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Welcome !

Samurai to Salaryman

Contemporary Japan and Its Edo Roots
IDS 360/460

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What Is Bushido - The Way of the Samurai?

- Major characteristics:
 - Martial spirit and skill with weapons
 - Absolute loyalty to one's lord
 - Personal honor
 - Devotion to duty
 - Courage to sacrifice one's life for the lord

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Bushido - The Way of the Samurai


- History of the Bushi or Samurai
 - Grew out of soldiers who protected nobles' estates in Heian times (794 - 1188)
 - The emperor lost power in 1188 and samurai took over the government
 - Samurai gave loyalty and service in battle to their lord (daimyo)
 - The lord in turn gave the samurai land and income
 - Samurai fought in the near-constant wars from 1188 to 1603 in shifting coalitions of daimyo

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2

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Samurai Warriors



Heiji Monogatari, *Burning of Sanjo Palace* (Detail)
13th century hand scroll, ink and color on paper
Mason fig. 213

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3

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Shogun - Highest Samurai



Portrait of Ashikaga Takauji
1st Ashikaga Shogun, 1338

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4

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Bushido - The Way of the Samurai

- Influence of Zen Buddhism
 - Physical discipline
 - Self-control
 - Meditation
 - Face life with a calm mind
 - State of "no-mind" unites body with spirit

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5

Samurai - Warrior Legacy

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Warrior Mongaku
From Tale of Heike
19th Century Print
Source: Cornell University



6

Bushido & Zen Buddhism

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- Samurai studied the arts as a means of developing self-control and concentration.
- That "Do" spirit is a central part of calligraphy, ink painting, the tea ceremony, and flower arranging.
- Samurai studied the arts often as intensely as they did martial arts, even through the civil wars of the 1500s.

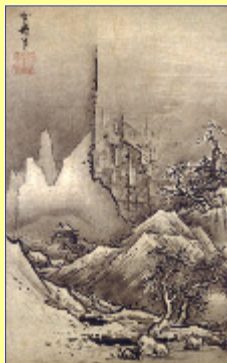


7

Bushido & Zen Buddhism

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Winter Landscape
By Sesshu Toyo c. 1470
Ink on paper, H: 18 inches
Mason fig. 260



8

Samurai History

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- 1603 Tokugawa Ieyasu united the country, bringing 250 years of peace to Japan.
 - political control of all of Japan under the shoguns, daimyo and samurai
 - spiritual leadership under the emperors
 - hierarchical class system based on Confucianism
 - Military - shogun and samurai
 - Farmers
 - Artisans
 - Merchants
 - Japan closed to the rest of the world



9

Samurai History

End

- Edo Period - from warrior to administrator
 - Samurai became highly educated scholars and efficient officials
 - Samurai were the backbone of the regional (*han*) governments.
 - Ironic - they had a less war-like lifestyle, but they identified themselves more intensely as warriors
 - Samurai commissioned armor, practiced martial arts and attended kabuki plays glorifying historic warrior heroes.



10

Edo Bushido - The Way of the Samurai

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Night Attack (The Forty-seven Ronin)
By Ando Hiroshige, 1843 - 1847
Minneapolis Institute of Art



11

Samurai History

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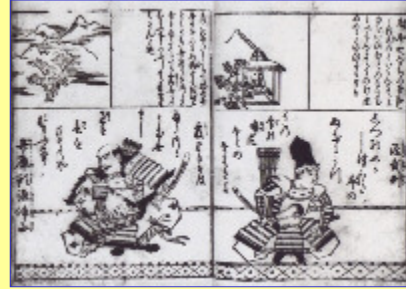
- During the Tokugawa Period, Neo-Confucianism legitimized feudal structure and bushido.
- Every daimyo set up schools for his samurai, stressing Neo-Confucian values:
 - Proper human relationships, hierarchy
 - Strict ethical code, loyalty
 - Center on family and state, *ie* system
 - Governed by men of education and superior ethical wisdom, discipline and self-control
 - Justice and integrity



12

Samurai - Warrior Legacy

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One Hundred Poems by One Hundred Samurai
By Ishikawa Moronobu, 1672, H: 10 inches
Scan: Primitive Ukiyoe



13

Samurai Legacy

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- Edo Period samurai daily life
 - Samurai had the money and time for leisure activities that followed bushido values
 - Poetry, painting, tea ceremony and calligraphy societies included samurai and chonin
 - Education was important. Bookstores were common in all sections of town: non-fiction, travel guides, how-to books, novels and collections. Fads spread quickly
 - Theater flourished - Kabuki, Noh and bunraku - theater fan clubs supported favorite actors.



