

# Korea, Japan, and Vietnam

## c. 1200-1450 CE



**Korea**

**c. 1200-1450 CE**

- mountainous peninsula
- mountain barriers provided some protection from China and nomadic peoples (Tangut, Jurchens)
- temperate climate with hot, wet summers and dry, cold winters
- mild seas good for navigation and fishing

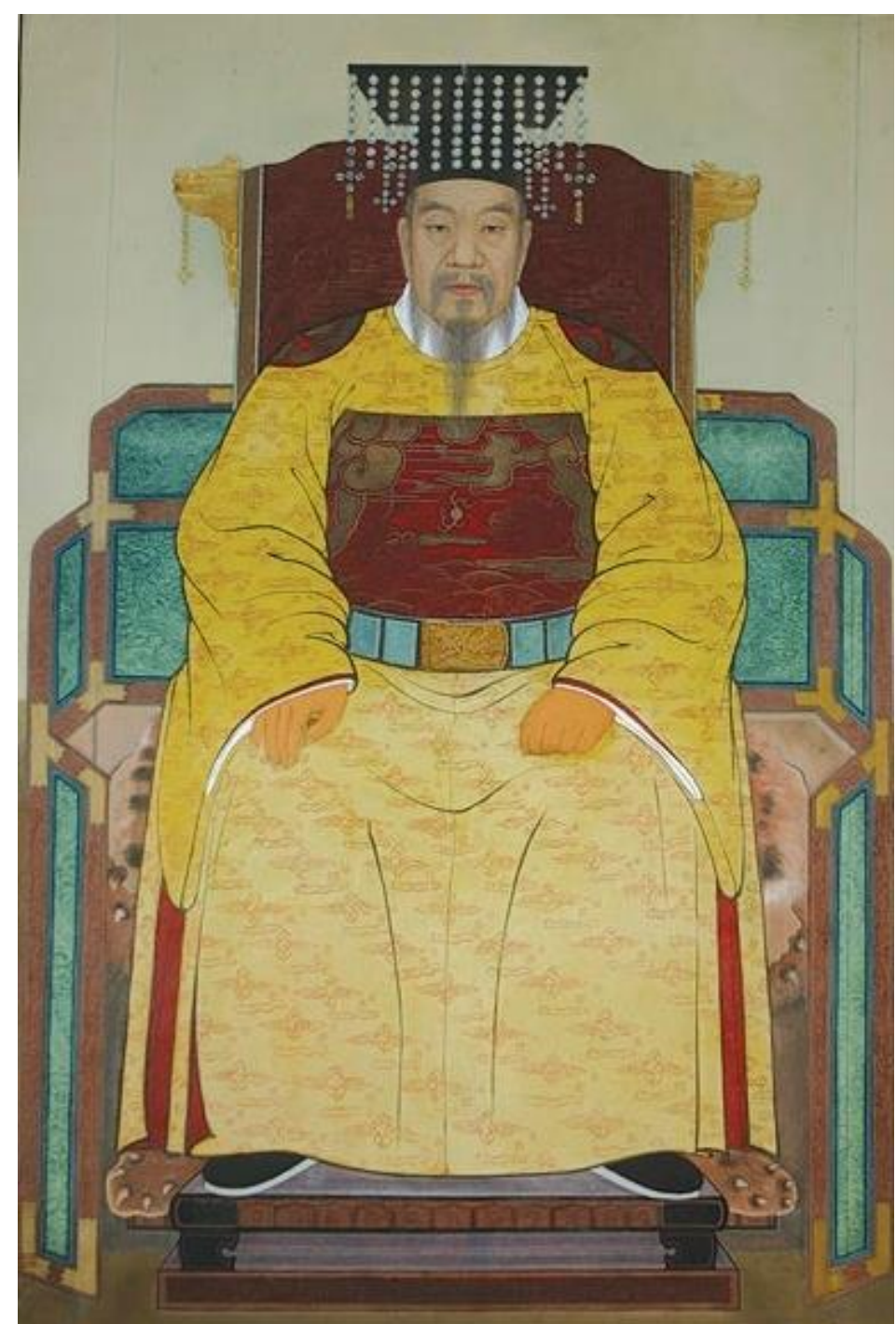


## Geography





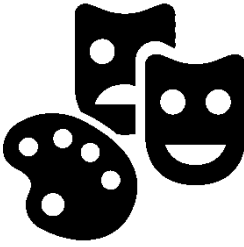
- 57 BCE-935 CE: **Silla kingdom** was a Chinese tributary
- 935-1392 CE: Wong Kon established the **Goryeo dynasty**



Politics







- adopted Chinese writing and culture
- ***History of the Three Kingdoms*** [of Korea] (1185) by Kim Pu-sik written in Classical Chinese
- capital of **Kumsong** (1 m. pop.) modelled after Chinese capital of Chang'an
- Confucianism – elites; Buddhism – peasants



Korean ambassadors to Tang China (706 CE)

Throne Hall at Gyeongbokgung,  
royal palace of the Joseon dynasty





- major slave-labor society
- slaves worked government-owned mines, porcelain factories, and other industries





- turtle ship
- *hwacha* rocket-powered arrow launcher

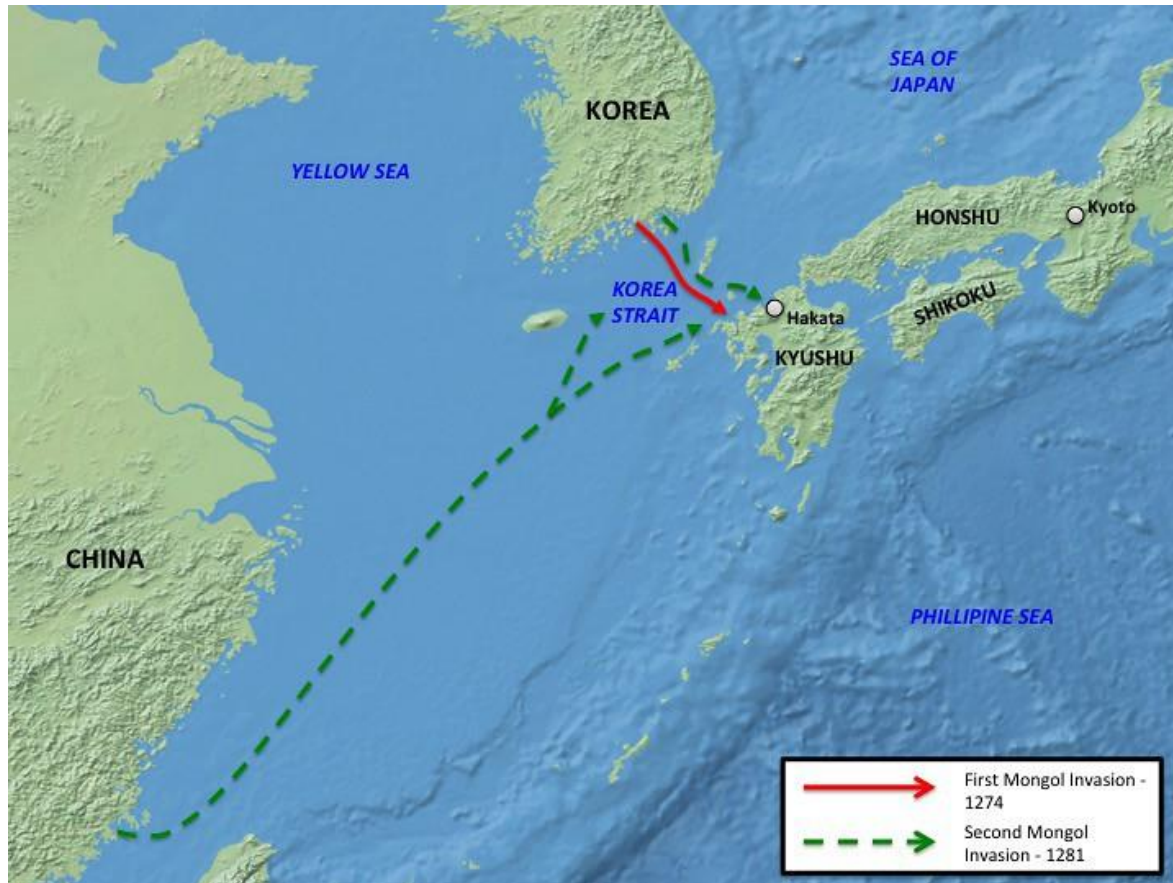


**Technology**





- 1270-1356 CE: vassal state of Mongol Yuan dynasty
- 1274: 900 Korean ships with 13,000-15,000 Koreans and 15,000 Mongols, Chinese, and Jurchens sent in unsuccessful invasion of Japan
- 1281: 900 Korean ships and 600 Chinese with 40,000 Koreans and 100,000 Chinese sent in second unsuccessful invasion
- Korea lost control of nearby seas



Politics



- 1392: General Yi Song-gye allied with Ming China and overthrew the Goryeo dynasty and established the **Choson dynasty** (1392-1910 CE)



