is then viewed as the center of the world.

1.8 What is “Civilisation”?

From the Latin *civilis*, meaning “relating to a citizen” (which means “inhabitant of a city”), “courteous”.
“Civilisation”—the condition of being civilised.

“Civilised”—that which is not barbaric.

“Civilise”—to educate those in a barbaric or uncivilised state.

1.8.1 The Idea of an Imperial State

There is a supreme ruler, a universal realm (unified by communications, calendar, currency, taxes), a central capital (where all roads lead), and a universal legal code (governed by the sovereign).

Colours represent the rank of someone, where higher ranked people tended to don various shades of purple. In general, the Japanese world revolved around one sovereign leader.

Note. The north star is a symbol for the imperial ruler, because it “doesn’t move” and everything else (the other stars) revolve around him. In this sense, this reinforces the idea that the Emperor is at the centre of the universe.

1.8.2 Emperor Monmu’s Inauguration of the Taiho Era (701)

The Emperor goes to the “Hall of the Great Ultimate” (Hall of the North Star) and receives the court. Envoys from “barbarian lands” (Korean lands and elsewhere) are lined up on the right and left. Banners of the four mythological animals are placed in the four cardinal directions.

1.9 Stages of Imperial State

- Nara period (710-794)
 - Consolidation of early reforms
- Heian Period (794-1185)
 - Golden age and eventual decline

2 Nara Period (710-794)

2.1 Nara Facts

- Nara is the name of the capital city
- Strong influence from the Tang court
- Several women empresses (just like the Asuka period)

2.2 Main Events

- 710—Move to Nara
- 718—Proclamation of universal legal codes
- 729—Nagaya Incident
- 735–737—Smallpox epidemic
- 752—Dedication of Tōdaiji Buddha
- 794—Move of capital to Heian

2.3 Heijō Capital

The capital is built on a grid, organized to be along the cardinal directions. Many of the temples in this new capital are brought from the South (Asuka).

2.4 Nara to mid-Heian Imperial Government

The government is split in two:

- The ritual government (Council of Gods)
- The civil government (Council of State)

Note. The emperor is not involved in politics at all.

The top level ministers are somewhat “rivals”.

2.5 Provincial Administration and the Economy

- Realm is divided into approximately 60 provinces, which are further sub-divided into districts, townships, villages.
- Governors are appointed from the capital every 5 years.
- Each village is surveyed in the census.
- All land is “public” (belongs to the sovereign); land is allotted to people who pay taxes in kind (rice, grain, textiles, etc).
- Men are also subject to forced labour.

2.6 Organisation of Literate Knowledge

- Imperial Academy
- Bibliographical Order: Classics (and commentaries), Histories (geographies, genealogies), Masters (ethics, math), Literary Collections (the ability to write good poetry signals that they are able to write very well for other purposes)
- Buddhist Temples: Scriptoria (copying of sutras)

Note. Writing allows for much greater precision of governance. It allows you to access records of what’s happening in the kingdom. It also allows you to access the knowledge of those in the past.

2.7 Multiple Teachings, belief systems, ideologies

- “Confucianism”, Daoism, Yin-yang cosmology (usually associated with China)
- Buddhism
- “Shintō” (Deity worship)

Note. The Japanese at this time were not very concerned with one central ideology, but rather the acquisition of all kinds of information. The new knowledge allows the court to represent itself as superior and powerful. The new ideologies don’t necessarily conflict with each other—they apply to different domains.

2.7.1 Confucianism (Classicism)

Emphasis on the arts of harmonious government and proper ethical relations:

heaven and Earth, Ruler and subject, Father and Son, Husband and Wife, elder and younger

Keywords: Benevolence, loyalty, filialty

Ideal of Scholar-Bureaucrat

2.7.2 Yin Yang and Five Movements Cosmology

- The 5 movements (elements) are water, fire, earth, air, metal.
- These 5 movements are associated with everything: organs, seasons, colors, emotions, etc.

2.7.3 Buddhism (Teaching of the Buddha)

- The Buddha
- Four Noble Truths

Note. Life is suffering and you need to escape it

- Many sacred texts (sutras)
- Many schools and sects

2.8 Nara Buddhism

- Six main doctrinal traditions (from Korea and China)
- Central monastery at Tōdaiji
 - Branch monasteries in all the provinces
 - Developments of “fellowships” linking capital to provinces
- Powerful lineages had their own lineages
- Copying of sutras on an enormous scale (accumulation of merit)

Note. The copying of sutras helped promote literacy throughout Japan, although literacy is still fairly minimal at this point, although literacy is still fairly minimal at this point.

2.9 Imperial Deity Worship

- Has no sacred texts
- Worship of shrines throughout Japan (i.e. Ise Shrine to the Sun goddess)
- Heavenly and Earthly gods
- Emperor is the descendant of the heavenly gods
- Provides the Divine right of the emperor to rule

2.10 Nara Period Politics

Most rulers during this time period are women.

2.11 The Nagaya Incident

- In 729, Prince Nagaya is accused of plotting against the state with “sinister magic” and condemned to death by suicide, along with his main wife and all their children.
- His main wife, Princess Kibi, is the sister of past emperors Monmu and Genshō

2.11.1 The smallpox epidemic of 735-737

- Began in Zazaifu in 735.
- Spread to central Japan in 736.
- By 737, between 25% and 40% of population had died
- 36/92 members of upper nobility died.
 - All four of Fuhito's sons (Fujiwara brothers) died.
- Caused unprecedented economic disaster through famine, tax exemptions, etc.

2.11.2 Political Crisis

- There are no male heirs to the thrones—Princess Abe is made the “crown princess” in 738.
- Fujiwara no Hirotsugu rebellion (740)—People are losing faith in the government.
- The capital moves back and forth multiple times within the span of 5 years.

2.12 The Building of Tōdaiji (743-751)

- In the middle of this crisis, the construction of the palace is underway.
- There are millions of contributions from hundreds of thousands of people.
- The casting of the Great Buddha took three years (eight separate castings)

Note. This was a way to unify the people and rally the people around a common cause.

