

Lecture 1 - Intro to Japan.

1/4/2016

Itinerary

- Week 1 - Pre-classical
- Week 2 - Early-Classical
- Week 3 - Medieval Period I
- Week 4 - Medieval Period II
- Week 5 - Midterm
- Week 6 - Early Modern Japan I
- Week 7 - Early Modern Japan II
- Week 8 - Modern Japan I
- Week 9 - Modern Japan II
- Week 10 - Postwar + Contemporary Japan

My section:

Fang-Ru Lin, Discussion 1C.

Professor Hours:

Royce Hall 231B

Primary Sources are on CCLF

Wed 9:30-11:30 AM

Lecture 2: Paleolithic Period -

1/6/2016

- Not much evidence of culture during this period.

- What's different?

- No nations back then
- Ice Age hadn't separated Japan from rest of mainland.

Topography/Geography

- Characterized by 2/3 mountainous regions
- Movement went towards 4 major arable basins
- Volcanic activity creates fertile soil.
- Mountains divide regions.
- Diverse ecosystems.

Earliest evidence dates back to 35,000 years
Hunter gatherer society

Jōmon Period (14,500 - 400 B.C.E.)

- Jōmon means "rope pattern" and refers to a style of clay pottery.
- Hunter gatherer societies (Bows; traps).
- Limited agriculture. (No irrigation).

Pots

Incipient Jōmon Pot (10,500 - 8,000 B.C.E.)

- Storage
- Cooking
- Rituals
- Travel (?)

Early Middle Jōmon (5,000 - 4,000 B.C.E.)

Middle Jōmon Pots (2,500 - 1,500 B.C.E.)

Jōmon Vessel (3000 - 2000 B.C.E.)

- The fancier the vessel, the more likely they were for ritualistic purposes.

Spouted vessel... etc.

Figure-patterned deep vase.

Incense Burner

Figurines (1,500 - 400 B.C.E.)

Dogū - "clay figures" Jōmon: Venus

- Fertility figurines.
- Broader notion of production → agriculture
- Occasionally with heart shaped heads
- Some are missing limbs, which seems intentional → perhaps a sacrifice?

Yayoi Period (900 B.C.E. - 250 C.E.)

- "Yayoi" is a neighborhood of Tokyo
- Iron, Bronze, Glass, cloth and wood
- Wet rice agriculture
- Spread from Kyushu

Yayoi Society

- Hierarchical
- Political Units
- Warfare
- contact w/ Korean peninsula; appearance in Chinese records
- "The land of Wa" and Himiko

Art - Jar

- More defined shape.
- Flat base.
- No more netting style.

Art shows the beginnings of stratification in society.

Burial Jars

- Bones cleaned and placed in jars, oriented towards mountains
- 'valuables placed with the body.'

Bells

- Keep time
- Warning against enemies.
- Rituals
- Status

Female priestesses of this time period were believed to have mystical powers.

Mirrors, respect and provide for the dead. They were treated on jars as wards against evil spirits.

Na Seal: acknowledgement by the emperor of China that a particular Japanese chieftain was legitimate.

The chieftain gives subservience but proves legitimacy.

Kofun (old mound) Period (3rd - Late 6th Century)

- Haniwa dolls
- "Kofun" are large mounded tombs
- Influence of Korean burial mounds.

Kofun Society

- Yamato court in the Kinai
- Early stages of state formations
- Hereditary kinship groups (uji)
- Groups of craftsmen called "be"
- Contact of Yamato kings with Korean kingdoms and China

Daisen Mound -

- Keyhole shaped
- Emperor Nintoku's Tomb (?)

Haniwa

- Dolls lined up at kofun, guards/warrior's protecting the deceased.
- Dog haniwa are also present, indicating that they have been domesticated.

Swords, mirrors, saddles, etc. as grave goods.

Lecture 3

Asuka (592-710)

- Asuka is the site of the Yamato court during most of the 7th c.

- Main historical events

645: coup d'état against Soga

663: defeat of Paek cheon River → rekt by Tang

672: Jinshin War

Poetry collections emerge

- Heavenly justification for current ruling lineage.

