

Slide 3.2A: Japan's Early Historic Period: The Imperial Court (A.D. 400–783)

A Divine Emperor: The Spiritual Leader of Japan

- prior to A.D. 400, *uji* (clans) ruled separate areas of Japan
- one of these clans, the Yamato, produced Japan's first emperor
- emperor considered descendant of Sun Goddess and most important person in Shinto (Japan's native religion)
- emperor respected for religious power not political power
- various *uji* fought to be the emperor's chancellors (chief advisors)

Chinese Influences on the Japanese Court

- modeled capital city of Nara after China's Changan
- Japanese emperors sought both spiritual and political powers
- Prince Shotoku adopted aspects of Chinese government, Confucian calendar, and legal ideas
- Chinese character script adopted by Japanese court officials
- memorization of Chinese poetry popular
- collected Chinese works of art
- curving, tile roofs became popular in the homes of aristocrats



Taika Reforms (A.D. 646)

- introduced by Japanese emperor, Tenchi
- designed to make Japan's government like that of China's Tang dynasty
- vast land reforms placed all rice-producing land in hands of emperor

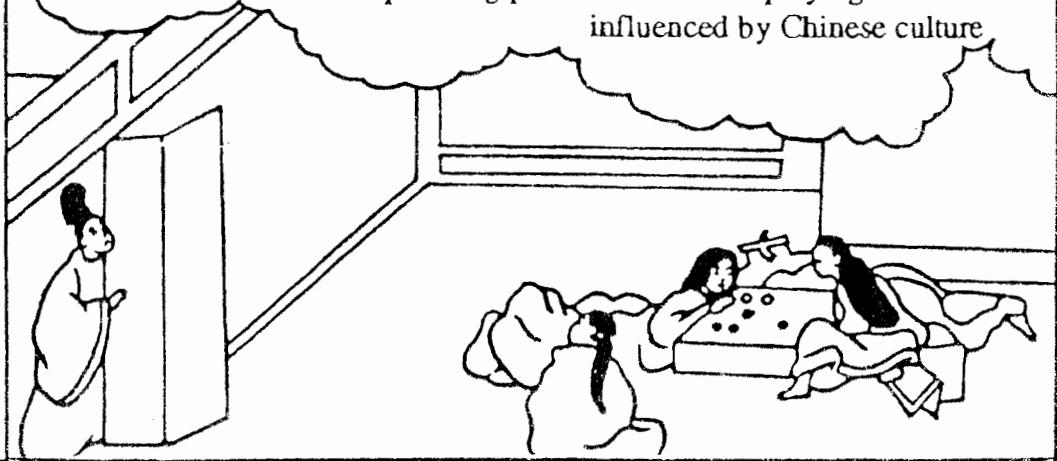
Slide 3.2B: Refined Court Life During the Heian Period (A.D. 794–1185)

Nobles Gain Power over the Imperial Family

- earned trust of emperor and thereby gained control of chancellorship
- married daughters to crown princes, ensuring that those who ascended to throne were grandsons
- received most of government's high-ranking posts
- convinced emperor to give *shoen* (tax-free estates) as gifts to loyal nobles
- dominated emperor so that his role became almost completely ceremonial

The Refined Life of Court Nobles

- maintained elegant appearance—clothing and makeup were elaborate
- practiced restrained behavior—rude to laugh with one's mouth open
- always maintained decorum—letters had to be folded properly
- devoted leisure time to pursuing pastimes—such as playing Go—
influenced by Chinese culture



Isolated Kyoto Court Life Led To . . .

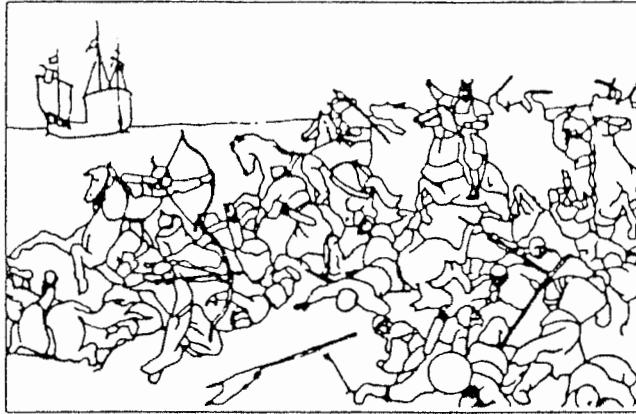
The Rise of the Provincial Nobles

- provincial nobles were rugged, independent, and led private armies
- became more powerful as court nobles isolated themselves
- constantly battled with one another over control of provinces

Slide 3.2C: The Rise of Feudalism and the Mongol Invasion (A.D. 1185-1333)