2.13 The Last Empress

- Crown Princess Abe reigned twice.
- Succeeded by Kōnin, a grandson of Tenchi (Tenmu's older brother).
- Kōnin's son Kanmu moved the capital to Heian, and promoted the Chinese ideal of male succession.

3 Heian Period (794-1185)

3.1 Heian Facts

- Heian is the name of the city.
- All male emperors.
- Court dominated by the Fujiwara lineage.
- Emergence of private estate (shōen) system.

Note. The land belongs to the emperor, but the aristocrats are allowed to “own” land that is not a part of the tax system.

- Court literary culture/women writers.
- Main Events:

- 784/794: Emperor Kanmu moves the capital.
- 858: Fujiwara no Yoshifusa assumes title of “regent”.
- 995–1027: Fujiwara no Michinaga controls court.
- 1068–1160: Rule by retired emperors.
- 1159–1185: Taira clan controls capital.

3.2 Heian as a New Beginning

Emperor Kanmu (737-806, r. 781-806)

Note. He came into power when he was already in his forties, so he knew what he was doing/was not as influenced by his councillors/ministers.

- Founded new capital in Nagaoka, then Heian.
- Appointed shōgun (generals) to subdue the Emishi peoples in Northeastern Japan.
- Reformed Buddhist institutions.
- New emphasis on Confucian ideals of kingly rule.
- Sent embassy to Tang court in 804-805.

The Heian capital housed many officials (aristocrats forced to live here). There was no military in the capital, so a “police force” emerged. The capital was the centralisation of power and privilege. The capital was never fully completed. Living closer to the capital was generally a sign of power, although there were exceptions.

3.2.1 The 804-805 Embassy to the Tang Court

- This was the 18th embassy to Tang since 608.
- Four ships (one shipwrecked, one perhaps lost).
- There were two monks on the boats, both of which would return to found new schools of Buddhism in Japan.
- They also brought back the latest Tang developments in government administration, court ritual, literary culture, calligraphy, and painting.

3.3 Tendai Buddhism

Founded by Saichō and focuses on the Lotus Sutra.

The Threefold truth

1. The truth that all phenomena are ultimately empty of self-nature and the products of causation.
2. The truth that all phenomena do exist temporarily in the world.
3. The truth that encompasses and transcends truths 1) and 2).

Note. Everything fades away, nothing is permanent.

3.4 Shingon Buddhism

Founded by Kūkai and focuses on Mahavairocana (Dainichi) Sutra. It emphasizes enlightenment in this bodily existence. There are esoteric practices like mudras, mantras, mandalas.

Note. Enlightenment in body, speech, and mind.

3.5 Early Heian Culture

- The court of Emperor Saga (r. 809-823), “Literary writing is the great achievement in the governing of the realm”.
- Cultural flourishing of Sinitic poetry and calligraphy.
- Emphasis on classical Sinitic learning at Imperial Academy.

Sinitic means Chinese.

3.6 The Economy

- There was public land and private estates (shōen)
- Private estates were exempt from taxes and immune to inspection.
- Privatization of estates enriches government bureaucrats and reduces the influence and power of the state.
- By the end of the Heian Period, *half* of the land is private.

Note. People started renting out their land to aristocrats, because they didn’t need to pay taxes on it.

3.6.1 The Shōen System

There are four levels of tenure:

- Patrons
- Central Proprietors
- Resident managers/proprietors: estate officials/residents
- Cultivators

Note. The state power begins to erode (less money, cannot inspect private lands).

3.7 Fujiwara Dominance

The Fujiwara clan is very good at marrying into the royal lineage. Once, the new emperor is only eight, so his grandfather, Fujiwara Yoshifusa takes the position of “regent”.

3.7.1 Fujiwara no Michinaga (966-1027)

- Elder brother Michitaka died of illness.
- Controlled the court from 995 to 1027.
- Was the uncle to two emperors, grandfather to three, and controlled the government for over three decades.

3.8 Heian Writing

- Everyone writes in classical Chinese (sinitic writing).
- Cursive Kana writing develops (used for vernacular writing at Heian court). Used in Japanese poetry, personal letters, diaries, tales, etc.

3.8.1 Kana Syllabaries

- Katakana develops from abbreviations of characters used phonographically for their sound. It was used to supplement and embellish writing in classical Chinese.
- Cursive kana (hiragana) developed from cursivized calligraphic forms, and was used to write vernacular poetry, diaries, tales, etc.

Note. There were many literate women who wrote poetry, etc. to be more desirable to the crown prince.

3.9 Privatisation of Government

- Government posts become hereditary.
- Aristocrats more concerned with their own holdings than the state.
- Power is controlled privately, not by the state.

3.10 The Era of Cloistered Emperors (1086-1160)

- The Emperor Go-Sanjō accedes to throne in 1068, and is the first emperor for 170 years whose mother was not the daughter of a Fujiwara master.
- There are attempts by the imperial family to control the shōen system. Retired emperors become private estate owners, and the Imperial household becomes the largest landholder.
- Retired emperors become a real power at court.
- There is competition between various factions (emperors and retired emperors).
- 1156: Warrior clans involved in a court dispute.
- 1160-1185: Head of warrior clan Taira Kiyomori becomes main power at court.

4 Kamakura Period (1185-1333)

The main events leading to the Kamakura Period are:

- 1156: Hōgen War
- 1159: Heiji War
- 1160-1185: Taira effectively control the court
- 1180-1185: Genpei wars between two warrior clans: the Minamoto and the Taira

“Kamakura” is the city in Eastern Japan where Minamoto no Yoritomo’s military government was located.

4.1 Origin of the Warrior Class

In the Heian period, provincial governors are appointed by the imperial court. Later on, local lords begin grouping together to control their peasants and protect their land. Some of these groups later on rebel against the court, which allies with other warrior lineages to quash rebellions. Finally, we see court political factions ally with different warrior lineages to fight each other.

