

Secondary Source 4 Sheldon-MerchantsSocietyTokugawa-1983

1. Page 2 [Underline Text]

ugawa period were placed at shinkishu hierarchy of samurai-peasants

Note: Hierarchical society where samurai located on the top of the system

2. Page 3 [Underline Text]

us. Movement from class to class was

Note: For the sake of government, the government prohibited the move from class. Therefore, it could make sure the continuity of the system.

3. Page 3 [Underline Text]

roughout the count a toad is a toad; the offspring of a m

Note: Detailed example for maintaining hierarchical society.

4. Page 4 [Underline Text]

al. For the merchants, a more immediate consideration was a recognition of the very close interdependence between themselves and the ruling class, including the ordinary s

Note: Because the merchants were not located on the topmost part of hierarchical society, so they need to rely on the samurai class to get the privileges.

5. Page 5 [Underline Text]

de. When the bakufu attempted to cut prices, merchants withholding goods or by giving short weight or mean goods of inferior

Note: Sometimes, the merchants were fighting against the government especially when t

he government's policies harmed their interests.

6. Page 7 [Underline Text]

But on the whole, merchants build up the family business o

Note: Unlike China, business was not a way for being a government official in Japan, making money was actually their number one priority.

7. Page 8 [Underline Text]

They lacked the Osaka merchants' pride in being merchants, and tended to separate morality from making money, whereas the Osaka merchant integrated them

Note: Edo merchants were not proud of being a businessman because Edo was dominated by samurai

8. Page 8 [Underline Text]

The merchants of all the cities were alike in their fascination with the theatre and the gay quarters, described by one observer as 'by day like paradise and by night like the palace of the dragon king ... guests rival each other in spending. When one spends a hundred, another spends a thousand.'

Note: Edo is a very rich city (in economic aspects), different entertainments were also well developed. And these entertainments were linked to businessmen.

9. Page 9 [Underline Text]

s apart and who no doubt contempt and hostility

Note: Although businessmen had a lot of money, their position was still lower than the samurai class. Therefore, they tried to lead fashion, it reflected the merchants' actions had high influences in the society.

10. Page 10 [Underline Text]

. But their incomes depended on the crops, of which a fixed portion was taken in tax, and the rate of increase of agricultural yields was slowing down markedly as limits were bei

ng reached in exploitable land, in the possibilities of land reclamation, and in further progress in agricultural technology

Note: The limitations of samurai class, they relied on taxes, this was actually their financial foundation.

11. Page 11 [Underline Text]

prosperity they far outstrip the samurai class, and enjoy far more conveniences and amenities of life.

Note: The merchants were actually richer and more influential than samurai class.

12. Page 13 [Underline Text]

The reasons for the financial embarrassment of the daimyos spend every second year in Edo and, since they feel that this style proper to their station while they are in the city rice-income and waste the money they receive for it during the life of the daimyos. Because of the rise in prices in Edo continually increase

Note: Owing to Tokugawa government policies, the Daimyos faced financial difficulties while everything in Edo was indeed expensive.