

Ke Peng | Student's Presentations for
Languages & Cultures of East Asia

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Samurai

by Joshua McInnes
University of Arizona



History

- Japanese Clans
 - Minamoto
 - Fujiwara
 - Taira



History

- Daimyo
 - Feudal Landowners
 - 9th – 12th Century
 - Peasants were part-time warriors
 - Created Samurai Class to Protect and Expand Territories



History

- Hideyoshi

- 1587 – Prohibited Christianity; expelled westerners
- 1588 – Allegiance of Daimyo
- The great “sword hunt”
- Samurai the only ones allowed to have swords
- Died in 1597, trying to invade Korea



History

- Tokugawa Period

- A General of Hideyoshi named Tokugawa Ieyasu had strongest army

- 1603 – Appointed Shogun, and ruled from Edo (Tokyo)

- 1615 – Warring States (Sengoku) period ends when the last of Tokugawa's competitor's is defeated



History

- Tokugawa Period
 - Ruled about 250 Daimyo
 - Forbid any warfare between Daimyo
 - No more peasant warriors
 - Samurai lost work, and many went bankrupt or dependent on money lenders



History

- Tokugawa Period
 - Some Samurai began to study literature, philosophy and the tea ceremony
 - 1623 – Tokugawa Lemitsu banned non-Japanese books
 - 1633 – Traveling abroad banned
 - Japan isolated



History

- Tokugawa Period
 - 1800s – Isolation lifted to allow non-religious texts and goods to be traded in Japan
 - Western technology introduced
 - 1863 – Civil war
 - Two lords obtained saltpeter (for gunpowder) and, with 19 samurai, overthrew the shogunate



History

- Meiji Era

- 1868 – Meiji declared end of shogunate rule
- Meiji, only 15, had no land or military power, but was a figurehead
- 1869 – war ends; Meiji took over Edo, and renamed it Tokyo
- Full cultural contact between the west and Japan opened



History

- Meiji Era

- 1871 – Daimyo gave their control to the “authority of the emperor”
- Daimyo made governors
- Emperor a “living god”
- Samurai lost power, no longer allowed to carry swords or attack disrespectful commoners



