

# The Spread of Chinese Civilization

Japan, Korea, and Vietnam

# The History of the Samurai

*Body Armor:*



*Later Color:  
Brightly Lacquered*



# Japan: The Imperial Age

- Chinese influence on Japan peaked in 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> centuries
- Rulers sought to build a Chinese-style bureaucracy & society
- Shintoism (religion based ancestral worship) remained central to Japanese culture
- Periods
  - Taika (645 – 710)
  - Nara (710 – 784)
  - Heian (784 – 857)

# Japan: The Imperial Age

## I. Crisis at Nara and the Shift to Heian

- Taika reforms aimed to revamp imperial administration along Chinese lines (bureaucracy)
- Chinese style emperor (Son of Heaven)
  - Opposed by aristocrats and Buddhist monks
- Merged Buddhist deities with *kami* (nature spirits)

# Japan: The Imperial Age

- Buddhist monks dominated the emperor & capital
- Empress Koken – influenced by monks
  - Emperor's advisors ensure measures so a woman could never rule Japan
- Emperor Kammu
  - Establishes Heian (Kyoto) as new capital
  - Buddhist monasteries forbidden
  - Abandons Taika reforms
  - Restored power of aristocrats
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# Japan: The Imperial Age

## II. Ultra Civilized: Court Life in the Heian Era

- Court culture
  - Strict behavior codes
  - Gossip
  - Love Affairs
- Aesthetic enjoyment
- Kabuki theatre – similar to Shakespeare in Europe
- Poetry
  - Lady Murasaki's *The Tale of Genji* – first novel in Japanese
  - Haiku – Japanese poems

# Japan: The Imperial Age

## III. The Decline of Imperial Power

- Fujiwara – elite family dominating government
- Court aristocrats & monastic orders cooperate
- Landed estate under aristocratic control
  - Similar to feudalism

# Japan: The Imperial Age

## IV. The Rise of the Provincial Warrior Elites

- House governments ruled mini-states within Japan
- Regional lords (Bushi)
  - Administer law
  - Supervise public projects
  - Collect revenue (taxes)



# Japan: The Imperial Age

- Bushi have private armies of samurai
- Samurai also protect emperor & serve as bodyguards
- They were lead by the Shogun, or the general of the samurai
  - They had more power than the emperor
- Emergence of Warrior class
- Bushido = codes of honor & death over retreat/defeat
- Seppuku – ritual honor suicide
- Japan becoming Feudalistic
  - Peasants = serfs



# The Era of Warrior Dominance

- Family rivalries dominate by the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> centuries
- Taira & Minamoto
- Form alliances with provincial lords (Bushi)

# The Era of Warrior Dominance

## I. The Declining Influence of China

- Scholarly gentry declines and aristocratic power reasserted
- 838 Japanese embassies to China stop
- Trade with China continues
- Gempei Wars
  - Fighting between Taira & Minamoto (winner)
  - Bakufu established— military government

# The Era of Warrior Dominance

## II. The Breakdown of Bakufu (Shogunate) Dominance & the Age of the Warlords

- Yoritomo – Minamoto leader
- Weakens Kamakura regime due to paranoia
- Assassinate relatives
- Shogun fearful of spies
- Hojo family dominates Kamakura regime after Yoritomo's death

# The Era of Warrior Dominance

- Ashikaga Takauji
  - Minamoto leads revolt against Bushi
  - overthrows the Kamakura regime
  - Establishes Ashikaga Shogunate (1336 – 1573)
  - Emperor driven from Kyoto

# The Era of Warrior Dominance

- Collapse of centralized authority leads to civil war among Ashikaga rival heirs (1467-1477)
- Kingdom broken down to 300 little kingdoms ruled by Daimyos (warlords)
- Tokugawa Ieyasu unified Japan when he became shogun.
- After his death in 1616, the Tokugawa Shogunate continued until the samurai were abolished in 1868

# The Era of Warrior Dominance

## III. Military Division & Social Change

- Patterns of warfare change
  - Less Samurai & more armed peasants
  - Size of army & effective leadership key components
- Peasants looted & pillaged – Barbaric behavior
- Economic & cultural growth supported by daimyos
  - Irrigation systems, regular tax collection, etc...



# The Era of Warrior Dominance

- New tools, greater use of animals, and new crops
- Merchant class emerges
  - Japanese women could be strong in commercial classes
- Primogeniture arises among daimyo – major change for women of elite classes
- Disinheritance forces women to marry to form alliances between households
- Women taught to slay themselves over dishonor