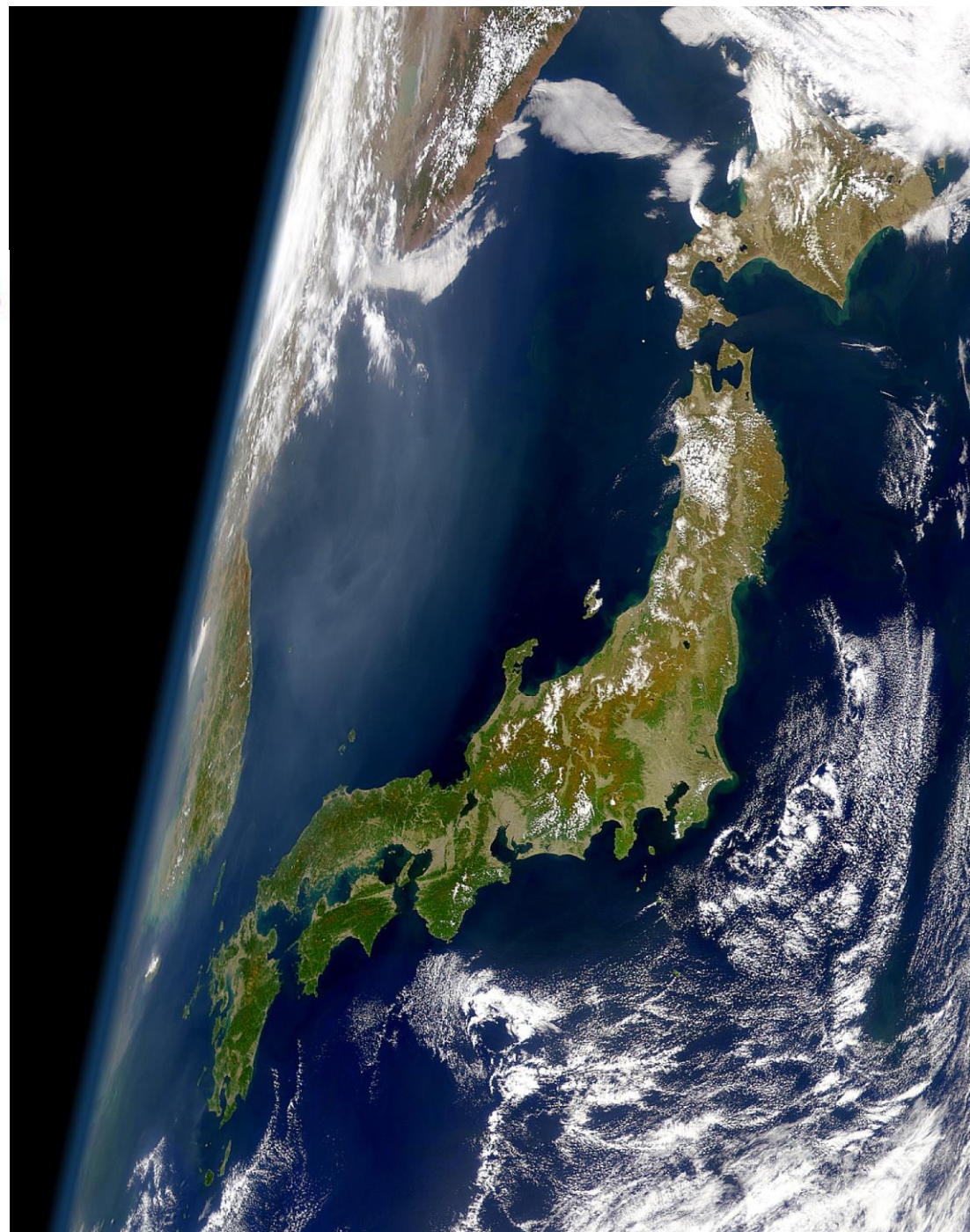
Politics



**Japan, c. 1200-1450 CE**



- Japanese archipelago of 6,852 islands
  - Hokkaido
  - **Honshu**
  - Shikoku
  - Kyushu

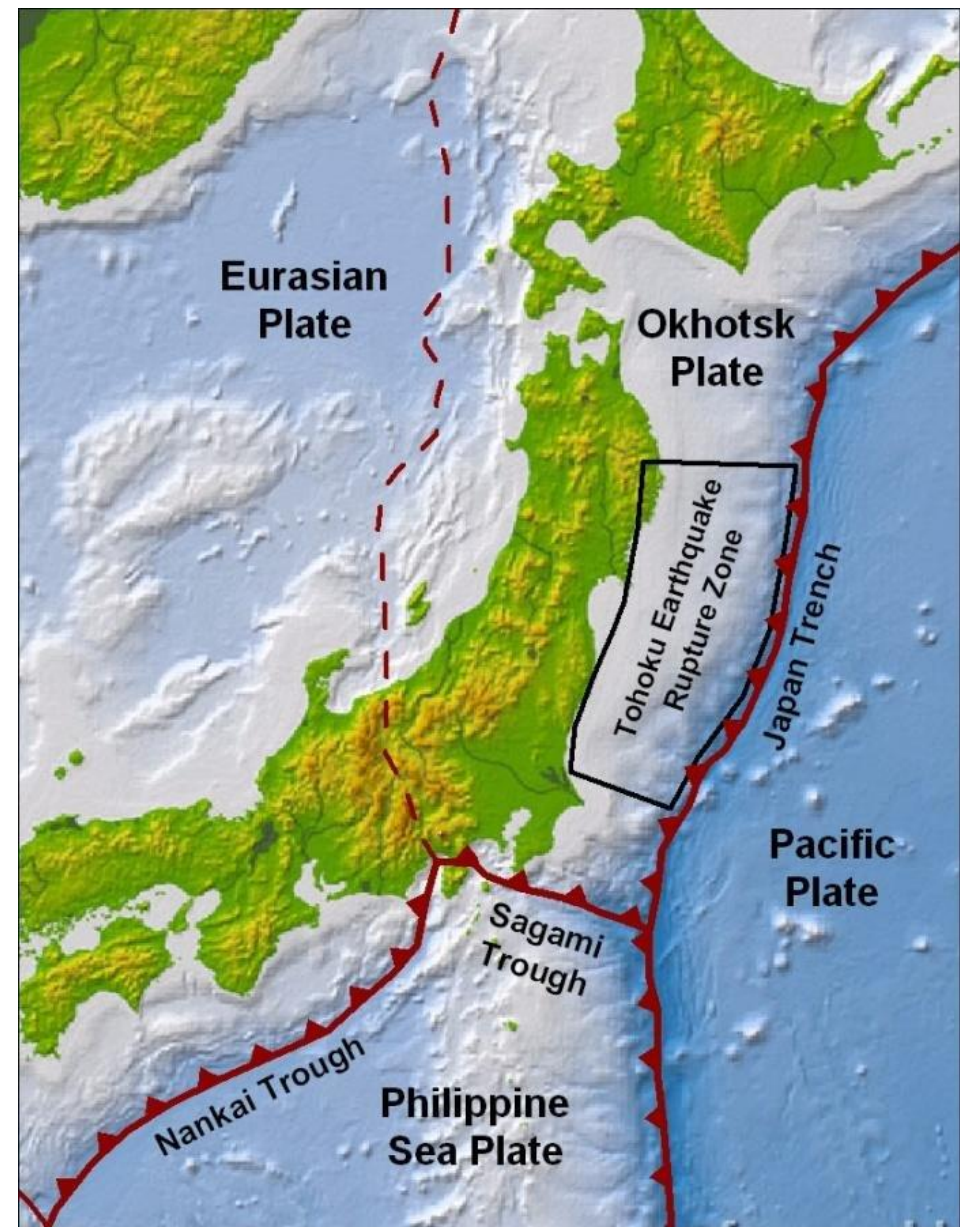


## Geography





- Pacific Ring of Fire
- mountainous and heavily forested
- typhoons
- earthquakes
- tsunamis



