

# Japan Continuities/Patterns

1. Traditions/continuity important
2. Ethnocentrism, homogeneity
3. Respect for/love of nature
4. Adopt and modify foreign ideas  
-“selective borrowing”/adopt and adapt
5. Respect for authority
6. Education valued
7. Disciplined, authoritarian military tradition
8. Isolationism (although still in contact with other cultures)
9. Nationalism

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## Japanese Middle Ages

Feudalism-samurai govts- 1185-1868

- Militaristic leader most powerful clan given title of Shogun by emperor
- Emperor figurehead-Shogun real leader of Japan  
**(discipline, authoritarian military tradition)**

Mongol invasions-twice in late 1200s

- stopped by samurai and typhoon- “kamikaze” (divine wind)  
**(isolationism, reinforced ethnocentrism/nationalism)**

1603-1868 Tokugawa Shogunate

- over 250 years of peace-remarkable
- improved farming led to surpluses, wealth
- improvement in arts → literature/novels, wood block printing, tea ceremonies, haiku,  
flower arrangement/ikebana **(aesthetics, beauty)**