4.2 Hōjōki

- It is about Kamo no Chōmei, who is from a family of Shintō priests but later became a Tendai monk.
- Description of disasters in the capital in the late 12th century.
- Exemplar of a genre known as “recluse literature”.
- Best known opening lines of any work of pre modern Japanese literature.

Note. The battles between different warrior lineages span the entirety of Japan, and everyone is affected.

4.3 Events of the Kamakura Period

- 1185: Minamoto no Yoritomo's victory in Genpei War
- 1199: Yoritomo dies
- 1199-1333: Hōjō regents rule Kamakura, which name Fujiwara as shoguns (instead of Minamoto)
- 1221: Jōkyū disturbance: Emperor Go-Toba rebellion (further decline of imperial court)
- 1232: Jōei code: first codification of warrior law
- 1274: First Mongol Invasion (30000 destroyed by typhoon)
- 1281: Second Mongol Invasion (140000 held back for seven weeks until destroyed by typhoon again)

Note. The court still has the majority of the power, but is no longer omnipotent. Think 60-40 power split with the warrior clans.

4.4 Kamakura Key Points

- Loss of power of the Retired Emperors
- System of dual government
- Two courts (Kyōto and Kamakura), and the shogunate issues legal codes
- Kamakura control of provinces
- Mongol invasions allowed Kamakura shogunate to extend influence into Western Japan

Note. The invasions also weakened the shogunate, as it could not reward those who defended Japan with land (which was usually the case for expansion/conquest).

4.5 Shōen System

In the Kamakura period, the shogunate appointed

- A military governor (shugō) to protect the land/keep peace
- A steward (jitō) to administrate the land, collect taxes and rent

Both systems coexist, until the imperial system gradually disappears.

4.6 Religion in the Kamakura Period

- Tendai and Shingon Buddhism are still powerful
- New sects develop from Tendai (Amidism and Nichiren)
- Zen (attractive to elite warrior class)
- Deity worship (Shinto): Develops alongside Buddhism

4.6.1 Pure Land Buddhism (Amidism)

- Belief in Mappō, or “the last age”
- Worship of Amida’s Pure Land, belief that you can save yourself through the recitation of Nenbutsu (Amida’s name)
- Genshin (942–1017) was a Tendai Priest, who wrote the text *Essentials of Salvation*

4.6.2 Six Realms of Existence in Buddhism

1. Gods/Heaven (pleasure)
2. Humans (desire)
3. Asura (anger, jealousy, war)
4. Beasts (stupidity/servitude)
5. Hungry Ghosts (starvation)
6. Hell (torture)

Note. At this point in time, the Japanese people think of the world as centred around “Three Lands” (India, China, Japan).

4.7 Warrior Class Writes History

They begin to write stories about all of the conflicts that have happened (Hōgen, Heiji, Genpei). The tales of the Heike are usually told accompanied by a lute (biwa), often by blind priest-performers.

5 Muromachi Period (1333-1477)

5.1 Historical Overview

- Kenmu Restoration (1333–1336), where an emperor tries to restore imperial rule
- Northern and Southern Courts (1336–1392)
- Ashikaga Shogunate (1336–1573)
- Onin War (1467–1477): fall of Ashikaga Shogunate

5.2 Key Points of the Muromachi Period

- Political Decentralisation
 - Weakened Kamakura shogunate
 - Go-Daigo is never in a position of real power
 - Ashikaga shogunate also has limited power
 - Emergence of Daimyo

Note. During this time period, we have two governments—main capital and warrior capital. The Kamakura shogunate falls because they are no longer able to maintain order. Instead of power centralisation in these two capitals, the emergence of many smaller warrior lineages fractures power.

- Economic Development
 - Improvements in farming technology, increased commerce
 - Land rights of absentee landlord reduced
 - Military governors obtain taxation rights
 - Land stewards consolidate land rights
 - Vibrant trade with Ming China, Choson Korea, within Japan

Note. The Shōen system gradually disappears.

- Cultural and Social Change
 - Beginning of “Shintō”
 - Zen institutions and culture
 - New forms of aristocratic and warrior culture
 - Time of great social upheaval

5.3 Medieval Shintō

Note. Shintō develops in tandem with Buddhism.

5.3.1 Dual Shintō

- Buddhas manifest locally as Kami (Shintō gods)
- Great Sun Buddha = Sun Goddess
- Great Sun-origin (Japan) Land = Great-Sun [Buddha] Original Land

5.4 Ashikaga Shogunate (1336–1447) [1573]

- Takauji (r. 1338–1358) Establishes Northern court in Kyoto, where he also sets up the shogunate.
- Yoshimitsu (r. 1368–1408) Unifies northern and southern courts in 1392, which is at the height of Ashikaga influence.
- Ashikaga Yoshimasa (1449–1490) Collapse of regime.

5.5 Economic Growth and Social Upheaval

- Technological improvements in farming, mining, and various crafts
- Robust trade with Korea and China
- Emergence of merchant trade guilds in towns and cities, and the beginning of a cash economy (used Chinese currency)
- Bandits and “Evil Parties”: marginal people and local leaders
- Minor warrior groups organise into egalitarian federations (ikki)
- Peasant leaders acquire rights to rent from land—sometimes revolt

The capital changes to have northern and southern hemispheres for aristocratic and commercial sectors.

5.6 Zen (Chan)

- Emphasis on meditation—rejection of prayer, study, and complex rituals.
- Emphasis on teacher-disciple relation.
- In Song China, Zen had become the dominant form of Buddhism. They employed the Gozan (five mountain) system to control Zen temples (five in Kyoto, five in Kamakura).
- Two main schools in Japan: Rinzai zen and Sōtō zen.

Rinzai Zen accommodated Zen to Tendai, Shingon, and Pure Land practices. It emphasised severe monastic discipline (which appealed to warriors). On the other hand, Sōtō Zen was more about silent meditation, emphasising teacher-disciple relations.