## Geography

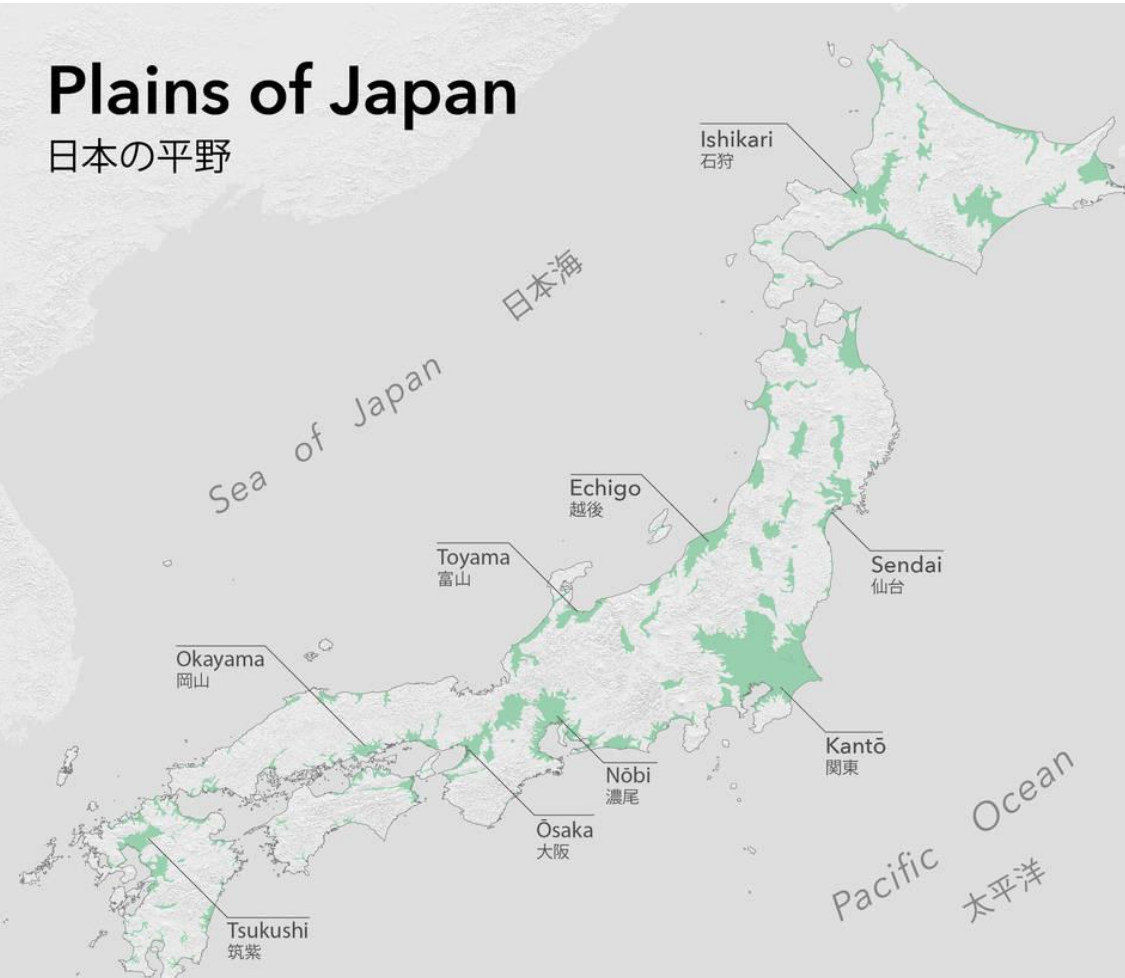




- humid, temperate climate
- ~ 12% of land suitable for farming
- population concentrated in plains
- **Kanto Plain**
- 1333 CE: 8.2 m. population

## Plains of Japan

日本の平野



## Geography

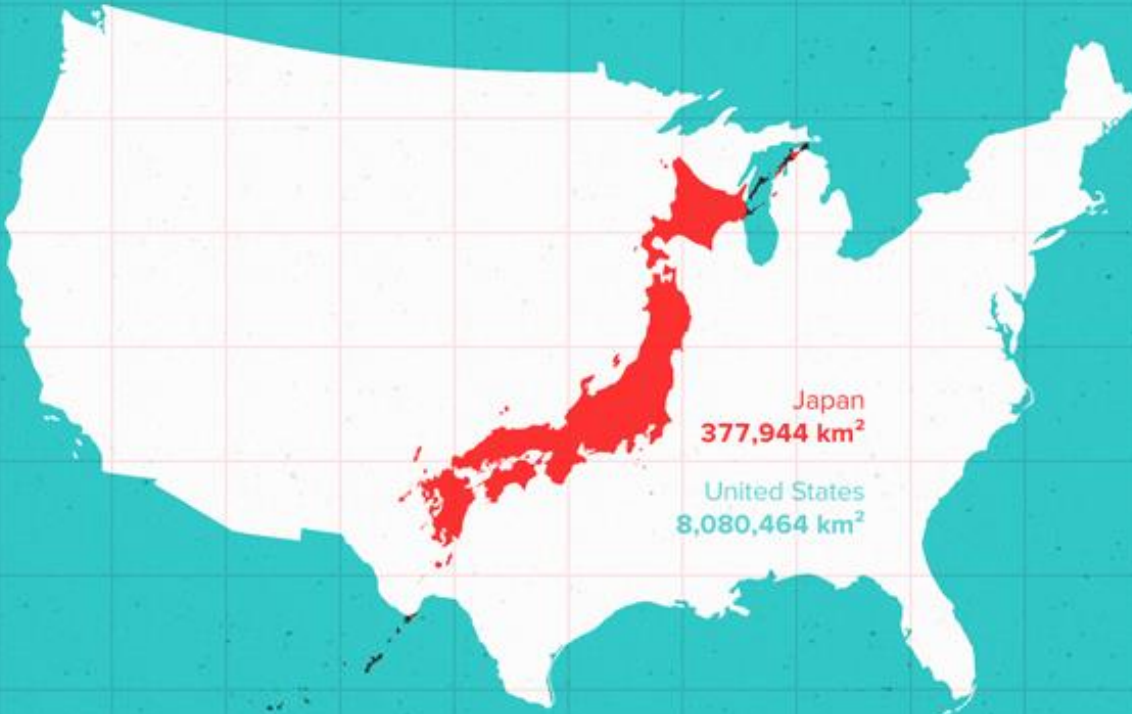


Mount Fuji

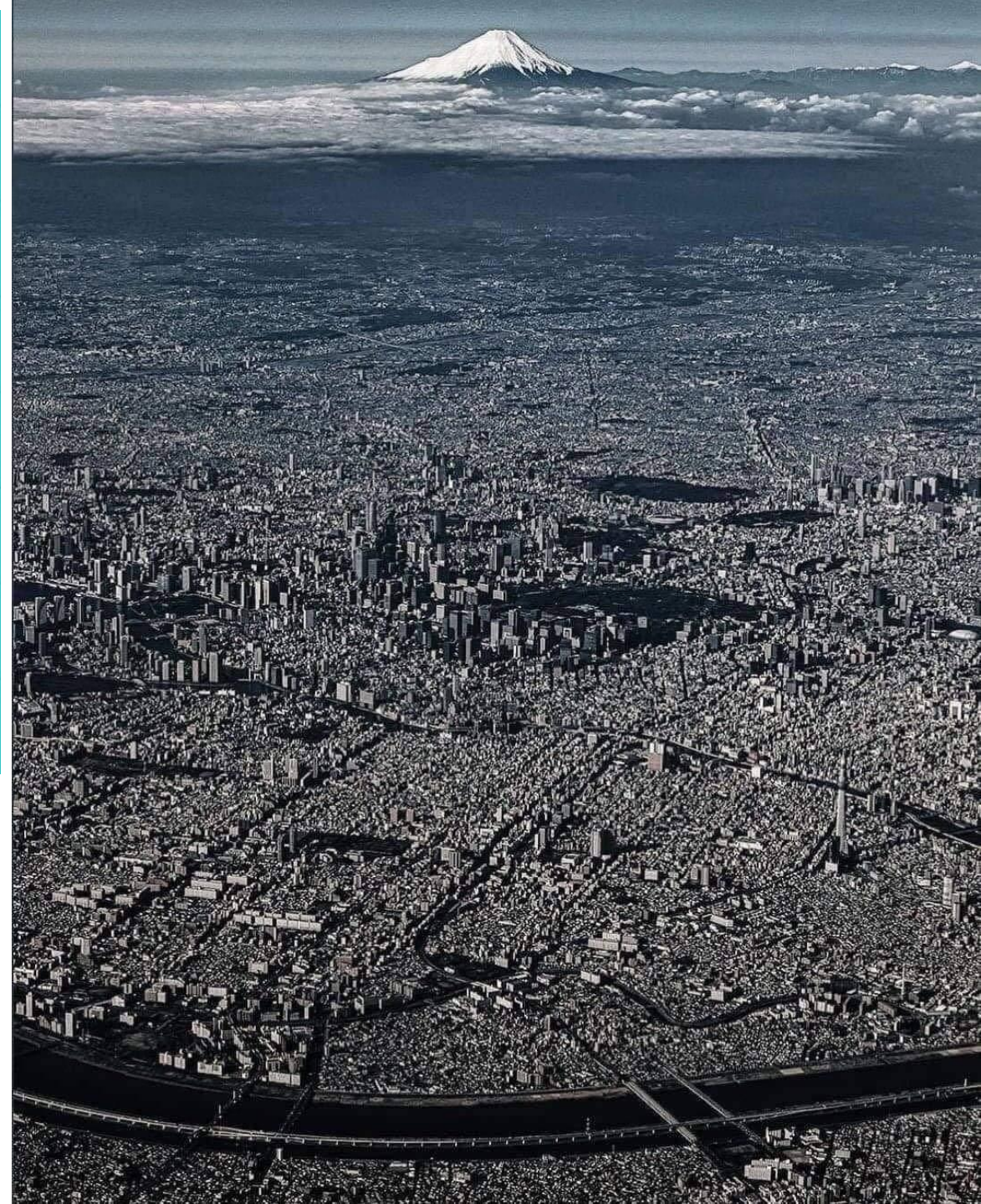




## Size comparison of Japan and the contiguous United States



With a population of around 37 million people, Tokyo is the most populated urban area on Earth.





# Jōmon Period (10,000 BCE to 300 BCE)

- 660 BCE: **Jimmu**, descendant of sun goddess **Amaterasu**, founded the Japanese Empire.