History

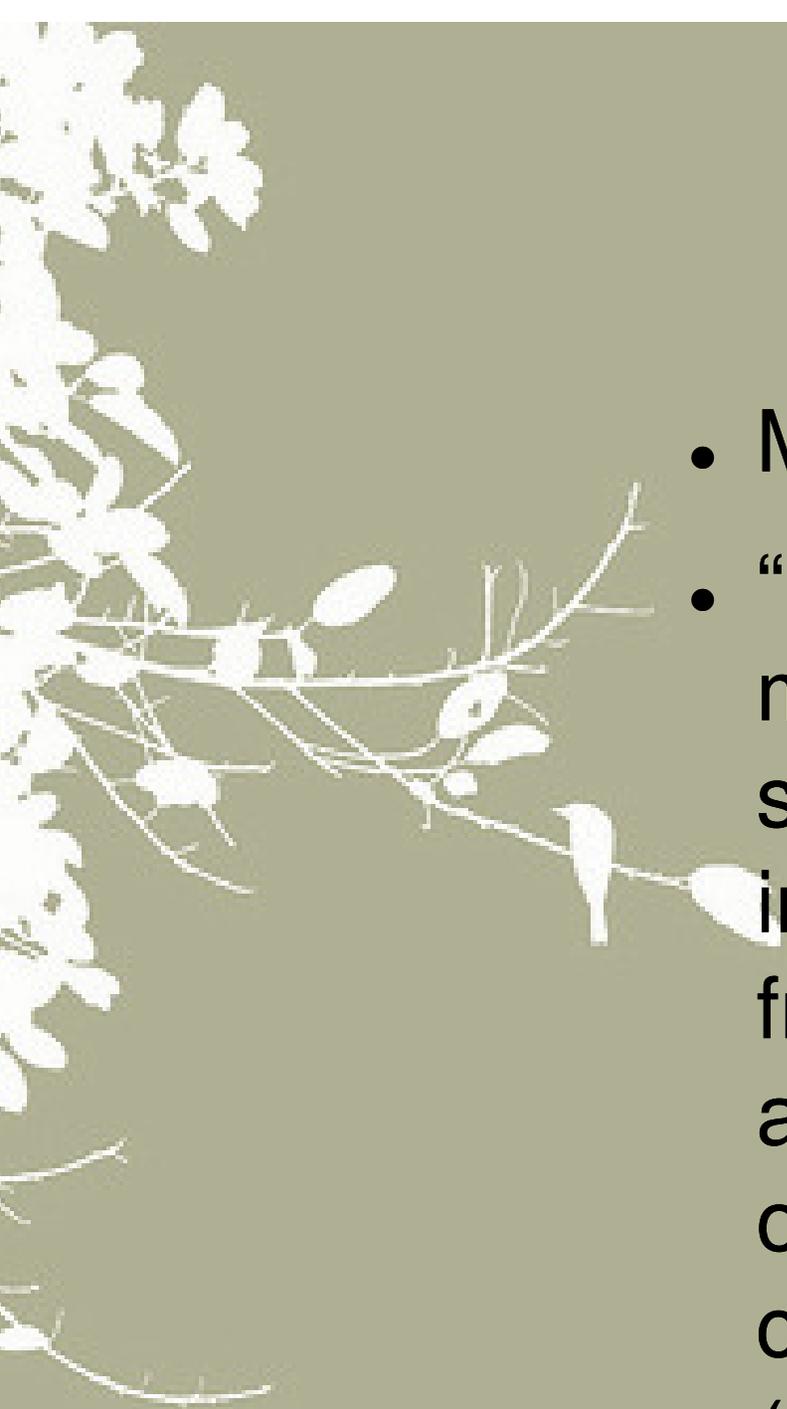
- Meiji Era

- Samurai were paid a pension, but lower ranks were paid the wage of a common soldier
- Samurai Revolts; largest in 1877 in Southern Kyushu



Bushidō

- Moral code of conduct
- “...Bushidō, then, is the code of moral principles which the samurai were required or instructed to observe... More frequently it is a code unuttered and unwritten... It was an organic growth of decades and centuries of military career.”
(Nitobe Inazo, Bushidō: The Soul of Japan)



Bushidō

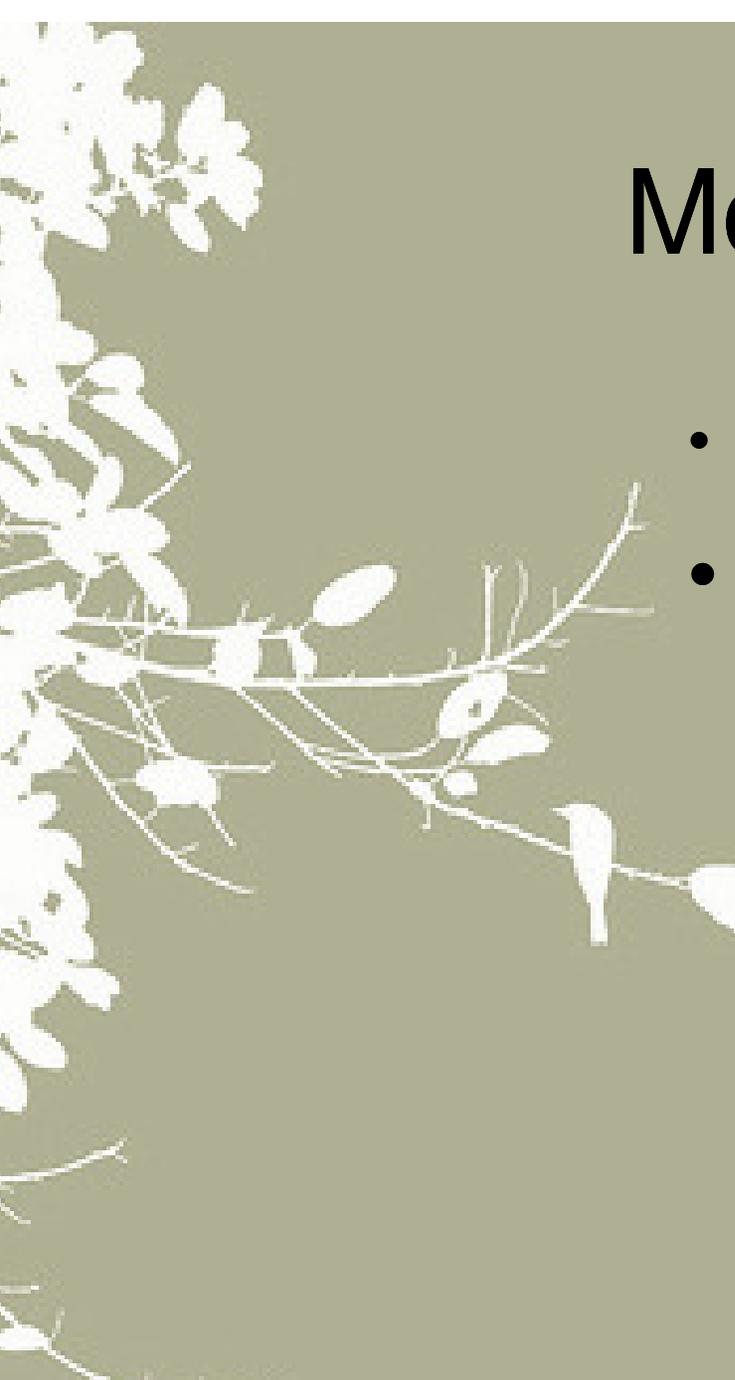
- Seven Virtues
 - Rectitude (gi)
 - Courage (yuu)
 - Benevolence (jin)
 - Respect (rei)
 - Honesty (Makoto or Shin)
 - Honor (yo)
 - Loyalty (chuu)