14

Edo Urban Life

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Izumiya Bookstore, Tokyo,
Unidentified Artist, Edo-Tokyo Museum Guide



Tsutaya Bookstore, Tokyo,
Unidentified Artist, Edo-Tokyo Museum Guide



15

Samurai History

End

- The Meiji Restoration in 1868 reversed politics and the economy.
 - The emperor regained political power as the ruler of Japan while also retaining his spiritual leadership
 - The shogun, daimyo and samurai lost all their political power and most of their economic power
 - The class structure was abolished.
 - Japan adopted Western technology & culture



16

Meiji Emperor

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*Emperor Meiji, 122nd
Emperor of Japan*
Uchida Kuichi, 1872



Emperor Meiji,
Uchida Kuichi, 1873



17

Samurai History

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- The Meiji reformers were middle and lower level samurai from the "outer" domains.
- They traveled to Europe and America to study government, banking, education, business and industry.
- They adopted the best of the era:
 - Modern banking procedures
 - Transportation, postal and educational systems
 - Industrial organization
 - Parliamentary government



18

Meiji Samurai Advisors

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Okuda Toshimichi,
1830-78,
Finance Minister
(Satsuma Samurai)



Tomomi Iwakura,
1825-83,
Ambassador to the USA
(Kyoto Nobleman)



Kido Takayoshi,
1833-77,
Chairman, Assembly of
Prefectural Governors
(Choshu Samurai)



19

Meiji Iwakura Mission

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Iwakura Mission to Europe and America, 1872, London
Two year mission, 48 diplomats and administrators, 60 students
Wikimedia Images



20

Samurai History

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- There were 1,900,000 samurai in 1868. They were well educated, well disciplined and knew how to work in a bureaucracy.
- The samurai became the backbone of the new government as well as the new entrepreneurs.
- The peasants were confirmed as the owners of their land, avoiding the destructive land controversies that happen in most new nations.
- After twenty years, Japan was well on its way to becoming a world power.



21

Samurai Legacy - The Meiji Military

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The Heroic Commander Hirose-Gunshin
By Koto, 1904, Woodblock print
Freer and Sackler Galleries



22

Samurai Legacy

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The Great Benkei Standing In His Ship (right, detail), 1886
By Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
Woodblock Print
Freer and Sackler Galleries



23

Samurai Legacy

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- The Bushido spirit was perverted between the 1880s and 1945:
 - Wars of colonization: Russia, China and Korea
 - World War II
 - Overzealous loyalty led to massacres and kamikaze pilots
- It was all in the name of loyalty to the emperor, to prove courage, loyalty and honor.



24

Samurai Legacy

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- The reconstruction of the Japanese economy after World War II was built on samurai values:
 - A fighting spirit in the face of shortages
 - Self-discipline and hard work
 - Loyalty to the company and the country
 - Devotion to duty and self-sacrifice
 - A sense of honor to exemplify the best values of the Japanese people
- By the 1980s Japan became the 2nd largest economy in the world.



25

Salarymen & The Japanese Workforce

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Image: risingsunofnihon.com



Image: emsnews.wordpress.com



Image: english-ch.com



26

Modern Bushido - Salaryman

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- The Positives:
 - Fighting spirit for the company
 - Respect for authority and hierarchy
 - Follow the company way
 - Loyalty to the company and its actions
- The Negatives:
 - Overwork and stress
 - Stifle innovation
 - Rigidity
 - Blindness to illegal practices



27

Samurai Legacy

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Takeshi Obata

Death Note, Volume 1
Story by Tsugumi Ohba
Art by Takeshi Obata



28

Bushido Legacy

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Still from Anime: *Spirited Away*, 2001
Director: Hayao Miyazaki, born 1941
Web: animewallpapers.com



29

Samurai Legacy 3-11-11

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30