*Emperor Jimmu with the crow Yatagarasu by Tsukioka Yoshitoshi (1880)*



Naruhito, 126<sup>th</sup> Emperor of Japan  
(2019-present)



# Yayoi Period (300 BCE to 250 CE)

- Immigrants from China and Korea supplanted the native **Jōmon** culture.
- Rice cultivation, advanced pottery, and metalwork were introduced from China and Korea.





# Yayoi Period (300 BCE to 250 CE)

- Japanese worshipped spirits called **kami** they believed resided in nature.
- **Shinto** evolved into a state doctrine believing in the divinity of the emperor as descendant of the sun goddess, **Amaterasu**.



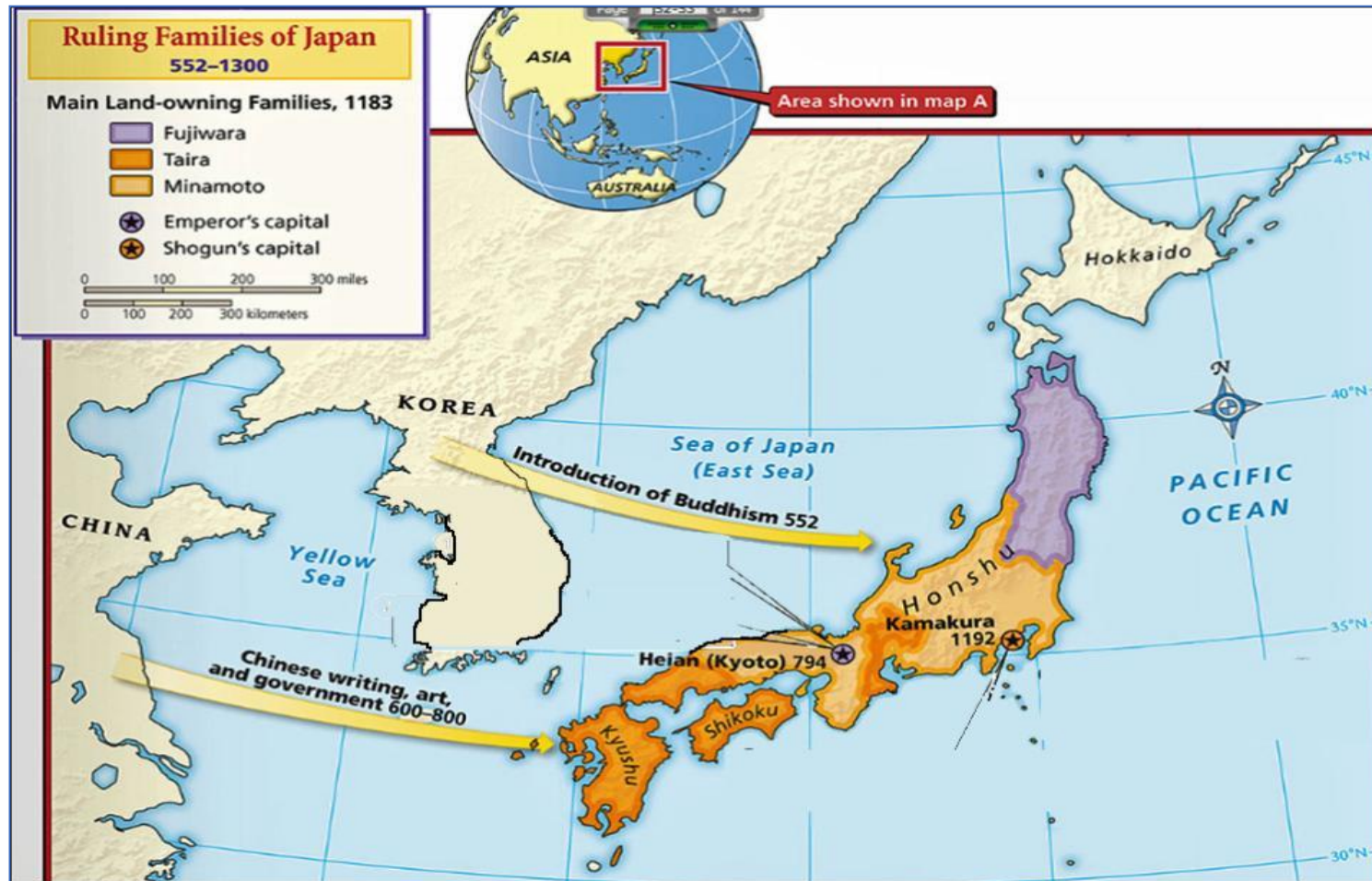
Itsukushima Shrine





# Yamato Period (250 to 710 CE)

- Japan established close contacts with mainland Asia.
- **Buddhism** and Chinese writing were introduced via Korean kingdom of Baekje.

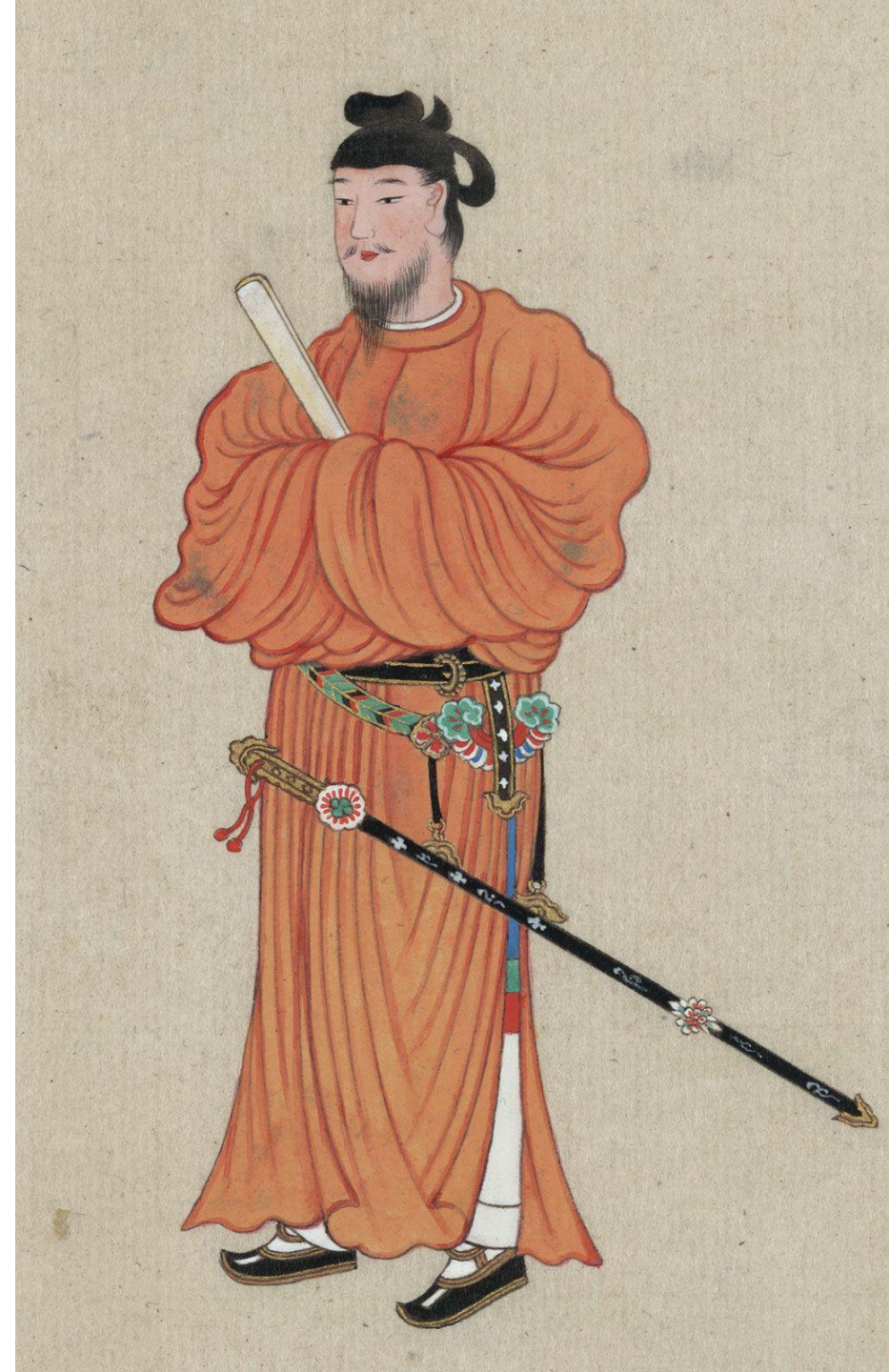




# Yamato Period (250 to 710 CE)

- 645: To resist a potential Chinese invasion, **Prince Shotoku** passed the **Taika Reforms**.
- Shotoku promoted Chinese culture.
- A divine emperor ran a centralized government and merit-based bureaucracy based on Chinese Confucianism that limited the aristocrats' power and enhanced imperial rule.
- All land was bought by the state and redistributed equally among the farmers.