Bushidō

- Freedom from fear of death
- Virtues that were sometimes added
 - Filial piety (kō) – respect for parents and ancestors
 - Wisdom (chi)
 - Care for the aged (tei)



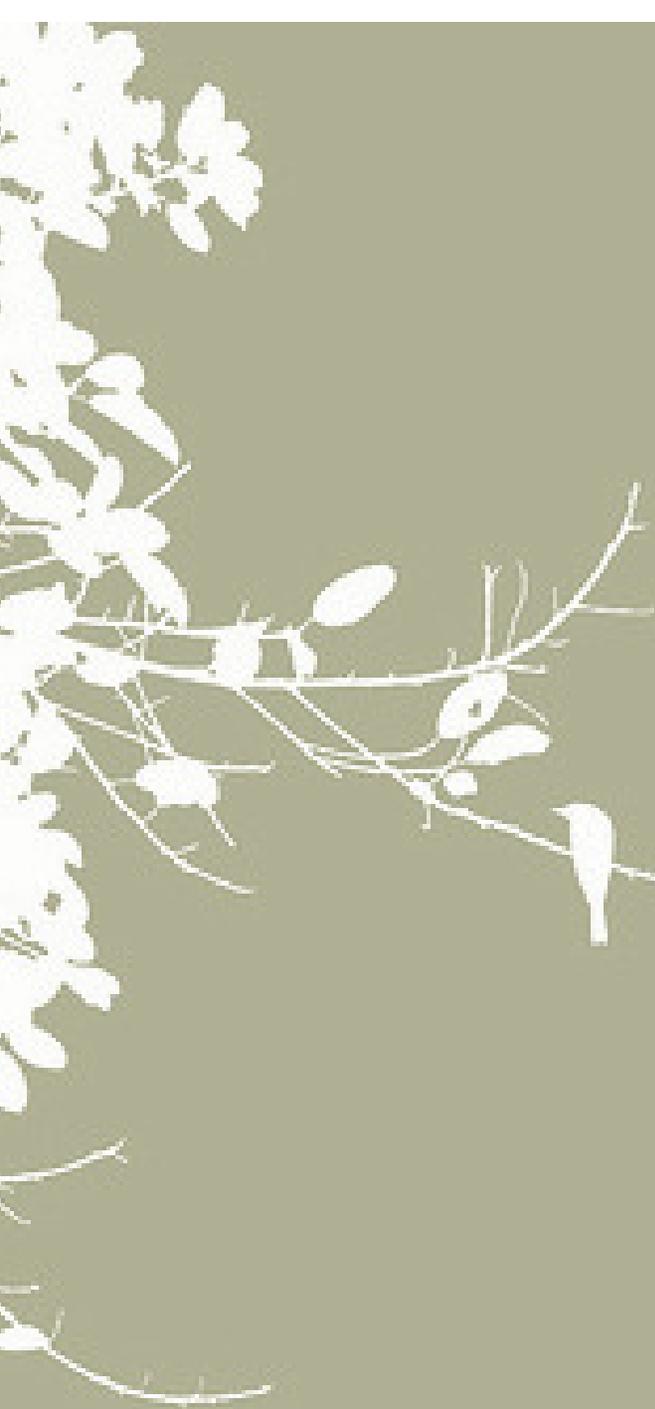


Modern Bushido

- Adaption of Bushidō to modern times
- “The warrior protects and defends because he realizes the value of others. He knows that they are essential to society and, in his gift of service, recognizes and values theirs... take the extra moment in dark parking lots at night to make sure that a woman gets into her car safely before leaving yourself. Daily involvement in acts such as these are as much a part of training as time spent in the dojo, and indeed should be the reason for that time spent training... When faced with a woman or child in a situation in which they are vulnerable, there are two types of men: those who would offer succor and aid, and those who would prey upon them.” **(James Williams, Virtue of the Sword)**

Bushidō

- Some claim that Bushidō no longer exists because of “cold and heartless guns and weapons”
- Others say that as long as anyone stands up for the weak, Bushidō remains



Weapons

- Sword
 - Katana (12 to 24 inches)
 - Wakizashi (24+ inches)



Weapons

- Bow and Arrow



Weapons

- Yari (Spear)



Weapons

- Sword of the Samurai was considered his soul
- Often Samurai gave their swords names

