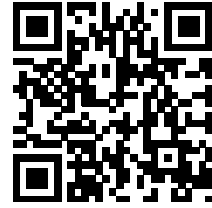


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The Ancient Japanese Government



In ancient Japan, the _____ was considered a descendant of the gods. However, the real power often lay in the hands of the _____, a military leader. The shogun ruled over the _____, powerful warlords who controlled vast estates and had their own armies of _____. These samurai were not just warriors but also adhered to a strict code known as _____, which emphasized honor, courage, and loyalty.

Life in feudal Japan was highly structured, with everyone knowing their _____ in the social hierarchy. At the top were the nobles, followed by the samurai, then the _____, artisans, and traders. The farmers were crucial as they grew the rice that fed the nation. _____ was valued, especially among the samurai, who were expected to be as skilled with the pen as with the _____.

The government operated under a system known as _____, a combination of the shogunate (bakufu) and semi-autonomous domains (han) controlled by the daimyo. This _____ allowed for a centralized government with regional autonomy, but it also led to conflicts among the daimyo and between the _____ and the shogunate, culminating in periods of civil war.

Despite these conflicts, the ancient Japanese _____ facilitated a remarkable period of cultural growth. Art, literature, and philosophy flourished, particularly during the peaceful _____ period. The government also played a crucial role in foreign relations, initially embracing _____ with the outside world before entering a period of isolation known as _____.

This isolation would not last forever, as the arrival of Western powers in the 19th century forced Japan to open up. This eventually led to the _____ Restoration, where the emperor was restored to power, and the shogunate was abolished, marking the end of feudal Japan and the _____ of modern Japan.

samurai Meiji government daimyo sword Edo Education bushido farmers
system place sakoku emperor trade bakuhan daimyo beginning shogun