“From the Emperor of the land of the rising sun to the Emperor of land of the setting sun.”  
- letter from Prince Shotoku of Japan to Emperor Yang of Sui dynasty China





# Nara and Heian Periods (710 to 1185 CE)

- 710: A new imperial capital modeled on Chang-an, China was established at **Nara**.
- Emperors patronized Buddhism believing that its teachings would create a peaceful society and protect the state.



right: Buddhist temple of Byodo-in, Uji (1052 CE)

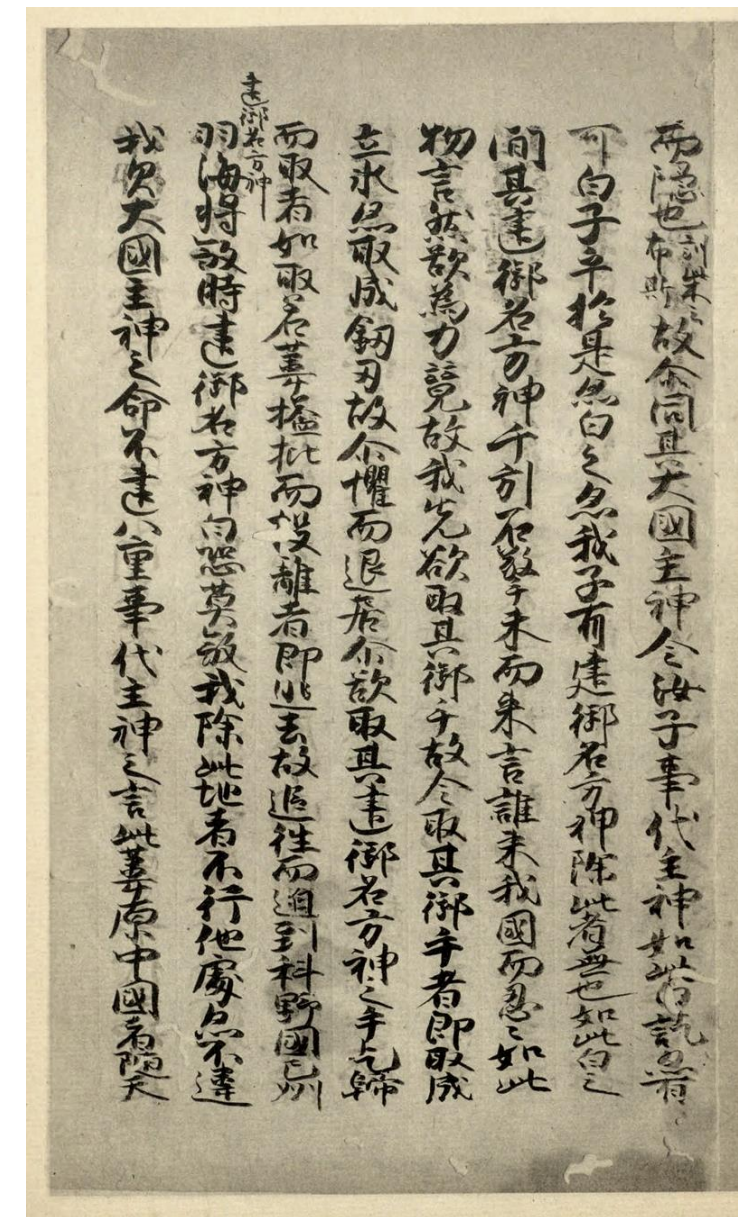


# Nara and Heian Periods (710 to 1185 CE)

- Classical Japanese culture thrived in the imperial court, aided by invention of **kana writing**.
- **The Kojiki**, Japan's oldest writing, records events from the mythical age of the kami gods up to the 600s based on oral traditions.



Amaterasu Emerging by Shunsai Toshimasa (1887)



page from the oldest surviving copy of the *Kojiki* (c. 1371)



# Nara and Heian Periods (710 to 1185 CE)

- 794: The imperial court relocated to Heian (**Kyōto**) to escape the growing political influence of nearby Buddhist monasteries.
- 838: End of official diplomatic contacts with China



modern reconstruction of the Heian Palace in Kyoto



# Nara and Heian Periods (710 to 1185 CE)

- Court women produce literature, like *Tale of Genji* (c. 1002) by **Murasaki Shikibu**, the world's first novel.
- The novel traces the life of the nobleman Genji as he moves from youthful adventure and romance to a life of sadness and compassion in his later years.
- *Pillow Book* (1002) by Sei Shonagon



scene from  
*The Tale of Genji*  
(1852)



18<sup>th</sup> century kimono with images from *The Tale of Genji*. In the Edo period, books were represented on garments to symbolize knowledge and wisdom.





## Nara and Heian Periods (710 to 1185 CE)

- Many aristocrats and the Buddhist monasteries won tax exempt status reducing state income
- Decentralized government returned as political power shifted to local aristocrats.
- Aristocrats hired **samurai** for protection.
- Samurai followed a warrior code called **Bushido** that emphasized honor, courage, acceptance of hardship and unyielding loyalty to their lord and employer.



# Nara and Heian Periods (710 to 1185 CE)

- 1180-1185: The **Taira** and **Minamoto** clans fought in the **Genpei War**.
- *Tale of the Heike* – history of the Genpei Wars between Taira and Minamoto clans celebrated bushido but captured the transience of life and fleeting illusory glory



Warriors of the Taira clan



# Nara and Heian Periods (710 to 1185 CE)

- **Minamoto Yoritomo** defeated the Taira and established a new **bakufu** government in Kamakura as the first **shogun**.
- The shogun, not the emperor, had the real power. A figurehead emperor remained in Kyoto with the court aristocracy.



Minamoto Yoritomo, the first shogun



# Kamakura Period (1185 to 1333 CE)

- **Daimyō** lords controlled vast landed estates that were tax exempt.
- The daimyo relied on the samurai, and a loose coalition of noble families came into power.
- These daimyo nobles generally had far more power and had more autonomy than European nobility. Some were even more powerful than the shogun and emperor.
- Industries such as paper, iron casting, and porcelain emerged.

Samurai holding a severed head





## Kamakura Period (1185 to 1333 CE)

- New Buddhist sects emerged, including **Zen** which was popular with samurai. It emphasized strong self-discipline, especially meditation, to achieve sudden enlightenment.



Samurai about to perform **seppuku**, a ritual suicide



Photo from the 1890s showing samurai armor and weapons



## Kamakura Period (1185 to 1333 CE)

- The monks Honen, Shinren, and Nichiren promoted **Pure Land Buddhism** with a simple devotional faith to Amida Buddha.



left: Great Amida Buddha of Kamakura at Kōtoku-in temple (1252)

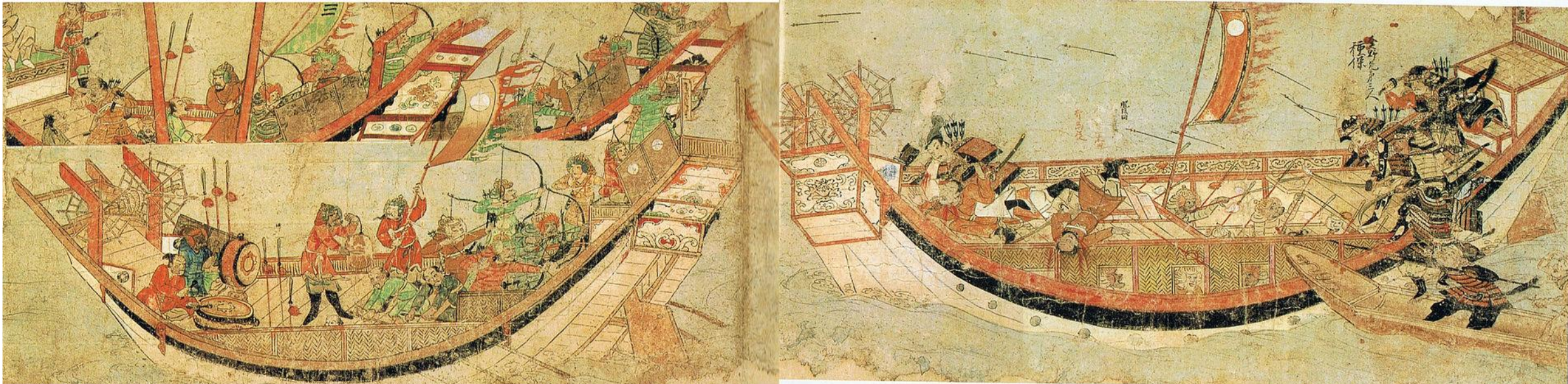


# Kamakura Period (1185 to 1333 CE)

- 1274 and 1281: Kublai Khan's **Mongol invasions** were repelled with the help of **kamikaze** storms.
- War preparations against the Mongols bankrupted the Kamakura shogunate.
- 1333-1336: **Emperor Go-Daigo** overthrew the Kamakura shogunate and restored imperial power.



Japanese samurai boarding Mongol ships in 1281





# Ashikaga Period (1336 to 1568 CE)

- Shogun **Ashikaga Takauji** challenged the Emperor Go-Daigo and captured Kyoto.

