



Feudal Japan Economy and Society

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Feudal Japan Economy and Society

- **Main Idea (Objective):**



- Some Japanese Nobles, merchants and artisans grew wealthy during the Shogun period, but the lives of women remained restricted in many areas of life.

Feudal Japan Economy and Society

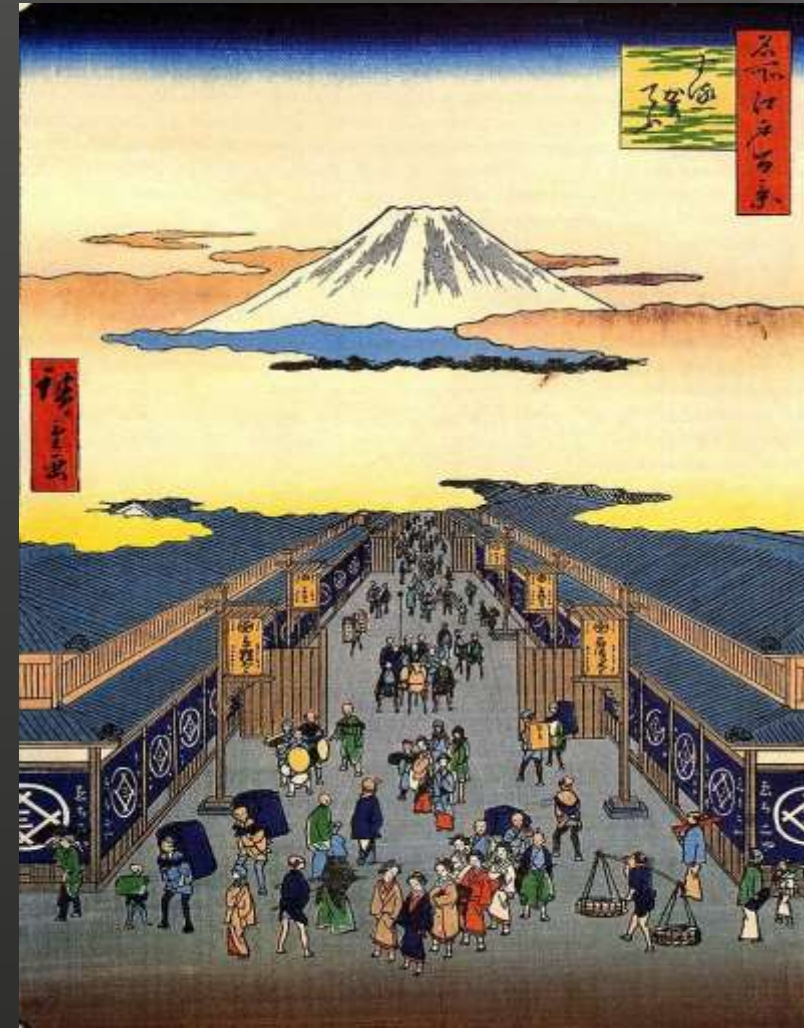
- **Lecture Focus (Essential Question):**



- What determines whether a person is wealthy or poor? Lets look into what contributed to the growing wealth of Feudal Japan.

Feudal Japan Economy and Society

- Under the Shoguns, Japan not only developed its arts but also produced more goods and grew incredibly richer.



- The problem was, only a small number of Japanese benefited from the wealth.

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Feudal Japan Economy and Society



- This group of wealthy individuals included the Emperor, the nobles at his court and leading military officials.

Feudal Japan Economy and Society

- A small but growing class of merchants and traders also began to prosper.



- Most Japanese, however, were farmers who would remain poor during this time of growth.

Feudal Japan Economy and Society

- **Questions:**

- **1)** What small groups of people benefitted from Japan's new found wealth?

- **2)** Most Japanese people did not fall into the category. Who made up the largest group of people during the time of the Shoguns and what was their job?

Feudal Japan Economy and Society

- **Questions:**
- **1)** What small groups of people benefitted from Japan's new found wealth?
 - **The Emperor, the Nobles of his court and important military officials**
- **2)** Most Japanese people did not fall into the category. Who made up the largest group of people during the time of the Shoguns and what was their job?
 - **Farmers and they remained extremely poor**

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Farmers and Artisans

- Much of Japan's wealth came from the hard work of its farmers.



- Japanese farmers grew rice, wheat, millet and barley.

Farmers and Artisans

- Some farmers even owned their own land, but most lived and worked on the Daimyo Estates.



- Despite hardships, life did improve for Japan's farmers during the 1100's C.E.

Farmers and Artisans

- Farmers used better irrigations techniques and as a result planted more crops.



- They could now grow more crops and send more food to the markets that were developing in the towns and villages.

Farmers and Artisans



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Farmers and Artisans

- At this time, the Japanese were also producing more goods.



- Artisans on the Daimyo Estates began making weapons, armor and tools...why armor and weapons??

Farmers and Artisans

- Merchants sold these items in town markets throughout Japan.



- New roads made travel and trade much easier and as trade increased, each region focused on making goods that it could best produce.

Farmers and Artisans

- These goods included pottery, paper, textiles and lacquer ware.
- All of these new products helped Japan's economy grow.
- As the Capital, **Kyoto** became a major center of production and trade.



Farmers and Artisans



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Farmers and Artisans

- Many artisans and merchants settled in Kyoto and formed special groups called **guilds** to protect their businesses and increase profits.



- **Guild** – A medieval association of craftsmen or merchants, often having considerable power...referred to as **Za** in Japanese.

Farmers and Artisans

- The members of these guilds relied on wealthy Daimyo's to protect them from rival artisans.



- Guilds would actually sell the Daimyo goods, that he could not get from his country's estates.

