

Formation of the Tokugawa Shogunate (1603-1868)

Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An archipelago with 4 main islands • Lacks natural resources (had silver and copper at the time) • 80% mountainous; many people live along coasts • Ring of Fire leaves Japan vulnerable to earthquakes and tsunamis; development of Shinto in Early period • Its geographic location has caused isolation and a homogeneous culture and prior to this time period have borrowed ideas from China through the Korean cultural bridge; still interacted with Chinese and Dutch at Deshima one time per year
Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japan has been feudal/decentralized since the 1100s • 1500s Japan was so entrenched in recurring civil war; it took THREE successive military commanders to restore unity and internal peace • Nobunaga was 1st leader; got rid of the last of the Ashikaga shoguns who had ruled in name only; he helped to unify part of the Japanese island of Honshu; took in gunpowder and Christianity he was killed • Hideyoshi was the 2nd leader; punished those who betrayed Nobunaga, using his military prowess and diplomacy, he made alliances with the last remaining daimyos and became military master of Japan by 1590; he would go on to attack Korea but died in the process • Tokugawa Ieyasu the 3rd leader was a vassal of Hideyoshi and gained control; he chose not to continue campaign of overseas expansion and concentrated on consolidating his power at home. In 1603 he was granted the title of Shogun by the emperor and thus began the rule of the Tokugawa family...banned gunpowder and Christianity. This will last until 1868. • The capital was centered at Edo, now known as Tokyo • The Tokugawa Shogunate had put an end to the civil wars that had raged in Japan since the 1100s and brought a semblance of political unity ~ centralized feudalism (still feudal because of class structure) • To control the daimyos, the Tokugawa used the hostage system ~ forcing them to live in Edo every other year; a daimyos wife and children had to remain in Edo full time while the daimyo would go and serve in the off years, this allowed a check on their power; rarely would a daimyo ever serve in their home territory • By 1616, Japan became isolated by limiting foreign traders to a handful of cities • By 1630, all Japanese ships were forbidden to trade or even sail overseas and different European countries were either officially excluded like the Spanish or no longer worth the risk like the British • By 1640s only a limited number of Dutch and Chinese ships were allowed to carry out commerce on the small island of Deshima in Nagasaki Bay; isolation lasted 200yrs till 1853
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once peace was established, agriculture improved and expanded; new seeds, tools and fertilizer produced greater output • Food surpluses increased population and towns grew as well as cities like Edo • Merchants and artisans flocked to supply the needs of the daimyos and their families • Internal trade flourished • Merchants like in China gained a lot of wealth but had low social status • The Japanese had very little natural resources with exception of silver and copper (this will become problematic in the future) • By 1638, western merchants were barred and one to two Dutch ships were allowed in Deshima on a yearly basis • By the 1650s, export of silver and copper was greatly restricted • The type economic boom was similar to China when they had their commercial revolution: new or better way to grow food → increase in population → need to create more goods to satisfy population → growth of cities → productive economy
Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 1543, missionaries had been visiting the islands in increasing numbers • Francis Xavier arrived at the islands and tried to convert the Japanese to Roman Catholicism; at first, Nobunaga took the missionaries under his wing because the Buddhist monks were resisting Nobunaga's rise to power • The Jesuits trying the same top down conversion like they tried in India and China converted some daimyos and samurai; this all ended when Nobunaga died • Hideyoshi was less favorable to the missionaries but not openly hostile; when Hideyoshi learned that converts began to refuse to follow orders because the orders were in direct conflict with the newly adopted faith; he then began to fear Europeans might try to conquer Japan • Hideyoshi ordered missionaries to leave the islands and by 1590s began to openly attack Christian missionaries and converts. Ieyasu continued the persecution and officially banned Christianity in 1614; anyone found to be practicing faith was hunted down killed or expelled; converts were forced to renounce their faith, those who refused were imprisoned, tortured and executed • ZEN BUDDHISM – accepted by samurai; spread from China back in the 600s; it emphasized meditation and devotion to duty • shaped Japanese life in many ways by having upper class men take part in landscape gardening, tea ceremony and flower arranging; enlightenment was reached not only through meditation but through the precise performance of everyday tasks • Shinto continued to be practiced

Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New laws fixed the old social order rigidly in place – that is why Japan was still considered feudal at this time although centralized • Only samurai and upper nobility were allowed to serve in the military and hold gov't jobs and continued to follow Bushido • Peasants had to remain on the land and lower classes were forbidden to wear luxuries like silk; women faced greater restriction under the Tokugawa; the man had the right to divorce his wife if she was too idle
Intellectual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School of National Learning – new ideology that placed great emphasis on Japan's unique historical experience and the revival of the indigenous culture; perhaps done in an attempt to prevent any foreign influence from challenging tradition • The Japanese were able to learn a lot from the West through the small Dutch community at Deshima; their interest differed from the scholar-gentry of China (not necessarily underestimating them like the Chinese did) and they viewed the West as "hairy barbarians" • Unlike the Chinese, the Japanese were more aware of what the Europeans were capable of and this will affect both China and Japan deeply in the 1800s and beyond
Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edo and Osaka became home to arts and theater • No plays embraced Zen Buddhism and Kabuki(which was influenced by No plays) included comedy and melodrama in portraying family and historical events; women were originally in Kabuki theater but banned and males played women • Poetry was often done in Haiku • Literature became important as well • Used landscape paintings influenced by the Chinese
Decline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1853 Commodore Matthew Perry comes into Tokyo bay demanding Japan opens its ports • 1868 Shogun gets overthrown leading to Meiji Restoration
Global interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-imposed isolation under the Tokugawa where only trade was conducted at Deshima with Dutch and Chinese 1x per year • Viewed Europeans as barbarians • Laws prohibited foreign trade and interaction with severe penalties imposed if broken