# The Era of Warrior Dominance

## VI. Artistic Solace for a Troubled Age

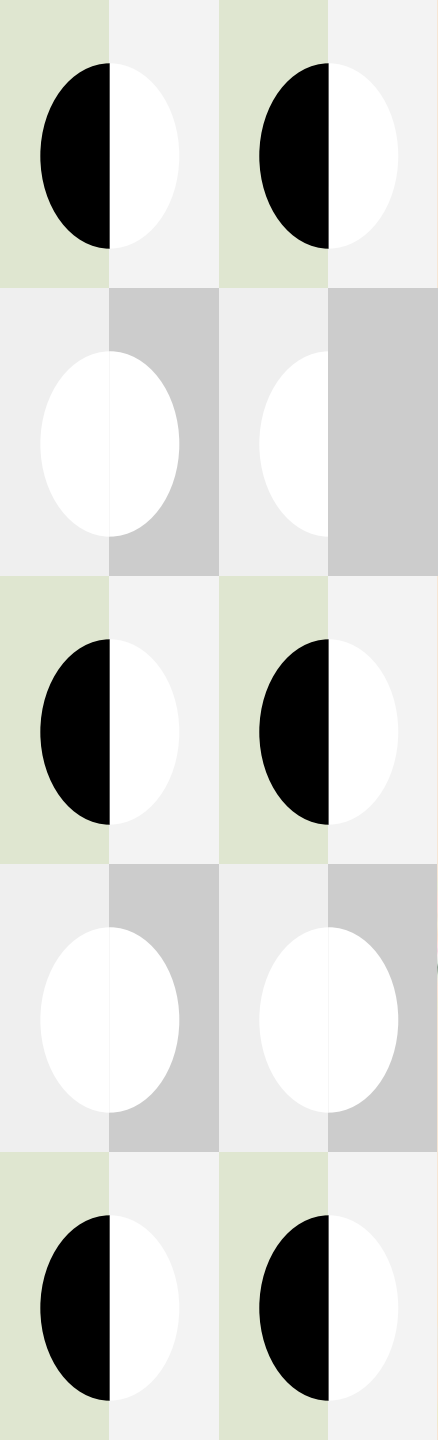
- Zen Buddhism appealed to warrior elite
- Zen monasteries provided renewed diplomatic and trade contacts with China
- Revival of Chinese influence – cultural

# Korea

- Most profoundly influenced by China
- Dynasties paid tribute to Chinese Emperor
- Descendants from Siberia & Manchuria
- Sedentary agriculture & metal working by 4<sup>th</sup> Century
- Choson Kingdom conquered by the Han & colonized by Chinese

# Korea

- Tribal people resisted Chinese rule
- Koguryo established independent state
  - At war with Silla & Paekche in south
- Sinification (Chinese influence)
- Buddhism important



# Korea

## I. Tang Alliances and the Conquest of Korea

- Allied with Silla to conquer Paekche and then Koguryo
- Silla left independent rulers of Korea in return for tribute to China

# Korea

## II. Sinification: The Tributary Link

- Peak of Chinese influence (668-1392)
- Silla modeled after Tang
- Tribute guarantees peace with China & privileged access to Chinese learning, art, & goods

# Sinification of Korean Elite Culture

- Kumsong – Silla capital
- Mostly aristocrats
- Most government positions still occupied by aristocrats by virtue of birth and family connections not Confucian Classics
- Buddhism still favored



# Sinification of Korean Elite Culture

## III. Civilization for the Few

- Stratified aristocrats
- Dominated government, social, and economic life of kingdom
- Commoners mainly peasants & near slaves  
“low-born”

# Sinification of Korean Elite Culture

## IV. Koryo Collapse, Dynastic Renewal

- Local uprisings ruthlessly repressed by armies
- Aristocratic families quarrel
- Mongols invade 1231 and the Yi dynasty established

# China & Southeast Asia: The Making of Vietnam

- Han dynasty conquers the kingdom of Nam Viet
- Vietnamese kept a distinct identity
- Commerce increases with China
- Viet defeat feudal Red River Lords
- Viets intermarry with ethnic groups
  - Khmers

# China & Southeast Asia: The Making of Vietnam

How do Vietnamese differ from Chinese?

- Nuclear families rather than clans
- Women have more freedom
- Culturally different
  - Dress
  - Sports (cockfighting)
  - Blackening of teeth
  - Buddhism rather than Confucianism

# China & Southeast Asia: The Making of Vietnam

## I. Conquest & Sinification

- Viet ruler had to admit vassal status and pay tribute to Han
- Direct control by Chinese by 111 CE
- Chinese culture systematically introduced
  - Bureaucratic
  - Confucian Classics
  - Exams for administrative posts

# China & Southeast Asia: The Making of Vietnam

## II. Roots of Resistance

- Resistance and revolts from aristocracy & peasants
- Trung Sisters (39 CE)
  - Led revolt against chinese
  - Shows stronger position of women
- Vietnamese women hostile to Confucian codes

# China & Southeast Asia: The Making of Vietnam

## III. Winning Independence and Continuing Chinese Influences

- Distance & mountain barriers helps resistance against Chinese
- Independent by 939
  - Lasted until the 19<sup>th</sup> century

# China & Southeast Asia: The Making of Vietnam

- Le Dynasty (980 -1009)
- Used Chinese Bureaucracy
  - Administrative system
  - Six Ministries
  - Civil service exams reintroduced
  - Elite schooled in Confucian classics
  - Scholarly-gentry not as powerful



# China & Southeast Asia: The Making of Vietnam

- IV. The Vietnamese Drive South
- Main adversaries of Viet
- Indianized Khmer & Chams
  - Minimized cultural exchanges between groups
- Fought wars with Chams from 11<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> centuries and then Khmer
- Viets expand to Mekong Delta

# China & Southeast Asia: The Making of Vietnam

## V. Expansion & Division

- Capital Hanoi was far from armies and peasants  
= control issues
- Cultural divisions develop due to intermarrying with Chams & Khmer
- Nguyen dynasty
  - Capital at Hue by late 1500's
  - Challenge Trinh in north (Hanoi)
  - Rivals until 1800's