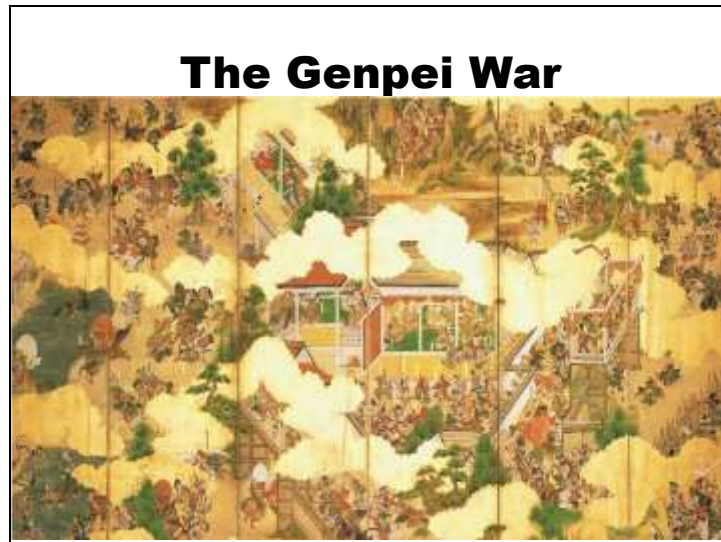


Slide 1

The Genpei War

1180 AD > 1185 AD

Slide 2



Notes

In a previous lesson we learned about how some of Japan's Noble/ Aristocratic who played the key role of advisers to Japan's Emperors in the relatively peaceful Nara and Heisei periods from about 700 AD through to 1180 AD had employed professional Samurai to protect their land assets from marauding bandits and rebellious tenants.

By 1180 some of these Samurai clans had become so powerful that they challenged the noble families.

The **Genpei War** (1180-1185) pitted two of Japan's great family clans – the then dominant aristocratic **Taira family** and the militaristic **Daimyo Minamoto clan** against each other in a struggle for control of the Japanese state.

The war ended when one of the most famous samurai heroes in Japanese history, **Minamoto no Yoshitsune**, led his clan to victory against the Taira clan.

As Japan's most powerful Daimyo (war lord) Yoshitsune took the title Shogun (supreme war Lord) as well as the role of key adviser to the Emperor, thereby replacing the aristocratic Taira family.

Thus at the beginning of the 12th century, real political power in Japan shifted away from the emperor's nobles in Kyoto to the country's most powerful Daimyo / war lord.

This resulted in the formation of the first Shogunate (at Minamoto) in 1192 AD who established their Bakufu (tent government) at their key city of Kamakura. This first Shogunate clan would maintain power and control over Japan's Emperors for nearly 150 years, during which time they would be confronted with Japan's first invasion by a foreign enemy – **The Mongols**.