

Samuel Bradshaw

Mr. Mills, Period 2

Identifications (who, what, when, where, significance)

April 25, 2005

1) Hideyoshi –

Toyoyomi Hideyoshi killed the assassins of the daimyo Nobunaga. He then won control of the Kyoto shogunate. In 1588 he ordered all peasants to surrender their swords. He also set up strict class divisions. Hideyoshi started as a common foot soldier himself, but he didn't intend for others to follow his path. His armies were defeated in Korea in 1597. He later died of natural causes.

2) Cheng Ho –

Cheng Ho was an admiral in China's Grand Fleet during the reign of Yung-lo. He pursued political, commercial, and scientific objectives. Cheng Ho surveyed new trade routes, collected rare animals, and looked for new foods. He was the emperor's personal ambassador. When he died, China's naval power collapsed. Officials burned Cheng Ho's records.

3) Shogun –

A shogun was a "supreme general of the emperor's army." He was a military dictator in Japan. The officials, judges, taxes, armies, and roads were under his authority. The shogun had more power than the emperor. They helped develop Japan's feudal system. The shoguns lost the money in their treasury fighting off Kublai Khan and his armies. Samurai were resentful when the government didn't pay them. The shoguns lost power.

4) Zen Buddhism –

The word "Zen" is Japanese for "meditation". Zen Buddhism stressed meditation and strict discipline of mind and body. This led to spiritual enlightenment and wisdom.

5) Bushido –

Bushido was "the way of the warrior." The samurai lived according to this code. He had to prove his absolute courage in battle and loyalty to his lord. Dying honorably was more important than living a long time.

6) Genghis Khan –

Genghis Khan, or Temujin, defeated his rivals one by one. His father was killed when he was 13. He became the ruler of all the steppe people. His title, Genghis Khan, means "ruler of all between the oceans." He conquered most of Asia. Genghis was a great organizer, shrewd and warlike, and cruel. He died in 1227.

7) Gentry –

The Chinese gentry ranked below nobles but above the common people. They were scholar-officials who took an examination on Confucius' teachings. A member of the gentry class could serve as a teacher or administrator. He didn't have to pay taxes or serve in the army. Scholars grew their fingernails long and gained land and money. Power in the government at this time was chosen according to intelligence.

8) Marco Polo –

Marco Polo came from Italy to China. The khan made Marco a government official. He stayed in this position for 17 years. He traveled across the Yellow and Yangtze rivers and came back with detailed journals of his discoveries. In 1292 he left China. Marco told of his travels and adventures while in prison, and a fellow prisoner made it into a book (though few Europeans believed the stories).

9) Shintoism –

Shinto was "the way of the gods." It was mainly the worship of nature. The sun goddess was the chief deity, but hundreds of other gods and spirits were thought to dwell in nature. Any unusual natural formation was considered the home of a *kami*, or nature god.

10) Prince Shotoku –

Prince Shotoku was the most influential convert to Buddhism. He sent scholars to spy on China to learn more about Chinese ways. The Japanese adopted Chinese writing, painting, architecture, and many other everyday arts.