

**Japan and the Bridge of Dreams:
The Kami Welcome The Buddha**

I. *Nippon* (Ch. *Jih-pen*) = Source of the Sun

A. Uji Period — ca. 300–552

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| 1. rice (from China) | 4. ideographs and calligraphy (from China) |
| 2. paper (from China) | 5. religion — Shinto |
| 3. ink (from Korea) | 6. political views (differ from Chinese) |

B. Age of Reforms — 552–710

1. Buddhism Introduced — 552 (or 538)
 - a. Mahayana
 - b. becomes state religion — 685
2. Shōtoku Taishi (regent: 593–622)
 - a. “the Ruler in the Land Where the Sun Rises”
 - b. Seventeen Article Constitution — 604
 - c. adopted Chinese calendar — 604
 - d. twelve ranks for court officials (kabune system) — 603 (revised 684, 701)
3. Taika (Great Reform)
 - a. all land put under public ownership/based on Tang system — 646
 - b. nation-wide system of post roads
 - c. uniform system of taxation

C. Nara Period — 710–794

1. geomancy used to select site of capital
2. Horyuji — seat of Buddhist power

D. Heian Period — 794–1185

1. capital moved to Heian-Kyo (Kyoto) [influenced by plan of Chang-an]
2. formalized court etiquette
3. poetry writing (31 syllables; limited topics)
4. calligraphy
5. memoirs, diaries, and the world's first novel
 - a. Murasaki Shikibu, *The Tale of Genji* (*Monogatari*)
 - b. Murasaki Shikibu, *Diary and Poetic Memoirs*
 - c. Izumi Shikibu, *Diary*
 - d. Sei Shōnagan, *Pillow Book*
 - e. Sarashina, *As I Crossed a Bridge of Dreams*
6. Fujiwara Epoch — 866–1068 (regents)

E. Kamakura Period — 1185–1333

F. Muromachi (Ashikaga) Shoguns — 1336–1573

Video: *Buddha in the Land of the Kami* by Jean Antoine