Statebuilding framework comes from China.

Capital

Palace faces south, toward his people.

High ranked people live close to the palace.

Very well protected.

Tombs

Contain artwork on the walls.

- Noblewomen

- Dragons

- Other beasts

Tiger

Genbu (Dark Warrior)

Constellations on the ceiling

Monmu's Accession is a very luxurious tomb

Buddhism

Founder: Siddhartha Gautama (4th-5th c. B.C.E)

- a.k.a: the Buddha ("awakened one") or Sakyamuni ("wise man of the Sakya tribe")

- Lived in northern India / southern Nepal

- Spread: Silk Road trade routes (land and sea)
 - China: Han Dynasty (207 B.C.E - 220 C.E.)
 - Korea: (4th C)
 - Japan: (6th C)

4 Truths

- Life is Suffering
- Suffering is caused by craving/attachment to the impermanent
- End suffering by achieving Nirvana
- Buddhist Path (the way out of suffering)

Pagodas house Buddhist relics.

Family

- Only one wife! ☺ ~~X Nope.jpg~~ Normally many wives, primary, secondary, etc.
- Nuclear family.
- The image shown only shows primary wife

Nara Period (710-794)

- Nara is the name of the capital city.
- Main historical events:
 - 712 Kojiki (Record of Ancient Matters)
 - 718 Yōrō codes promulgated
 - 720 Nihon Shoki (Chronicles of Japan)
 - 735-737 Smallpox epidemic
 - 752 Dedication of Tōdaiji Buddha
 - 794 Move of capital to Heian

Kojiki

- First real text that we have
- Hybrid Chinese + Japanese, written characters are borrowed but the grammatical structure is unique

Also
the
Kojiki

Nihon Shoki

- Compiled over the course of around 30 yrs.
- Histories of the courts, legitimization of rule, lineages
- Likely a lot of it was fabricated. no evidence of some lineages in history.
- More in Classical Chinese than in Japanese

Todayi

- Cosmic Buddha
- Largest wooden structure in world

lecture 4

11/13/2016

Heian Basics (794-1185)

- Name of the capital
- Main events:

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

Fujiwara Lineage

- Marriage politics
- The posts of regents and chancellor

Regents will rule on behalf of a child emperor until he comes of age.

Chancellors will continue to rule even after the child emperor has come of age.

Fujiwara no Michinaga (966 - 1027)

- Controlled court from 995 - death
- Complex control via marriage politics

The Economy

- Public land and private estates (shōen)
- Private estates:
 - Exempt from taxes
 - Immune from inspection
- Privatization of estates:
 - enriches government bureaucrats
 - reduces influence and power of the state
- By end of Heian Period, $\frac{1}{2}$ of Japan's land is private.

The Era of Cloistered Emperors

- Retired emperors become the real power behind

Fujiwara ministers

- Competition between multiple factions

Involvement of Warrior Clans:

- Taira (Heike) and Minamoto (Genji)

Heian Buddhism

Tendai - Founder is Saichō, center is Mt. Hiei

Main text: Lotus Sutra

Shingon - Founder is Kūkai, center Mt. Kōya

Main text: Mahāvairocana (Dainichi) Sutra

Awakening in this bodily existence

Esoteric practices: mudras, mantras, mandalas

Pure Land (Pure Land)

multiple schools

- Faith in Amida (Buddha of Infinite Light)
- Chanting of nembutsu (Name of Amida)

Heian Writing

- Chinese writing (kanbun): The international writing system of east asia.

- All official governmental documents
- Chinese poetry
- Diaries

Primarily
used by
men

- Kana writing: Used for vernacular writing in Heian court

- Japanese poetry
- Diaries and other vernacular writings
- Tales (Monogatari)

Primarily used
by women

Heian Literature

- Chinese poetry
- Japanese poetry
- Women's literature
 - Diaries (nikki) and other writings

Kokin Wakashū

- Presented to Emperor Daigo in 905
- Main compiler: Ki no Tsurayuki
- 20 vols, 1111 poems
- Became the essential classic of Heian poetry