The Zen monks become an elite class—diplomats, advisors, poets, painters, etc.

5.7 Ashikaga Yoshimitsu

- Third Ashikaga Shogun
- Gold pavilion
- Established tributary relationship with Ming Dynasty in 1397
- Patron of the arts—collector of paintings, enjoyed poetry and theatre

5.8 Ashikaga Yoshimasa

- Eighth Ashikaga shogun
- Silver pavilion
- Conflict to succeed him destroyed the shogunate
- Patron of the Tea ceremony (Sadō)
- Also enjoyed theatre and ink painting

5.9 Late Medieval Literary Culture

- Linked verse (aristocrats)
- Nō theatre (warriors)
- Kyōgen Theatre (warriors and commoners)
- Popular Tales (Otogi zoshi) (from aristocrats to commoners)

5.9.1 Nō Theatre

- Origins obscure (actors are from the outcast class)
- Elements
 - Main actor (shite)
 - Secondary actor (waki)
 - Chorus
 - Musicians
- Zeami Motokiyo was patronised by Yoshimitsu
- There were plays about Gods, warriors, women, demons, etc.

6 Warring States Period

6.1 Warring States and Azuchi-Momoyama Key Dates

- 1467–1477 Ōnin war
- 1542 Portuguese reach Tanegashima
- 1568 Nobunaga installs last Ashikaga shogun in Kyōto (which begins the Azuchi-Momoyama Period)
- 1568 Nobunaga dies
- 1573 Last Ashikaga shogun driven out of Kyōto
- 1582 Invasion of Choson (second invasion in 1597)—also known as the Imjin war
- 1598 Hideyoshi dies
- 1600 Battle of Sekigahara
- 1603 Establishments of Tokugawa shogunate

6.2 Ōnin War

- Begins as a conflict over Yoshimasa succession between his son (supported by Yamana clan) and brother (supported by Hosokawa clan)
- Shogunate loses all authority
- Completely destroys Kyōto
- Yamana clan leaves the capital in 1477
- No clear victor, no one left in charge to guarantee peace between warrior clans

Note. The battle started in Kyōto, which was supposed to be the one place where there was peace. Once it was destroyed, there was no more centralised authority to keep the peace.

- War sanctions conflicts between warrior domains
- No more “Retired emperors” (Imperial court impoverished and loses everything)

6.3 Socio-economic Developments

- No effective central authority—many alliances rise up between the numerous warrior clans.
- Shōen system has disappeared (in practice but not in name).

Note. There are still locations that are called by their estate name, but the estate doesn't really exist any more.

- Increased urbanisation: emergence of villages and towns.
- Age of the daimyō (warlords).

Note. There is economic decentralisation as well—each warlord is receiving taxes from those who live on their land, and doesn't pay taxes to the imperial government.

- Gekokujo: Wealthy peasants become landowners and take samurai status.
- Peasant uprisings and village communes.

Note. Women no longer own land.

6.4 Socio-military Developments

- The daimyō are completely independent of the government, they issue their own laws for their lands, and form regional alliances.
- There are also militarised Buddhist sects:
 - Ikkō sect (extreme Pure Land sect)
 - Lotus leagues (followers of Nichiren)
 - Enryakuji (Tendai sect)
- Introduction of firearms in the mid 1500s.
- Use of foot soldiers.
- Development of castle building—linked to the development of towns.

6.5 Buddhist Lineages in the Warring States

- Most Heian temples are destroyed during the Ōnin war.
- Buddhist sects all had armies and fought against domain lords and each other—Lotus v. True Pure Land and Tendai v. Lotus Leagues

Note. During the battles, the warriors aren't just fighting for more land—many have the vision of a unified Japan.

6.6 Azuchi-Momoyama Period (1568–1600)

- Oda Nobunaga
- Toyotomi Hideyoshi
- Tokugawa Ieyasu

6.6.1 Nobunaga

- 1560 Wins crucial battle against Imagawa clan (outnumbered 8 to 1)
- 1561 Forms alliance with Matsudaira (later Tokugawa)
- 1567 Starts using personal seal: “Take all under heaven by force”
- 1568 Installs last Ashikaga shogun in Kyōto
- 1571 Destroys Enryakuji (Tendai sect)
- 1573 Takeda Shingen dies; Nobunaga drives last Ashikaga shogun out of Kyōto
- 1575 Battle of Nagashino (Oda and Tokugawa defeat Takeda)
- 1576 Battle of Tedorigawa (Uesugi defeat Oda)
- 1578 Uesugi Kenshin dies
- 1582 Nobunaga dies at Honnōji

6.6.2 Hideyoshi (Nobunaga’s Successor)

Hideyoshi was born a peasant, and rose through the samurai ranks.

- 1585 Hideyoshi appointed Regent
- 1585–1587 Conquers Etchū province and Kyūshū (Shimazu clan)
- 1587 Hideyoshi’s edict expelling Christian missionaries
- 1588 Hideyoshi edict prohibiting farmers from bearing arms
- 1590 Conquers Hōjō in Eastern Japan—offers territory to Ieyasu
- 1591 Hideyoshi edicts on census and on restrictions on change of social status
- 1592 Hideyoshi sends army to invade Korea
- 1595 Edict controlling domain lords
- 1597 Second invasion of Korea
- 1598 Hideyoshi dies

6.6.3 Tokugawa Ieyasu

Son of head of Matsudaira clan (minor warrior clan)

- 1561 Ieyasu allies with Nobunaga
- 1571 – –1584 Wars with Takeda clan
- 1584 Ieyasu supports Nobunaga’s son Nobuo against Hideyoshi, which ends in a truce
- 1590 Ieyasu accepts Hideyoshi’s offer of land exchange
- 1598 Hideyoshi dies
- 1600 Battle of Sekigahara
- 1603 Tokugawa Ieyasu takes title of shogun

7 Jesuits In 16th Century Japan

7.1 Japanese Relations With the World

- Early relations with the Korean Peninsula and China
- Spread of Buddhism across Asia and to Japan
- Portuguese missionaries in the 16th century
- Dutch Trade 16th–19th centuries (Japan highly regulates outside interaction)
- Arrival of US ships in the 19th century
- Modern era

7.2 Early Japanese Relations with Asia

- Tributary missions to different imperial dynasties in China
- Relations with Korean kingdoms
- Buddhism arrives in Japan from Korean peninsula
- Ideal of imperial rule is transmitted to Japan via Chinese writing and written texts

Note. Japanese rulers measure themselves according to this ideal of imperial rule.

