



Lost Civilizations : Imperial Japan

HD



Directed by Jacques VICHET

French Version
English Version

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A documentary of 52'

High Definition
HD Cam & Digital Betacam 16/9

The Nara Period (710 to 794)

In 710, Empress Gemmei decides to establish the capital of Yamato in Nara, under the name Heijō-kyō. Like Kyoto later on, it is built on a grid system, with streets at right angles. The new capital will become the first great Buddhist city.

The Heian Period (794-1185)

The creation of the new capital (Kyoto) marks the debut of a period of artistic and intellectual splendor. Later, it will equally become a symbol of political decadence. With the creation of Kyoto, the court develops an extraordinary artistic refinement.

The Kamakura Period (1185-1333)

Many local lords hired warriors to defend their domains during their long stays at the court. These samurai will gradually take control of the provinces and oust the noble families. Two warrior clans will ultimately compete for the supreme control of Japan. The Minamoto will triumph in the end and install their military capital in Kamakura. Beginning in 1219, the Hōjō will take the place of the Minamoto for a century. They will have to face the Mongol invasions of Kublai Kahn.

The Muromachi Period (1333-1573)

A period in the history of Japan that is at once troubled and very rich. From 1333, Emperor Go-Daigo attempts to take power from the warlords. But three years later his general Ashikaga Takauji betrays him and establishes one of the country's longest lines of Shogun rule.

The Momoyama Period (1573-1603)

A brief period in the history of Japan, but the most important: that of the country's unification. Wounded by a century of civil wars, three generals will arrive to unify Japan. Oda Nobunaga conquers the center of the archipelago, notably including Kyoto. He imposes a strong military and political unity. Betrayed by one of his generals, he commits suicide in 1582.

The Edo Period (1603-1868)

Now it remains to strengthen the central power and create a lasting sustainability. Tokugawa Ieyasu, who succeeds Hideyoshi, will work on this. He takes the ancient title of Shogun after having defeated his final opponents at Sekigahara (1600). He will then establish Japan's longest-lasting dynasty, which will reign unchallenged during three centuries of interior peace. The new capital of the Japanese government was from this point forward Edo (Tokyo).