Farmers and Artisans

- Japan's wealth also came from increased trade with Korea, China and parts of Southwest Asia.



- Japanese merchants exchanged lacquered goods, sword blades, and copper for silk, dyes, paper, books and porcelain.

Farmers and Artisans

- **Questions:**
- **1)** What types of produce were Japanese farmers growing?
- **2)** What Japanese city became a major center of production and trade in Feudal Japan?
- **3)** What was formed in order to protect goods and merchants?
- **4)** Japans wealth also came from increased trade with...

Farmers and Artisans

- **Questions:**
- **1)** What types of produce were Japanese farmers growing?
 - **Rice, Millet, Wheat and Barley**
- **2)** What Japanese city became a major center of production and trade in Feudal Japan?
 - **Kyoto**
- **3)** What was formed in order to protect goods and merchants?
 - **Japanese Za or Guilds**
- **4)** Japans wealth also came from increased trade with...
 - **Korea, China and Southwest Asia**

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The Role of Women

- During the Middle Ages, a Japanese family included grandparents, parents and children in the same household.



- A man headed the family and had total control over the families members.

The Role of Women

- A women was expected to obey her father, husband and son.



- In wealthy families, parents arranged the marriages of their children to increase the families wealth.

The Role of Women

- In early Japan, during the time of Prince Shotoku, wealthy women enjoyed a high position in society.



- There were several women Empresses in Japan and women could even own their own properties.

The Role of Women



- When Japan became a warrior society with Samurai and Daimyo in control, upper class women lost the freedoms they had become accustomed to.

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The Role of Women

- In farming families, women had a greater say in whom they married.



- However, they worked long hours in the fields planting and harvesting rice.

The Role of Women

- In addition, women cooked, spun and wove cloth and cared for their children.



- In towns, the wives of artisans and merchants helped with family businesses and ran their homes...the wives of merchants were perhaps the best off.

The Role of Women

- Despite the lack of freedom, some women managed to contribute to Japan's culture.



- These talented women gained fame as artists, writers and even warriors.

The Role of Women

- **Primary Source:** *The Tale of Heike*
- In *The Tale of Heike*, one female Samurai named **Tomoe** is described this way:

"Tomoe was indescribably beautiful; the fairness of her face and the richness of her hair were startling to behold. Even so, she was a fearless rider and a woman skilled with the bow. Once her sword was drawn, even the gods...feared to fight against her. Indeed, she was a match for a thousand."

- *Heike Monogatori,*
The Tale of Heike



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The Role of Women

- **Questions:**
- **1)** What was a typical Japanese family made up of during the Middle Ages?
- **2)** What is a pre-arranged marriage and how were they used in Japan during the Middle Ages?
- **3)** What did the wives of merchants and artisans do during the Middle Ages in Japan?

The Role of Women

- **Questions:**
- **1)** What was a typical Japanese family made up of during the Middle Ages?
 - **Grandparents, parents and children all in the same household**
- **2)** What is a pre-arranged marriage and how were they used in Japan during the Middle Ages?
 - **Arrangements of children from wealthy families to be married, to increase wealth**
- **3)** What did the wives of merchants and artisans do during the Middle Ages in Japan?
 - **Helped run their families businesses**

The Role of Women

- **Lecture Check:**
- Answer the following question in a well crafted, organized two paragraph response.
- **How does the role of women during Middle Ages Japan compare to the role of women found in todays society?**

History Mystery Time Part I: **Kendo "Sword Way"**



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History Mystery Time Part I: **Kendo** "Sword Way"

- With fierce yells and the clashing of bamboo swords, two swordsmen attack, their movements just a blur to the eye...this is the traditional Japanese martial art of **Kendo**.
- The aim of Kendo is not merely to defeat your opponent, it's also a way to train your mind.



History Mystery Time Part I: **Kendo** “**Sword Way**”

- Kendo, the “**Way Of The Sword**” is the traditional Japanese style of fencing that today is a modern martial art practiced throughout the world.



- The roots of Kendo can be traced to early Samurai warriors studying **Bushido** “**The Way of the Warrior**”...knowledge of the past is a determining factor to really understand the meaning of Kendo.

History Mystery Time Part I: **Kendo "Sword Way"**

- By striving to achieve a unity of body and mind, Kendo is both a sport and an art.



- Like breathing that is independent of our will, the goal in Kendo is to achieve a state where you can respond, in battle with the best of tactics unconsciously.

History Mystery Time Part I: **Kendo** "Sword Way"



- Kendo uses bamboo swords "**Shinai**" and protective armor "**Bogu**"

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History Mystery Time Part I: **Kendo** "Sword Way"

- Kendo (along with other martial arts) was banned in Japan in 1946, following the end of WWII.



- Kendo went underground until 1952, when it returned after Japan's independence was restored and the ban on martial arts in Japan was lifted.

History Mystery Time Part I: **Kendo** "Sword Way"



- Today Kendo is not practiced as a martial art but as an educational sport.

History Mystery Time Part I: **Kendo "Sword Way"**

- **History Mystery Check:**

- Lets discuss as a class... Have any of you practiced martial arts? If so what kind and how has it changed your life?

History Mystery Time Part II: **Photos of Old Japan**



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History Mystery Time Part II: **Photos of Old Japan**

- Old Photos of Japan is a project that has collected photos of Japan from between the 1860's and 1930s.



- In 1854, Japan opened its doors to the outside world for the first time in more than 1,000 years and in doing so Japan, set in motion a truly astounding transformation.

History Mystery Time Part II: **Photos of Old Japan**

- As fate would have it, photography had just been invented.



- As the old country vanished and a new one was born, daring photographers took photos and it is through these photos that we can discover what life was like in Feudal Japan.

History Mystery Time Part II: **Photos of Old Japan**



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