7.3 Background to Arrival of Jesuits in Japan

- 1368 Establishment of Ming Dynasty
- 1392 Establishment of Choson (Yi) Dynasty
- 1401 Ashikaga Yoshimitsu establishes trade with Ming
- 1405–1433 Ming voyages to South-east Asia and India
 - 1488 Portuguese explorers reach the southern tip of Africa
 - 1498 Portuguese establish spice trade with India

Note. The Portuguese want to go to Africa (for gold) and India (for spices, silk).

- 1513 Portuguese establish trade with the Ming dynasty
- 1519–1522 Earliest known circumnavigation of the world (Magellan)
- 1521 Edict of worms (Charles V declares Luther a heretic)
- 1540 Foundation of Jesuit order

Note. Jesuits move East as a reaction to the Protestant Reformation.

- 1543 Portuguese reach Tanegashima
- 1549 Jesuit Francis Xavier arrives in Japan
- 1557 Portuguese establish Macau

7.4 Christian Century

- 1549 Jesuit Francis Xavier arrives in Japan
- 1557 Macau given to Portuguese by Ming Emperor in gratitude for subduing pirates
- 1570 Establishment of silk trade from Macau to Nagasaki

Note. The Portuguese become middlemen for China-Japan trade.

- 1587 Hideyoshi's edict on expelling Christian missionaries (not strictly enforced)
- 1592 Franciscans arrive in Japan
- 1606 Christianity declared illegal
- 1614 Campaign to eradicate Christianity (more than 300000 converts)
- 1624 Spanish expelled from Japan
- 1627 Shimabara rebellion (Portuguese expelled from Japan)

Note. The Japanese perceived the Portuguese as barbarians from the South.

7.5 Jesuit Objectives in Japan

- Jesuit mission was part of Portuguese Empire's overseas activities.
- Objectives:
 - Offering counsel and military technology (muskets, cannon)
 - Establish trade
 - Propagate Christian faith

7.6 Famous Jesuit Missionaries

- Francisco Xavier (1506–1552) arrived in 1549
- Cosme de Torres (1510–1570)
- Luis Fróis (1532–1597) arrived in 1563
- Alessandro Valignano (1539–1606) arrived in 1579
- João Rodrigues (1561–1633)

Note. A lot of these missionaries wrote many books documenting facts about Japan and its people.

7.6.1 Tenshō Embassy of 1582

Four young boys were brought to Europe, that had been educated in Portuguese, to show the royalty in Europe that Christianity had spread to all corners of the world. The goal was to bring them back and have these four boys tell the Japanese emperor about all they had seen, and convert all of Japan. However, Hideyoshi had died before they came back, so the second part of the plan failed.

7.7 Late 16th Century

- 1587 Hideyoshi limits propagation of Christianity by issuing an edict, expelling Christian missionaries. This also prohibits the sale of Japanese people as slaves
- 1588 Hideyoshi edicts prohibiting arms and piracy
- 1590 Hideyoshi responds to a letter from the King of Korea announcing the intent to invade
- 1592 Invasion of Choson (second invasion in 1597) a.k.a. the Imjin war
- 1593 Ming emperor sends large force to aid Choson, but the expense severely weakens the Ming
- 1597 Second Choson invasion
- 1598 Hideyoshi dies
- 1600 Battle of Sekigahara
- 1603 Establishment of Tokugawa shogunate

Note. Hideyoshi wanted to conquer—Korea, China, India, but was unsuccessful. These invasions of Korea are costly, and make it easier for Tokugawa to take over after Hideyoshi dies.

8 Early Modern Japan

8.1 The Edo or Tokugawa Period (1600–1868)

- Edo is the city where Tokugawa Ieyasu made his military headquarters after Hideyoshi moved him to Western Japan
- Ieyasu leads group of Eastern daimyo and defeats Western Daimyo at Sekigahara in 1600
- The era of the Tokugawa shogunate was known as “The Great Peace”
 - There were no major rebellions against the Tokugawa for over 250 years
- An age of great prosperity and population growth

8.2 Key Events of Early Edo Period

- 1598 Hideyoshi dies of illness
- 1600 Battle of Sekigahara
- 1603 Ieyasu named Shogun, sets up shogunate capital in Edo

Note. Ieyasu wants the legitimacy, so sets up someone to name him shogun.

- 1605 Ieyasu resigns in favour of son Hidetada
- 1611 Ryukyu islands become vassal of Satsuma
- 1614 Ban on Christianity
- 1615 Ieyasu defeats and kills Hideyoshi’s son Hideyori
- 1615 Code for Warrior households issued
- 1616 Ieyasu dies

- 1617 Ieyasu deified as Tōshō Dai-Gongen
- 1623 Iemitsu becomes third shogun
- 1633 Interdiction on travel and trade to and from abroad
- 1635 System of alternate attendance (sankin kotai) instituted
- 1637 Shimabara Rebellion
- 1635–1639 Seclusion edicts
- 1640s Widespread use of woodblock print for commercial publications

8.3 Tokugawa Rule Over Domains

- Three types of vassal:
 - Allied daimyo—10K to 100K koku
 - Tokugawa branch families—500K koku
 - Outside daimyo—Over 100K koku
- System of alternate attendance

Note. Daimyo would have to come and reside at Edo on alternating years.

