

The Emergence of Warrior Society

Context for Emergence of Warriors

- Heian (Kyoto): Emperor dominated by Fujiwara nobles
- *Shôen*: private estates or manors
- Provincial governors: from overseers to tax farmers (*zuryô*)

Rise of Warrior (Bushi)

- Warrior groups (*bushidan*) emerge
- 2 Warrior types:
 - Warriors from court aligned with local elites
 - Warriors from wealthy peasants and low ranking elites

Two Types of *Bushidan*

- Model A:
 - *Zuryô* and *shôen* administrators
 - *Myôshu*: “head of a named rice paddy”
 - Local gentry
 - All possessed own armed groups
- Bushidan = shifting alliance among all three over wide region

Bushidan (cont.)

- Model B:
 - Independent *myōshu* alliances
- Taira and Genji *bushidan*: imperial descendents who went to provinces
- Court increasingly surprised by rebelliousness of *bushidan*

The Retired Emperors

- Emperors begin to assert power over Fujiwara nobles in 1070s
- Shirakawa forms *In no chō* (cloister government) in 1086
- Forms alliance with mid-level nobles, *bushidan*, and temples

Emperor Go Tōba

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Woodcut depicting the Emperor Go Toba.

Rise of the Taira

- Hôgen Uprising (1156)
- Heike gain prestigious guard posts
- Heiji Uprising (1159)
- Fujiwara use Genji in unsuccessful revolt
- Emergence of Taira no Kiyomori power

Genpei Wars

- Kiyomori places Go Shirakawa under house arrest for failed revolt
- 1180: Prince Mochihito issues call to arms
- Yoritomo consolidates East from Kamakura: turns officials into his own vassals
- Bushidan uprisings in central Japan: Kiso Yoshinaka

Genpei Wars (cont.)

- Death of Kiyomori in 1181
- Heike attack Kiso and defeated
- Kiso chases Heike out of Kyoto
- Heike flee west with child Emperor Antoku
- Kiso's bored soldiers loot/terrorize Kyoto

Gempei (cont.)

- Go Shirakawa asks Yoritomo to drive out Kiso, who sends Yoshitsune
- Yoshitsune defeats Heike at Ichinotani
- Yoshitsune ambushes Heike at Yajima and finally defeats them at Dannoura naval battle
- Empress commmits suicide with Antoku