Ashikaga Takauji



**Kinkaku-ji / Golden Temple** in Kyoto is a synthesis of imperial court, samurai, and Zen Buddhist influences.

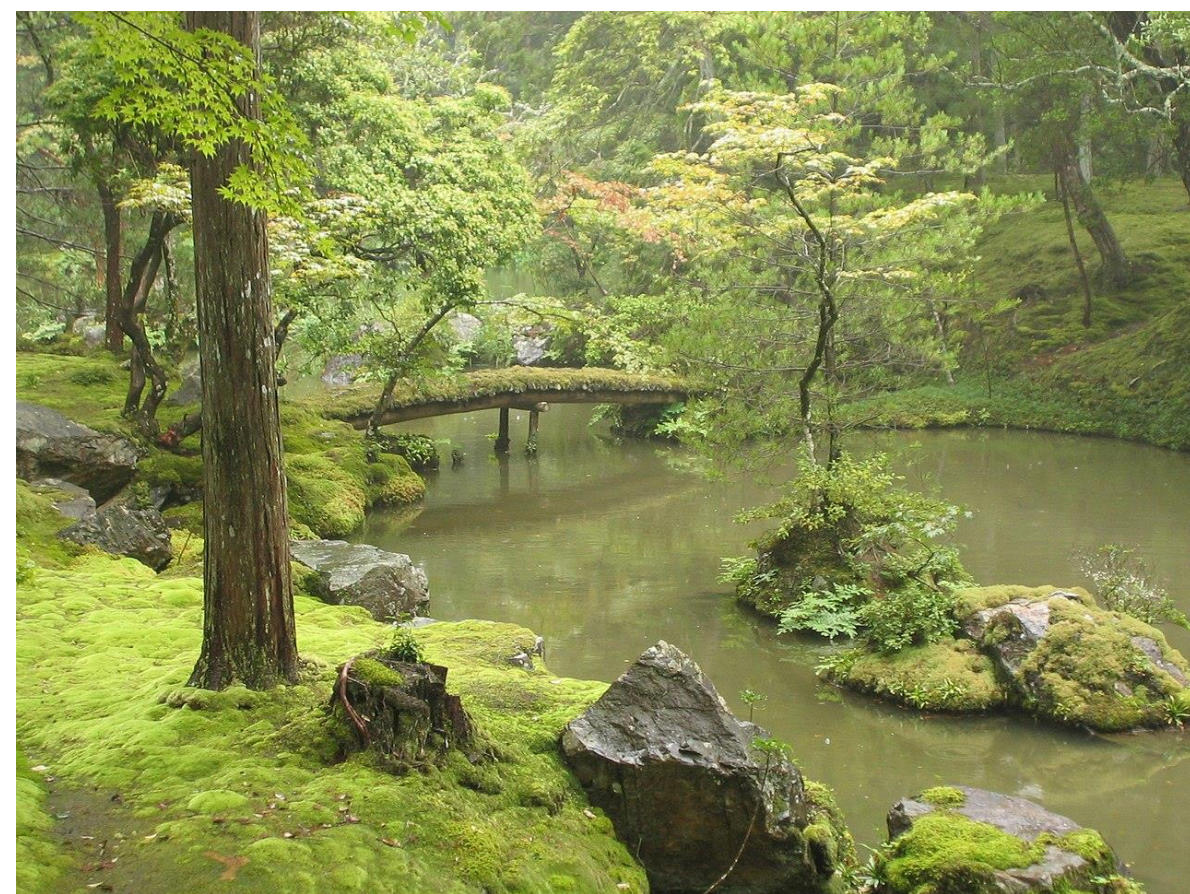




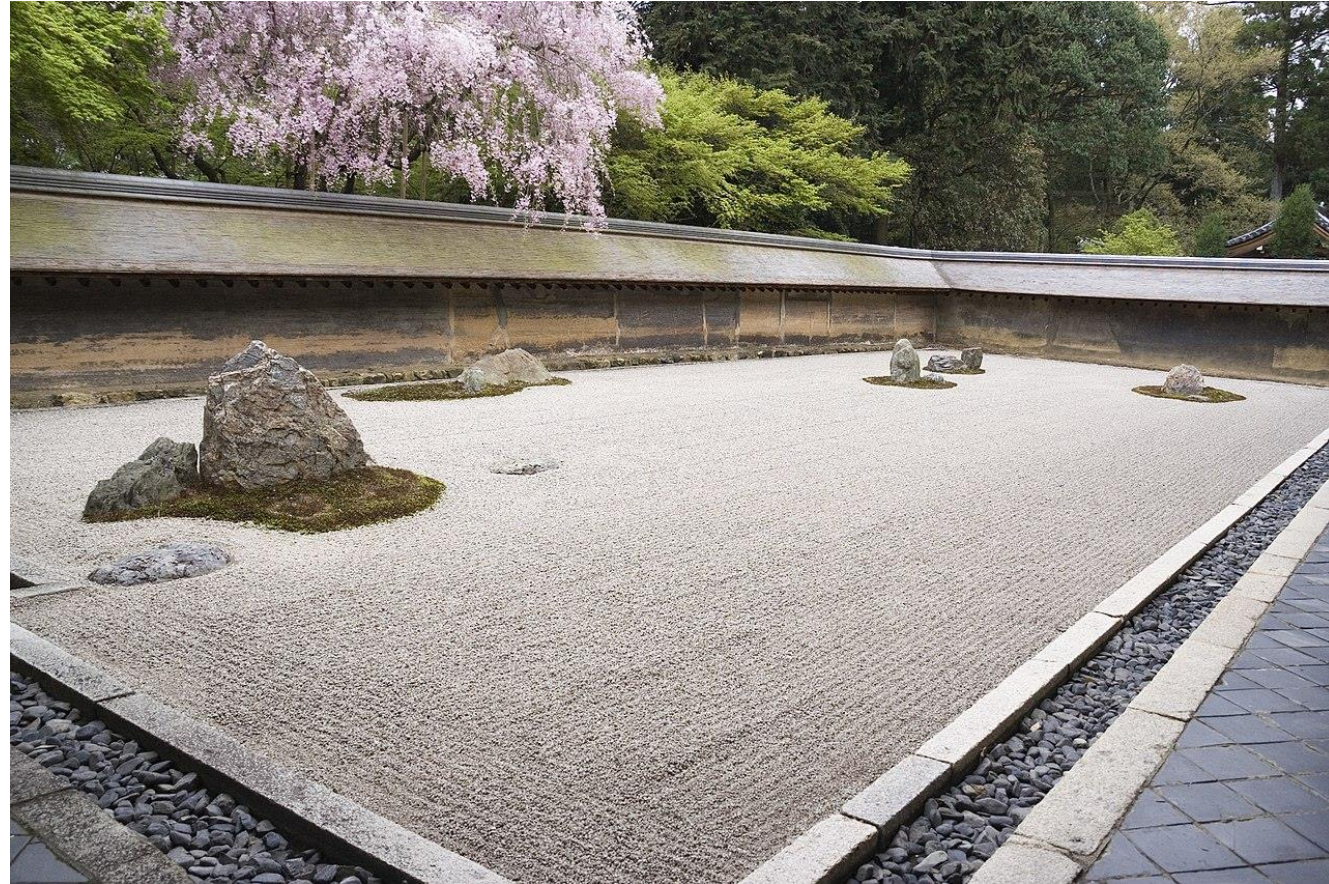


## Ashikaga Period (1336 to 1568 CE)

- Takauji and his successors supported Zen Buddhism, including ink painting, Zen gardens, and the **chanoyu** tea ceremony.



Moss garden of Saihō-ji



cherry blossom at the rock garden of Ryōan-ji Temple



# Ashikaga Period (1336 to 1568 CE)

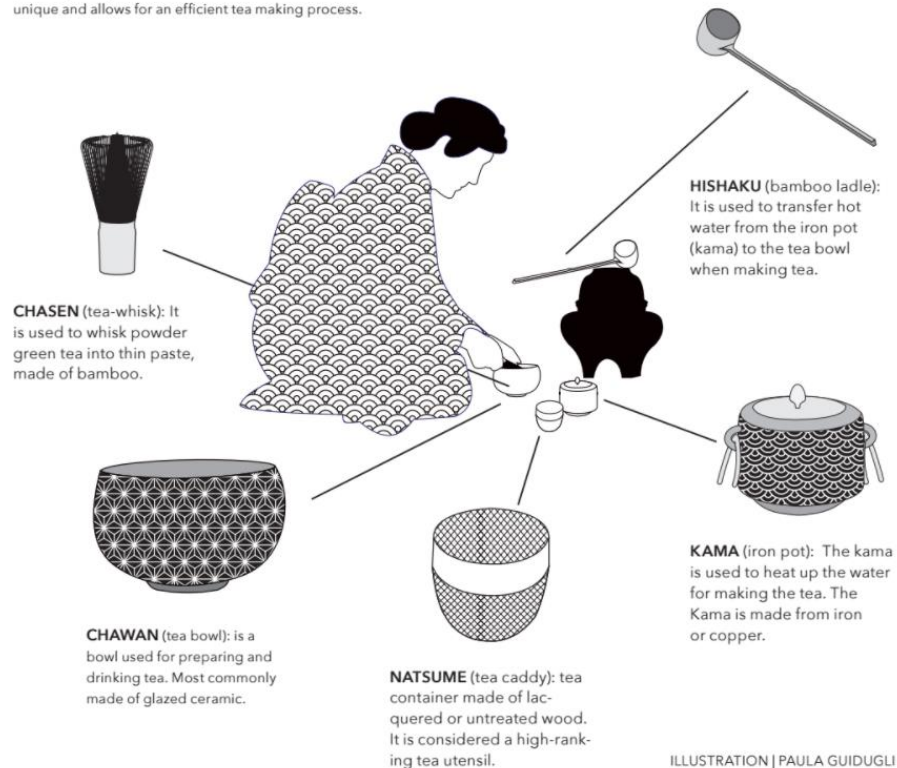
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## 茶の湯

### CHA-NO-YU

Japanese Tea Ceremony

In a Japanese Tea Ceremony there are a few tools needed to provide participants with the best tea available. Each tool is unique and allows for an efficient tea making process.