- Redistribution of lands belonging to enemies to allies
- Switching daimyo from one domain to another for strategic reasons
- Limitations on daimyo
 - Only allowed one castle
 - Permission to do repairs
 - Forbidden from building large ships (monopoly on trade)
- Tension between central government (bakufu) and domains (han)

8.4 Tokugawa Economy

- Cultivated land area doubled
 - Samurai move off land to domain cities and towns—they become bureaucrats
 - Rise of wealthy peasants
- Population almost doubled from beginning to middle of the Tokugawa period—18 million to 30 million
- Bakufu establishment of a common currency
- Market networks to supply cities
- Rise of urban commoner class in cities
- Mitsui (Edo), Sumitomo (Ōsaka)

Note. The above are companies that started during this time period.

8.5 Tokugawa Ideology and Religion

Neo-Confucianism

- Influence of Song Confucianism
- Emphasis on self-cultivation and ethical behaviour
- “Reason” as the basis of all learning and conduct

Note. Not modern reason, they took it to mean the natural order of things.

- Establishment of official shogunal Confucian academy
- Blending of Confucianism with Shinto

Note. Buddhist sects are still very much present, although they are tightly controlled.

8.6 Tokugawa Society

- Neo-Confucian Ideal:
Status system of “four estates”
 1. Scholar/Gentleman (Warrior)
 2. Peasants
 3. Craftsman
 4. Merchants

Note. There are no outcasts, nor aristocrats.

- Reality of different status groups:
 1. Samurai
 2. Merchant-Craftsman, Peasant

Note. By the end of the Edo period: 10% samurai, 75% peasants, 7-8% urban commoners, 2% priests, 4% miscellaneous mix.

8.7 Population of Tokugawa Cities

- Edo (1000000 in 1700)
- Ōsaka (365000 in 1700)
- Kyōto (300000 in 1685)
- Nagoya (100000 in 1610)
- Kanazawa (100000 in 1610)

8.8 Emergence of the Urban Commoner Class

- Link between the cities and countryside
- Storing, distribution, banking
- 50% of population of Edo
- Development of self-conscious social class
 - Merchant values (counterpart to warrior values)

8.9 Edo Culture and Literacy

- With printing, learning becomes more accessible
 - Flourishing of different schools of thought
 - Commercialisation of culture
- The classical and medieval world is now the past
- There is a sense that the world is growing and changing

Note. The high point of urban society is called the Genroku Era (1688–1704), which was the golden age of economic affluence and culture.

8.10 Edo Literature and Performing Arts

- Haikai poetry
- Popular fiction
- Ningyō Jōruri

8.10.1 Haikai

- The name of a genre of poetry
- An attitude towards language, literature, and tradition based on the interaction between classical and vernacular
- Aims to:
 - Juxtapose seemingly incongruous worlds and languages
 - Dislocate habitual perceptions

8.10.2 Edo Popular Fiction

- Didactic books and guides
- Illustrated books
- Sentimental, comic, satirical, catering to broad tastes
- Popular genre of courtesan critiques (Yūjo hyōbanki)—guides to the pleasure quarters that took form of tales

8.11 Urban Society and Culture

- The city as a space in which different social classes encounter each other
- Spaces for the commerce of entertainment within the city

8.12 The Yoshiwara

- Edo licensed pleasure quarters (originated in Nihonbashi, in 1657 moved to Asakusa area)
- Courtesans: Yūjo (rank system)
- Gathering place for intellectuals, artists, performers

8.13 Bunraku (Puppet Theatre)

- Jōruri chanter and shamisen player
- Puppets act roles
- Giri: duty, rational/civilised behaviour
- Jō (ninjō): desire, emotion, natural feeling
- Two types of play: Contemporary (sewamono) and historical (rekishimono)

8.14 Kabuki

- Origins: “Women’s kabuki”, and “youth kabuki”
- Spectacular form of theatre
- All male. Various types of characters

8.15 Kyoho Reforms (1736)

- Response to gap between social ideals and socio-economic realities, aggravated by famines, bad harvests, etc.
- Emphasis on frugality (spending cuts)
- Sankin kotai rules relaxed
- Taxation of merchant guilds

Note. Causes resentment between the classes because the rich are doing much better than the poor.

9 The Edo Period

9.1 Late Tokugawa Ideology

- Merchant ideas of utility and economic relations (neo-Confucian concepts re-interpreted in economic terms)
- Dutch learning and Western science (the Dutch are the only foreigners that are allowed in Japan)
- “Study of Ancient Meaning”
 - A challenge to neo-Confucian Tokugawa orthodoxy

- Nativist learning. Shintō revivalists
- Sonnō Jōi (Revere the sovereign and expel the barbarians)

Note. The state doesn't really control the ideology any more—there are rich merchants, academies, etc.

The three realms are Heaven, Earth, and people.

9.1.1 Dutch Learning

- Two main areas—medicine (botany, chemistry, physics, etc.) and astronomy (cartography, geography)
- Sugita Genpaku's report on an autopsy (1771)
- Science and sensationalism

9.2 The Economic Decline of the Tokugawa Shogunate

- Financial crises brought on by famines
- Kansei Reforms (1789–1791)
 - Lowering of rice prices, rent control, restrictions on merchant guilds, freezing of foreign policy, censorship
- Tokugawa shogunate budget deficit due to currency devaluations
- Samurai high status at odds with impoverished circumstances
- Famine, peasant uprisings, urban riots (1830–1840s)
- Further shogunate and domain reforms in 1840–1850s
 - Major educational and economic reforms (try to make everyone literate)
 - Chōshū and Satsuma more successful than the shogunate (these later on start the Meiji restoration)

9.3 Japan Opens to Trade

- 1842 End of the first Opium war (between Great Britain and Qing)
- 1846–1848 Mexican-American War (US acquires California and New Mexico)
- 1848 The California gold rush
- 1853–1854 Convention of Kanagawa (Treaty with United States)
- 1858 Commercial Treaty signed with the United States
- Opening of ports causes inflation and more economic hardship

9.3.1 Commodore Perry (1794–1858)

- Fought in the war of 1812
- Second in command in the Mexican-American war
- Forces Japanese ports to open (via gunboat diplomacy)

9.3.2 End of the Tokugawa Shogunate

- 1858 Shogunal succession dispute
- 1860s Widespread unrest, and there's a movement to expel the "barbarian" Westerners
- 1864–1868 Wars between shogunate and Chōshū/Satsuma
- 1868–1869 Boshin War
- 1868 Meiji Restoration

9.4 Early Meiji

Note. Early Meiji is a lot like Edo Period.

