

## Lecture 5: Kamakura Period

- Hogen Conflict

- Heiji Conflict

- Genpei Wars

Emergent Warrior Class (Late Heian)

- Minamoto / Genji

- Taira / Heike

Yoritomo establishes base at Kamakura

### Kamakura Period (1185-1333)

- "Kamakura" is the city in Eastern Japan

- Military government

#### Main Events

- Yoritomo's death (1199)

- Hojo Clan rules (1199-1333)

- Jokyū Disturbance (1221) Emperor - Go-Toba rebellion

- Jiei Code (1232) First codification of warrior law.

#### Management of Estates

##### Review of Heian Period

- Public land and private estates (shōen)

- Private estates

- exempt from taxes

- immune to inspection

- Privatization of estates

- enriches government bureaucracies

- Privatization saps power

Stewards (jitō) manage, appointed by shogun ← <sup>stewards</sup> hold military

Military governors (shugo) assigned to each province



## Kamakura Period Power

- System of dual government
  - Kyoto and Kamakura
- Loss of power goes with the cloistered emperors
  - From 1221

## Kamakura control of provinces

- stewards and military governors
- Mongol Invasions (1274, 1281)

## Outside of the Elite (majority of society)

- Farming peasants
- Foragers, hunters, fishermen
- Guilds (craftsmen, musicians, etc.)
- Outcaste groups

## War Tales

- Högen Conflict (1156)
  - Tale of Hogen
- Heiji Conflict (1159-60)
  - Tale of Heiji
- Genpei wars (1180-85)
  - Tales of the Heike
- Kenmu Restoration Wars (1318-1338)

Biwa Hōshi - performers of the Tale of Heike

## Nara Buddhism Review

- Major temples based in Nara capital
- Divisions based on study of six branches

## New Developments in Heian

- Tendai
- Shingon

Kamakura - increasing usage of esoteric ritual



Mudra - hand signs, a person can become a Buddha through rituals

### Divine Pantheon

- Buddhas
  - fully awakened, liberated from cycle of rebirth
  - reside in remote realms
- Bodhisattvas
  - postpone becoming buddha to save living beings
  - reside in the world
- Kami (local gods)
  - reside in the world, also seek Buddhist awakening

### Pure Land Buddhism

- Mappō: Decline of the Dharma (state of the world)
- Practice: Recitation of the nenbetsu (name of Amida Buddha)
- Goal: deliverance to Amida's Pure Land
- Followers: all layers of society

### Major figures in Pure Land Buddhism

- Shinran (1173, 1262) - founder of True Pure Land
- Ippen (1239-1288) - recitation of Amida (faith unnecessary)
- Honen (1133-1212) - nenbetsu, founder of Pure Land
- Genshin (942-917) - Tendai Priest, Essentials of Salvation

Hungry Ghost Scrolls = Hell

### Nichiren (1222-1282)

- Influenced by mappō thought
- Practice: exclusive recitation of the title of the Lotus Sutra.

Focus on Japan