

Chapter 6: Medieval Japan

Important People

Yamato

- Clan claimed to be direct descendants of Sun God
- Gained power over Japan about 300 CE
- Concept of the imperial sun line is still respected in Japan today

Fujiwara

- Important family during Heian period (794-1192 CE)
- Second to Sun Line
- They used the emperors as puppet rulers

Yoritomo

- Member of Minamoto clan
- Victorious in civil war as imperial government broke down
- He adopted title of “Shogun”
- Real power during feudal period is with shoguns but publicly supported the emperor

Ashikaga

- Feudal lord who brought the bakufu to Kyoto in order to control the emperor
- Power of daimyo (feudal lords) grew and he was unable to control them

Oda Nobunaga

- Began to reunify Japan after 100 yrs of strife
- Originally from a poor family but became a general due to his bravery and leadership
- Didn't want to be a shogun but had great power behind the scenes
- Gradually took control of the empire by destroying the power of daimyos and private armies of Buddhist temples

Hideyoshi

- One of Nobunaga's generals who took over after he was killed and continued Nobunaga's work
- Also a commoner who became a general
- Defeated Korea and unsuccessful invasion of China

Tokugawa Ieyasu

- Another of Nobunaga's generals
- Seized power after Hideyoshi dies
- Took title of shogun and prevented anyone from contacting the emperor without permission from his bakufu

Lady Murasaki

- Pen-name of a Japanese aristocrat, daughter of a court official during Heian period
- Wrote *Tale of Genji* – world's first novel written in 1015 CE