- 1868 Charter Oath
- 1869 Emperor moves to Tokyo (new name for Edo)
- 1869 Hokkaido Development Commission established (about expansion)
- 1871–1876 A series of reforms:
 - Abolition of Han and establishment of prefectures
 - Creation of national land tax system
 - National conscripted military
 - Abolition of four-class military (replaced with nobles and commoners)
 - Western dress made mandatory at official functions
 - Ban on Christianity lifted
 - First national newspapers and railways
- 1872 Ryukyu established as a domain (annexed in 1879)
- 1873 Iwakura Mission

Note. Mission to learn how the other governments/large powers worked.

9.4.1 Key Figures

- Ōkubo Toshimichi (Satsuma)
 - Leader of the Early Meiji Movement
 - Enacted tax reforms
- Kido Kōin (Chōshū)
 - Drafted the Five-charter oath
 - Oversaw emperor Meiji's education
- Saigō Takamori (Satsuma)
 - Opponent of modernisation
 - Proposed invasion of Korea
 - Rebelled against Meiji government and was defeated

9.4.2 Iwakura Mission

Objectives:

- Renegotiate unequal treaties
- Learn as much as possible about how other governments function

10 Early to Mid-Meiji

10.1 Early-Mid Meiji (1868–1895) Key Reforms

- Abolition of the four-class social system (eventually replaced by nobles and commoners)
- Abolition of domains and establishment of prefectures
- First national newspapers
- National single currency act
- First railways
- Western dress made mandatory at official functions
- National elementary education
- National conscripted military
- Creation of national land tax system
- Ban on Christianity lifted
- First political associations formed
- National army puts down Satsuma Rebellion
- Ryukyu annexed
- First political Parties
- European-style cabinet created
- Promulgation of constitution
- Imperial rescript on Education

10.2 The Three “Fathers”

10.2.1 Okuma Shigenobu

- Monetary reform (the tax guy), minted single currency
- National Land Tax Reform (Foreign minister, minister of finance)
- Founded several of the earliest political parties (and founded a university)

10.2.2 Yamagata Aritomo

- Went to Europe to study military systems
- Military conscription
- War minister, modeled the Japanese military on Britain and other European countries

10.2.3 Ito Hirobumi

- Sent by Choshu domain to England in 1863
- Was a member of the Iwakura Mission
- Drafted the Meiji Constitution (modeled on Prussian constitution)
- Became the first Prime Minister of Japan (held the position four more times)

Note. These three “fathers” of early-modern Japanese society drew on heavy influences from the West.

10.3 Modern Economy

- Railway lines
- Specialised banks offering long-term credit
- Industrialisation
- Mining
- Zaibatsu and state monopolies

Note. This exacerbates the quality of life differences between the poor and the rich.

10.4 National Newspapers

- First paper established in 1871
- Dissemination and control of information
- Press laws issued in 1875 and 1877 (censorship, police supervision)

10.5 Fukuzawa Yukichi (1835–1901)

He is the main person behind the Meiji restoration, and came from humble beginnings (not from an aristocratic family).

- Influenced by British liberalism
- Believed in Social Darwinism
- Believed in the three stages of civilisation:
 - Primitive: Africa and Australia
 - Semi-developed: Turkey, China, Japan
 - Civilised: Europe and the United States
- Firm believer that education can change anybody and lift anyone up

10.6 Modern Education System

- 1873 The ministry of education is established
- Students are sent to US and Europe
- Foreign instructors brought to Japan
- National school system
- Tokyo Imperial University established
- Imperial Rescript on Education

Note. The goals of this were to provide all citizens with basic life skills, instill a sense of loyalty to the country, and to shape their moral character.

Fukuzawa Yukichi realises that Japan has a government but the people are divided—if there were to be a war with another nation, only some would fight on behalf of Japan and the rest would just watch.

10.7 The First Political Parties

- Jiyutō (Liberal Party), started by Itagaki Taisuke
- Kaishintō (Progressive Party), started by Ōkuma Shigenobu
- Teiseitō (Imperial Rule Party), started by Fukuchi Gen'ichirō

10.8 Meiji Constitution (1889)

- The Emperor is the head of the Empire
- “The conditions necessary for being a Japanese subject shall be determined by law”
- The legislature is set up with a bicameral system—House of Peers and House of Representatives (which is elected by property owners, 1.1% of people)

At a governmental level, there were oligarchs (Genrō) between the legislature and the Emperor.

10.9 Sino-Japanese War (1894–1895)

This is the first major test for Japan.

- Fought over control of Korea (with China)
- Treaty of Shimonoseki
 - They cede claim over Korea, territory of Taiwan, Pescador islands, and part of Liaodong peninsula
 - Payment of indemnity and opening of seven ports to Japan
 - Qing dynasty severely weakened

11 Mid to Late Meiji

11.1 Late Meiji (1895–1912)

- 1894–1895 Sino-Japanese War
- 1898 Spanish-American War
- 1900 Boxer Rebellion in China
- 1902 British-Japanese alliance
- 1904–1905 Russo-Japanese War
- 1906 Establishment of South Manchurian Railway
- 1910 Japan-Korea Annexation Treaty
- 1911 Japan regains control over customs duties (end of unequal treaties)
- 1912 Republic of China is established

Note. Before this time, the main distinctions in Japanese society were between classes—now the main distinction is between the Japanese and foreigners. There is more of a sense of loyalty to one's country.