*Tea Ceremony*  
by Toyohara Chikanobu (1888)





# Ashikaga Period (1336 to 1568 CE)

- Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu lost influence over frontier regions and the shogunate collapsed in civil war.
- 1467–1573: During the **Sengoku** (Warring States Era), daimyō feudal lords fought continuously.



*The Forces of Ashikaga Yorimitsu Returning Home*  
by Utagawa Yoshitora (1862)



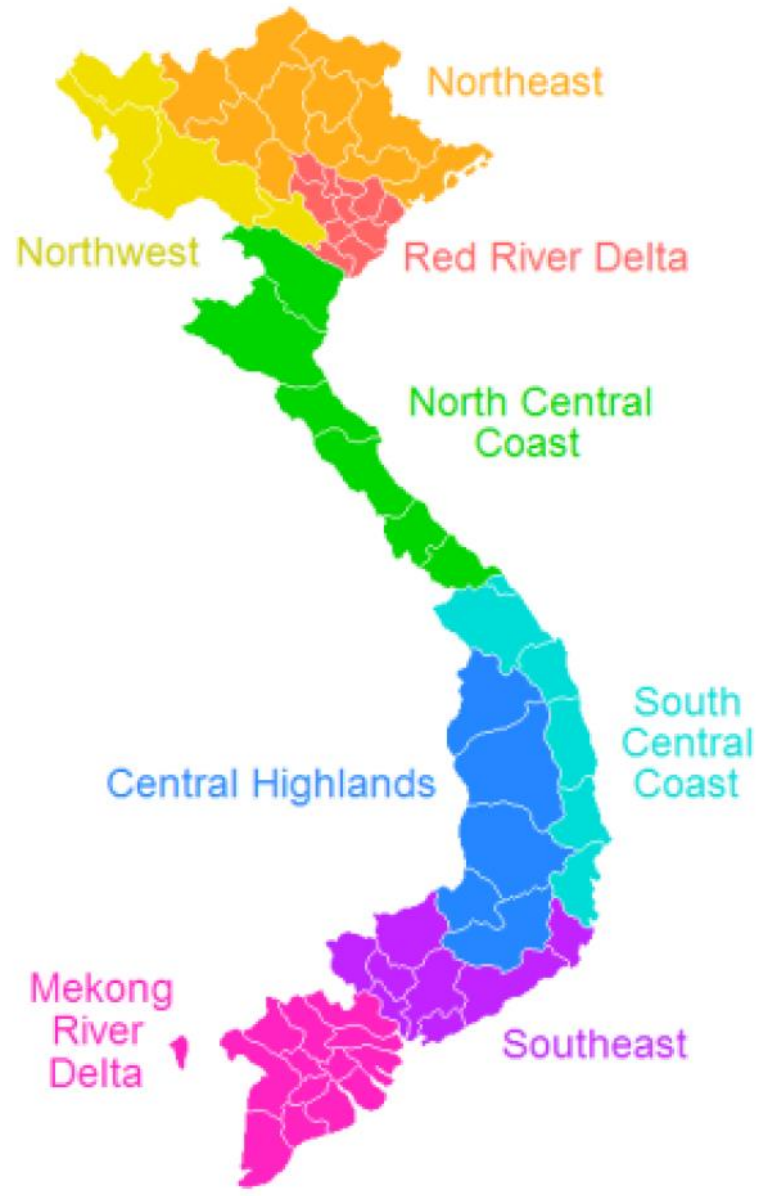
Muromachi samurai (1538)



**Vietnam, c. 1200-1450 CE**



- long, narrow coastal plain
- interior mountains parallel to the coast



## Geography





- love-hate relationship with China
  - Chinese culture admired and adopted but adapted
    - China = patriarchal, extended families, polygyny
    - Vietnam = independent women, nuclear families, monogyny





## **Nam Viet** (aka Nan Yue) (207 BCE-111 BCE)

- migrants from Yangtze River valley in China settled Red River Delta

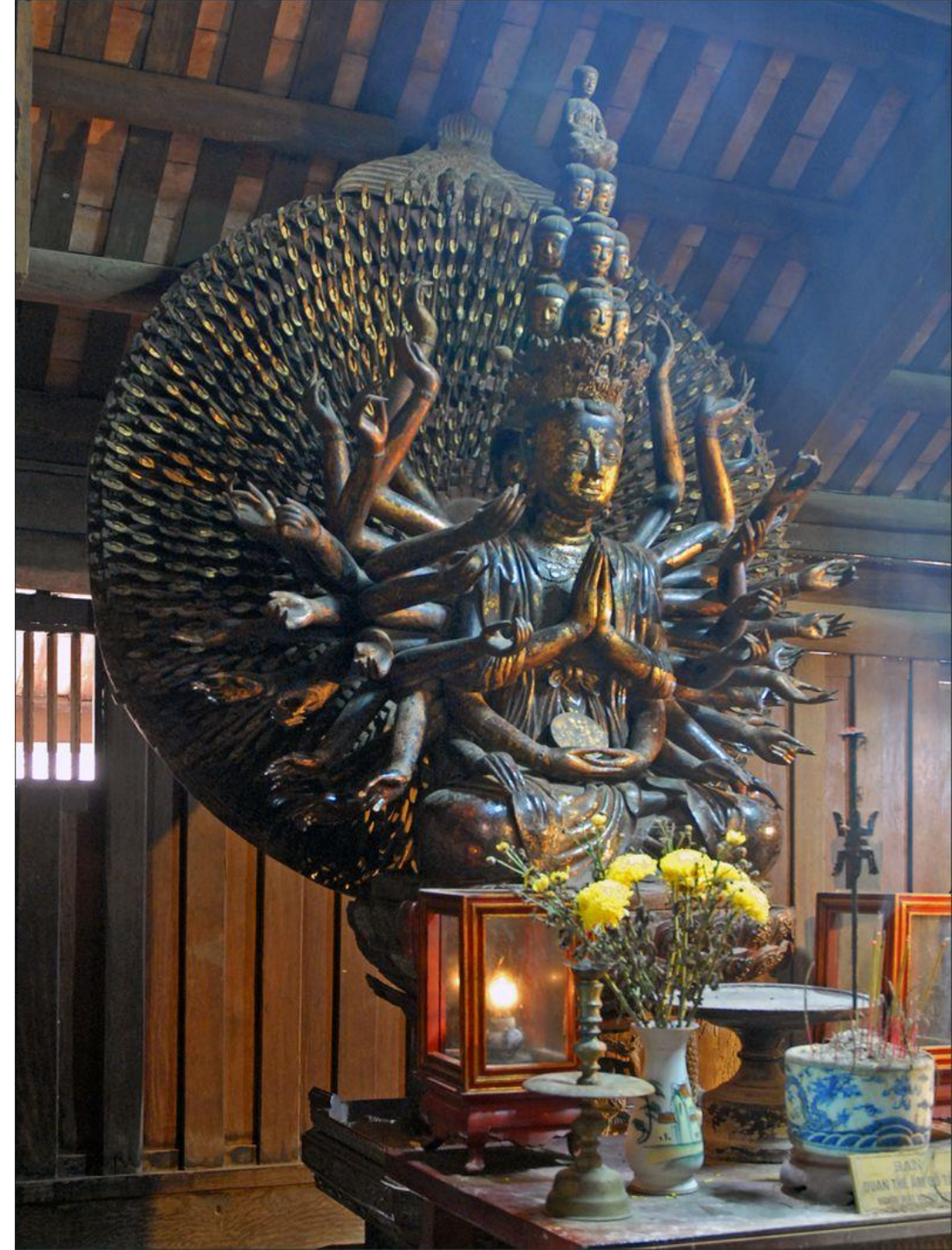




- later wave of Chinese scholar refugees introduced Confucianism, classical Chinese culture and writing, and Mahayana Buddhism
- China conquered and ruled Vietnam for ~ 1000 years
- Chinese political domination resisted
  - independent villages with no centralized government
  - scholar gentry led revolts if state-power grew too oppressive