A Threat from Outside

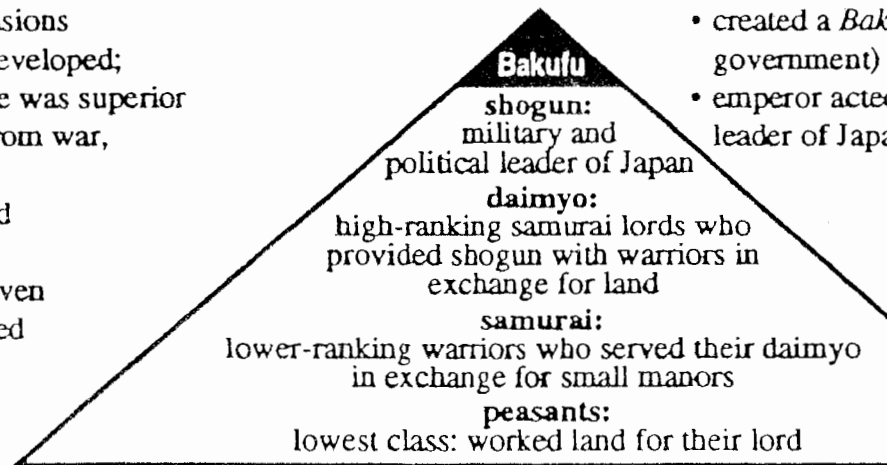
1. Mongol Invasions
 - leader, Kublai Khan, wanted to subjugate Korea and Japan
 - sent 450 ships and 15,000 troops to Japan, but they were destroyed by typhoon
 - seven years later, sent another 150,000 troops, but they were destroyed too



2. Aftermath of Mongol Invasions
 - sense of national unity developed; Japanese felt their culture was superior
 - Japan reaped no spoils from war, only debts
 - unpaid samurai terrorized peasants to get money
 - Kamakura shogunate driven from power by dissatisfied samurai

Inside Japan

1. Battle for Government Control
 - Taira and Minamoto clans fought for control
 - Yoritomo Minamoto drove Taira from power
2. Rise of Feudalism
 - under Yoritomo's rule, samurai warriors dominate Japanese society
 - samurai warriors took control of Japan's government
 - created a *Bakufu* (military government)
 - emperor acted only as religious leader of Japan



Slide 3.2D: Civil War and Reunification (A.D. 1333–1603)

Stability Under the Ashikaga Shogunate

- Emperor Godaigo proclaimed himself supreme ruler of Japan
- Ashikaga family took advantage of Japan's instability to attack royal forces at Kyoto
- Godaigo fled south—proclaimed himself rival emperor
- Ashikaga experienced height of power between A.D. 1367–1467
- fighting started when powerful families couldn't share position of Shogun's deputy

The Onin War: A Turning Point

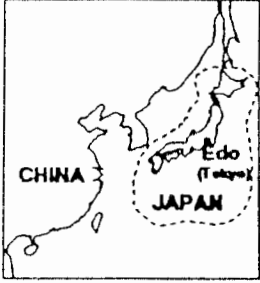


- civil war between leading families over who should be in power
- most of Kyoto was destroyed during the fighting
- power of emperor and shogun greatly reduced
- political power belonged to whatever family could win it in battle
- ended rule of Ashikaga Shogunate

Two Attempts to Unify Japan

1. Oba Nobunaga
 - used brilliant military techniques and firearms to defeat enemies
 - acted as a brutal tyrant, especially towards Buddhist monks
 - he controlled 32 of 66 Japanese provinces at the time of his death
2. Toyotomi Hideyoshi
 - rose through ranks of Oda family army
 - used negotiations to pacify rebellious daimyo
 - brought all 66 provinces into feudal agreement

Slide 3.2E: Life in a Castletown During the Tokugawa Period (A.D. 1603–1868)



Togukawa Ieyasu Closed Japan's Doors

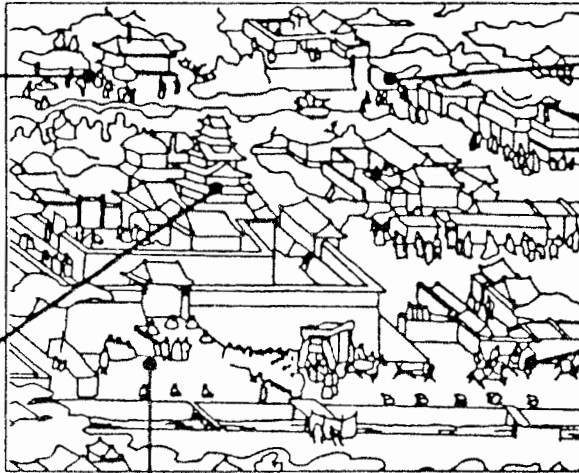
- fought and used shrewd negotiations to bring all provinces under his control
- Japan entered period of unity and growth under Ieyasu
- established his shogunate at Edo (modern Tokyo)
- divided population into four classes: samurai, peasants, artisans, merchants
- Tokugawa's measures isolated Japan from the rest of the world for over 200 years

Artisans

- armorers served the needs of the castle samurai
- carpenters erected and repaired buildings

Feudal Castles

- daimyo ruled provinces from their castles
- architecture funneled attacking troops into a bottleneck trap
- beautiful gardens and pools were inside the castle



Merchants

- were wealthiest members of castletowns
- barred from becoming samurai
- created separate forms of recreation: wrestling, gambling, and Kabuki

Samurai

- enforced laws rather than storming other castles
- helped daimyo collect taxes

Castletowns Become Commercial Hubs

- castles became centers of government administration
- towns grew up around castles and were populated by artisans and merchants
- inns, stables, and stores grew along routes between Edo and castletowns