11.2 National Language and Nation-State

There are four key elements to make a modern nation:

1. Land (territorial sovereignty)
2. Law (a national legal system)
3. Race (familial relation between citizens)
4. Unity (of politics, history, religion, language, and education)

Note. Japan was one of the only non-white civilisations that was going through imperialism.

11.3 Boxer Rebellion

- Unrest in North-east china after the Sino-Japanese War
- “Boxers” were martial religious societies
- Anti-imperialist, anti-foreign, anti-Christian popular uprising
- Put down by an alliance of the “civilised countries” (Japan, US, Germany, etc.)

11.4 Russo-Japanese War (1904–1905)

- Fought due to tensions over Korea and Manchuria

Note. Unprecedented casualties due to new weaponry.

- Portsmouth Treaty (1905)—Allowed Japan rights over Korea, expansion into Manchuria, southern half of Sakhalin
- 1910 Japan-Korea annexation treaty (full annexation)
- End to unequal treaties (restoration of tariff autonomy) and extraterritoriality

11.5 Late Meiji Politics

- Decrease in the power of the Oligarchs (Genrō)
- New political parties
- New generation of Government bureaucrats
- Increased connections between politics and business

11.6 Economic and Social Developments

- Development of Industry
 - Steel, textiles
 - Increased imports, urbanisation, and labour productivity
- Exploitation of workers (leads to labour unions)
- Social unrest—Politically radical movements
- Emigration policies—there are now many Japanese outside of Japan

11.7 Socialist Movements

- Founding of the Social Democratic Party
- “Commoner News”—A socialist paper reporting on about labour unrest
- “Women of the World”—Feminist newspaper

11.8 Riots in Tokyo

- September 5–7, 1905 (Hibiya Park)
 - Against peace ending Russo-Japanese War
 - For “constitutional government”
 - 19 killed, 2/3 of police boxes, 15 street cars destroyed, 311 arrested
- Match 15–18, September 5–8, 1906 (Hibiya Park)
 - Against street car fare increase, “unconstitutional” behaviour of government
 - Street cars damages, police boxes destroyed, scores of injured, arrests
- February 10, 1913 (Outside Diet)
 - For constitutional government
 - A lot of chaos and violence

11.9 Individuality

- Individual human beings/individual nations
- Legal individual (the nation is the sum of its citizens)
- Political individual (representation)
- Spiritual individual (notion of inner self)
- Medical/Psychological individual
- The individual self as a fundamental literary topic (self-expression)

12 Taishō Period (1912–1926)

- 1912–1913 Taishō financial and political crisis
- 1915 Twenty-one demands to China
- 1918–1922 Japan attempts to control eastern Siberia
- 1918 Rice riots
- 1918 Hara Takashi government
- 1921 Women gain right to attend political meetings (not vote)
- 1923 Great Kantō earthquake
- 1925 Universal suffrage law (all males 25 and older)
- 1925 Peace preservation law

12.1 Taishō Political Crisis

- 1912–1913 Overspending leads to a financial crisis and competition between budget priorities of military and domestic spending priorities
- Seiyūkai overthrows the cabinet
- Defeated Prime Minister founds another political party
- Presence of two parties in diet made government more democratic, but the position of the military was also strengthened

Note. It was very easy for the military to move ex-military members into government, giving them more power.

12.2 Japanese Economy during WWI

- 1914 Japan declares war on Germany (seizes German colonies in East Asia and Pacific)
- 1915 Twenty-one demands to China
 - Japan obtains additional investment rights in Shandong peninsula
 - Demands for severely unequal treaty agreements

Note. There is severe backlash from the Chinese for this.

- Economic boom (demand for industrial products, less competition from Europe)
- Increased agricultural/industrial production

Note. A lot of workers work very hard (with little protections) in the mines/textiles, because it's *better* than working on the farms.

- Expensive attempt to halt Bolshevik Russia expansion in Eastern Siberia
- 1918 Economic boom causes inflation, widening inequality (leading to rice riots)

Note. Japan's economic expansion is inextricably linked to its foreign exploits.

Hara Takashi (also known as Hara Kei) was the Prime Minister from 1918–1921, and was the first “commoner” to serve. He was assassinated in 1921 by a right-wing fanatic.

12.3 Post WWI Japan

- 1919 Treaty of Versailles—Debate on racial equality clause (all races are equal clause) rejected because many European countries have colonies across the world. It was not politically beneficial to ratify this clause, so it's vetoed by the other countries

Note. This is a big loss for Japan, as they were the only non-white global power at the time.

- 1919 Brutal suppression of Korean independence movement
- 1919–1920 Formation of the League of Nations
- 1921–1922 Washington Conference—Four Power Treaty (France, Great Britain, Japan, US)

12.4 Taishō Society

- Old middle class and new middle class in cities
- Emerging urban social groups and categories
- Immigrants from colonies (2500 to 420000 Koreans from 1910 to 1930)
- Rural areas very hierarchical, widening the gap between landlords and tenants

12.5 Taishō “Culture”

Note. We use the word “culture” here, but it really translates better to the word “modern”.

- Urbanisation, modern social classes
- High levels of literacy
- Magazines (aimed at young intellectuals, women, students, etc.)
- Literature, Philosophy, Political radicalism
- Feminist Liberation (sexual, financial, political)
- Fashion, Literary fiction, Café culture
- Jazz, internationalism, modern art, “Culture Homes” (modern homes)

Note. The “Moga” or “Modern Girl” was iconic to the Taishō period. She is seen as “cool” and many women aspire to be her. The male counterpart was the “Mobo” or “Modern Boy”.

12.6 Women’s Suffrage Movement

Part of a trend of simultaneous increased oppression and liberalism at the same time.

12.7 Great Kantō Earthquake

- September 1st, 1923
- Magnitude 7.9
- 570000 dwellings destroyed in Tokyo (3/4 of the city)
- Over 140000 estimated dead

After the earthquake, there was a massacre of Koreans, and prominent activists were murdered by police. There was a national recovery and international aid.