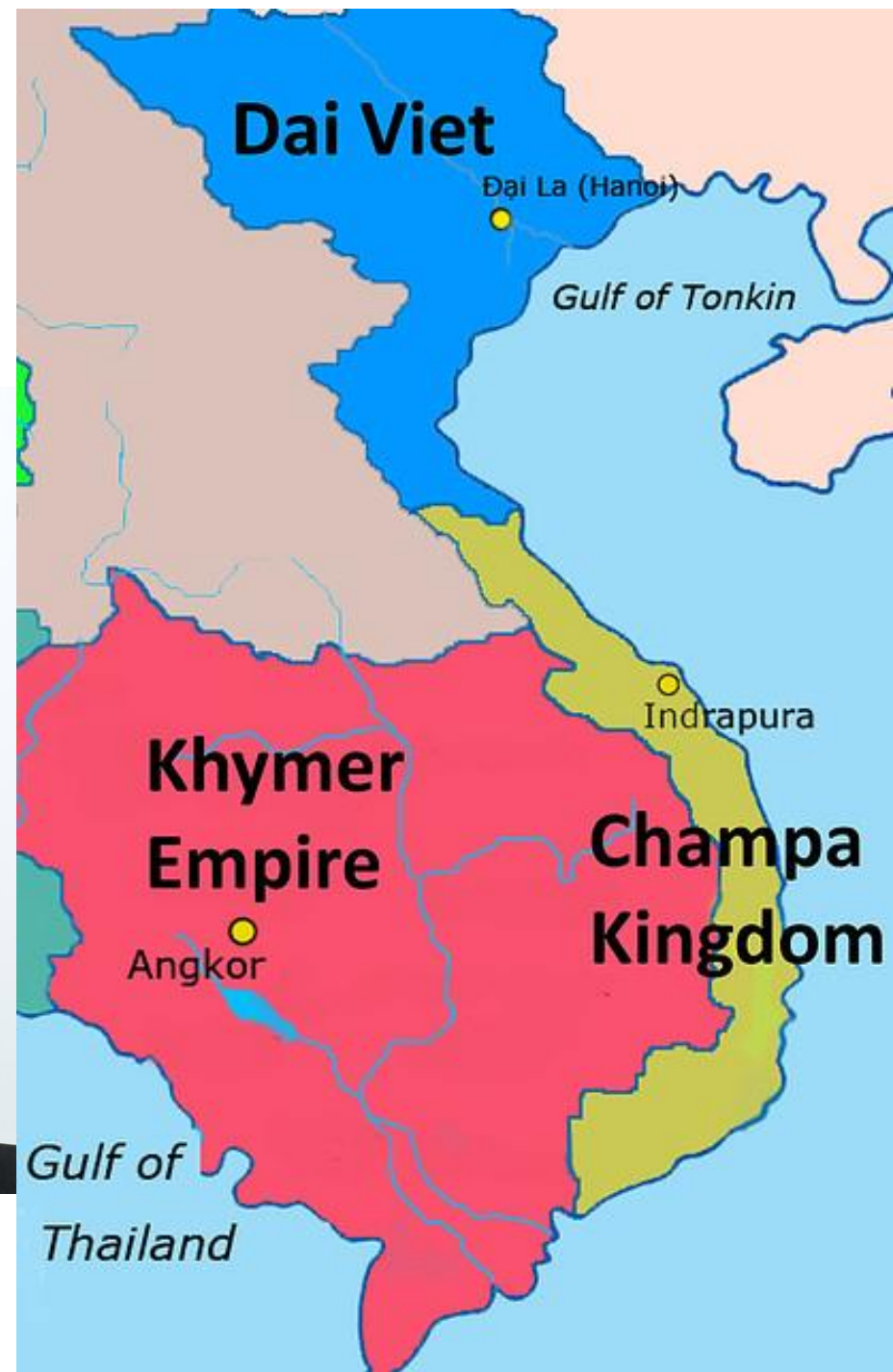
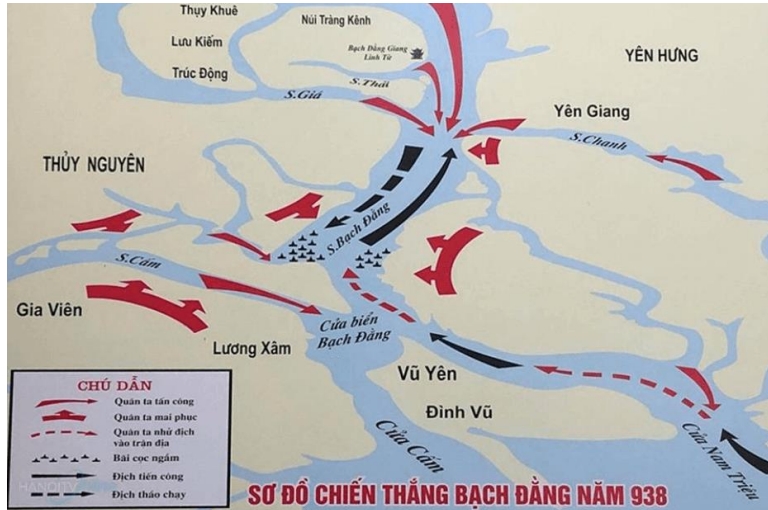


statue of Avalokiteshvara Bodhisattva at Bút Tháp pagoda (1656)





- 939-1804 CE: **Ngo Quyen** drove out the Chinese and established the kingdom of **Dai Viet**
  - sent tribute to China as a “vassal king”
  - Chinese-Vietnamese aristocracy maintained a Confucian court





- 1009-1225 CE: **Ly dynasty**
  - moved capital to Hanoi
  - strong centralized government
  - public works: irrigation, roads, and postal system
  - established **National College** to train Confucian civil service scholar-officials



temple honoring the Ly dynasty



tributary mission of Đại Việt to Song China



- 1225-1400 CE: **Tran dynasty**
  - resisted three Mongol invasions
  - 1280s: brilliant general **Tran Hung Dao** resisted Mongols through guerrilla warfare and scorched-earth tactics; inspired Vietnamese communist fighters during Indochina Wars (1946-1975)





- 1407: Ming China invaded Vietnam
  - intense **Sinicization** – Vietnamese customs and language banned



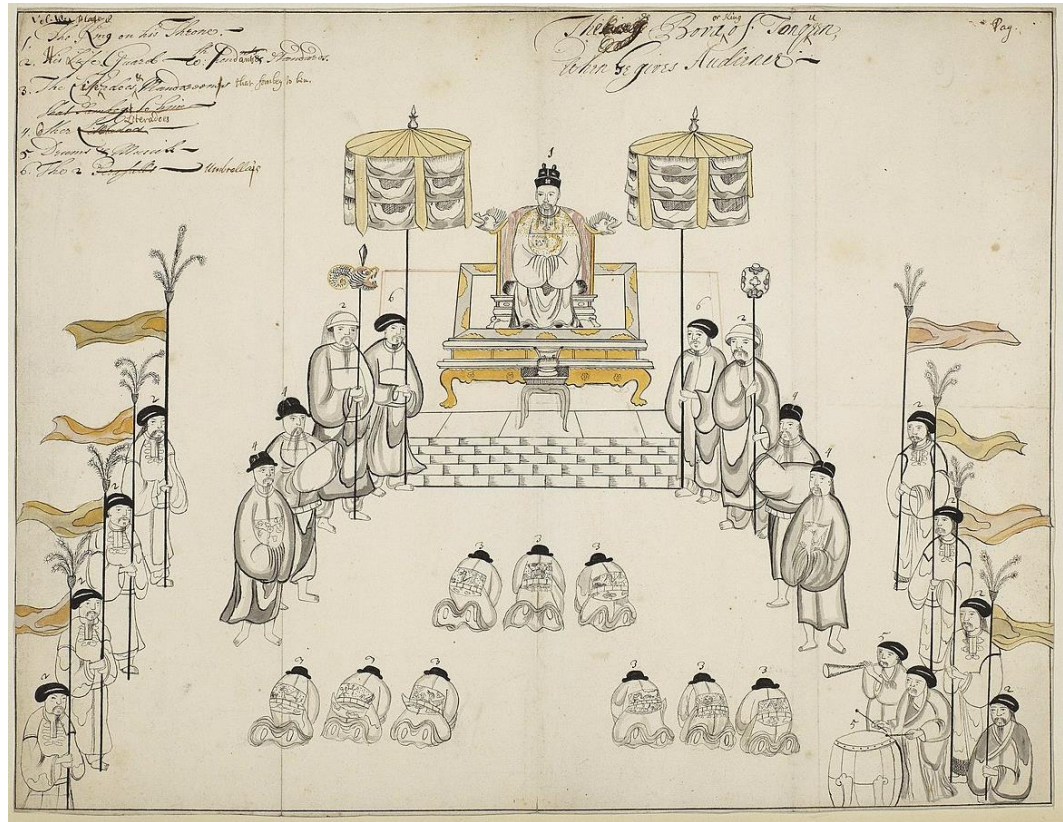
Mandarins and soldiers of the Lê dynasty, 1612 painting.



Court dress during the Lê dynasty



- 1418: **Le Loi** liberated Vietnam and established the **Le Dynasty** (1428-1788 CE)
- conquered Champa and Laos



Emperor Lê Hy Tông (1684)

