

Asuka/Nara/Heian:

Heavy cultural borrowing from China during these periods

Confucianism becomes very important during these periods as well as other philosophies borrowed from China, including Taoism and Buddhism.

These periods mark the era of aristocratic high culture in classical Japanese history. (i.e., the importance of hierarchy)

Scholars in the imperial court are at this point the true conductors of affairs in Japanese society.

- Nara Period:

② 710 Capital (Hei-joo-kyo)

② Land distribution: avoid landlords, but the distribution itself has other problems, like inequality in the quality of land,

② Religion (Buddhism comes in): authority issues, and landlords becomes richer and more powerful, which endanger the authority of the emperor.

- Tang Chinese influence: State Chronicle

② Tange brings the idea that anyone who has power could be the emperor.

② So Japanese tie the emperor with some most powerful god to make sure the power of the emperor. Though the emperor may not take control of the country, just be the symbolic authority.

② The hierarchy is empowered during this time. Each person is precisely put in the position they belong to.

- Poems: Man'yoo shuu:

② Man'yoo-gana (Phonetic use of kanji) to make the written language easier to learn.

② Buddhism-arts, literature works: Woman play an important role during this period.

② Sei Shonagon's pillow book

② Murasaki Shikibu's Genji Mono: the first novel. During the Heian period it was very boring, so there are novels to amuse people.

② The Heian period is almost the first period of visual culture.

Kamakura/Muromachi/Azuhi-Momoyama

The period becomes the early years of the Samurai comes from the idea of serving, protecting the owner's lands. And samurai becomes serving groups of family, but this still not touching the power of emperor family.

The Kamakura period was established after the Minamoto clan defeats the Taira clan in the Battle of Dan no Ura in 1185.

This battle is waged over sea using ships.

Muro machi and Azuchi-Momoyama periods become extensions of the samurai era and Bakufu governments (Warriors government). Bakufu means Tent Governments.

Mongolian/Korean (Koryo) Invasions

Kami-Kaze: the wind protected Japanese from Mongolian invasion.

Two invasions from Mongolian.

European influence: after civil wars, Japanese are looking for better weapons, so guns that Portuguese brought becomes popular.

Sengoku Period:

During the warring states period, daimyos defend and attack other domains, and finally concludes with the success of 3 primary daimyo.

Warriors class becomes drinking, partying and enjoying pop cultures from China all times. What's the result? They fall out of favor and lose power.