

Giri vs. ninjo:

Giri: duty/obligation to one's family, class, society; general sense of honor

But society can't be based entirely on obligations; there must be room for feelings.

Obligations alone don't create an orderly, harmonious society; must be tempered by human feeling and expression. So, giri and ninjo balance each other out, somewhat, in creating a relatively harmonious human society.

Women's status evolved over different periods – Kamakura, Muramachi/Sengoku, and Tokugawa eras.

### Kamakura

Women had rights to own property. Marriages are slightly less political than later (more prominent in the era between Muromachi and Tokugawa); there's more freedom, though they're still fairly strict. Divorce was allowed if there was a basis in the law.

### Muromachi

Feudal relationships highly emphasized: lord-vassal, parent-children, husband-wife. Lord-vassal becomes predominant; determines many things, including interpersonal things like marriages.

### (between periods)

political marriages more prevalent

Men almost always determined divorces.

A widow or a divorced woman was highly stigmatized.

### Tokugawa

Strict moral codes for women

Major function: having children/heirs. After they've had kids, they're pretty disposable.

What are the big differences you've found between samurai woman and merchant/courtesan women?

- samurai women are much less outspoken, because their world is more governed by the strict Confucian relationships. Merchant/courtesan women can be more outspoken because their social structure is not organized in the same way.

[film – *Samurai Rebellion*]