

Lecture 03
"Indigenous" Foundations & Continental Impact

0. Intro

(note: **important vocabulary** is marked in bold)

- **Yamato** hegemony and the difficulty of defining an "indigenous" Japanese culture forming amid fluid exchanges in East Asia.
- Piecing together record from archaeological sites and mythistorical accounts

1. Yamato Clan (uji) Confederation's Co-option of Izumo

- a. **Yamato/Amaterasu/central/Honshû/Ise Shrine** vs. **Izumo/Ohkuninushi** and **Susan o-o/southwestern Honshû/Izumo Shrine**
- b. Korean connections: **Kunibiki** myth
- c. Izumo submission to Yamato in exchange for high ranks (omi), sacred recognition at Izumo Shrine
- d. Co-opting of Izumo area myths into Yamato-centered versions in **Kojiki** and **Nihonshoki (Nihongi)**

2. Yamato Social Organization: familial & functional groups

Each **uji** had an **ujigami** (clan deity)

- a. Classifying contending clans (uji)
 - i. **kôbetsu** (direct branches from Yamato);
 - ii. **shimbetsu** (local but unrelated)
 - iii. **bambetsu** (foreign)Instituted a system of titles (**kabane**)
matsurigoto --> "ritual affairs," "business of worship," ("politics")
- b. The formation of specialized occupational groups (*be*)
- c. The enslaving of less glamorous labor (*yatsuko*)

3. Continental importations of cultural and political technology

- a. **Writing** brought by Korean scholars as early as 5th century
- b. **The Magic & Politics of Buddhism from c. 550 to 645.**
 - i. Buddhism Basics: **Four Noble Truths; nirvana, sutras**
 - ii. The king of Paekche's gift to "Emperor" Kimmei, c. 552AD.
 - iii. Pro- and anti-Buddhist conflicts: **Soga** vs. **Mononobe** clans
 - iv. **Prince Shôtoku** and the founding of **Hôryûji** (607)
- c. **The Taika Reforms (645) & Taihō Code (702)**
 - i. Reorganized rice-producing land by putting it under the domain of the **tennō**
 - ii. Census to impose taxes
 - iii. Assigned official positions and court ranks to nobility
 - iv. Divided land into more rational administrative units
 - v. Clan heads (uji-no-kami) got new title of "chief head of clan" (uji-no-chōja) from tennō