

# The First Samurai Wars

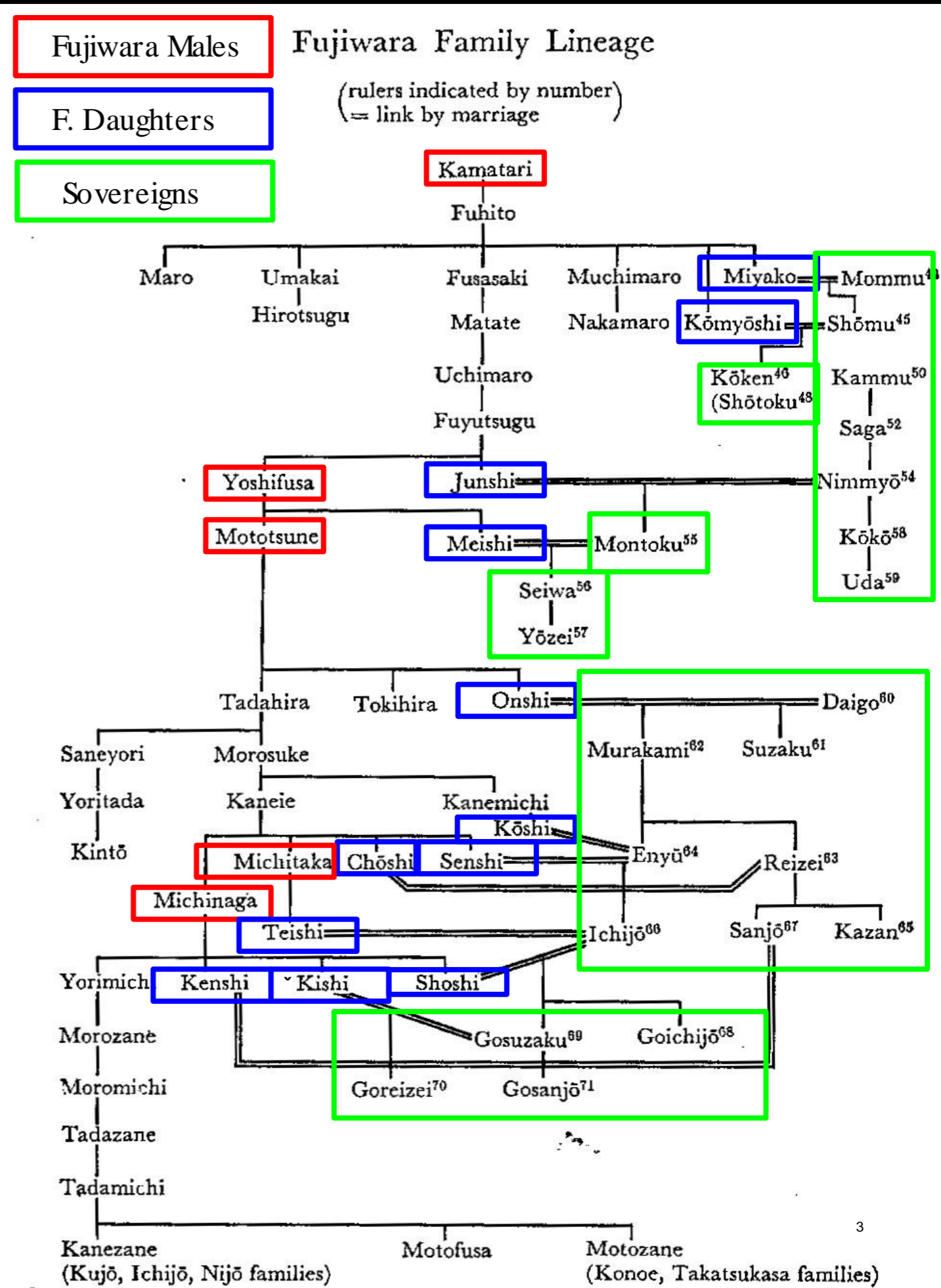
21H.154, Session 6

# Fujiwara Era (Kamatari descendants)

- Fujiwara no Yoshifusa (804-872)
  - 850: emperor's uncle and father-in-law
  - 858: regent (*sesshō*) to 9-years-old Seiwa
- Fujiwara no Mototsune (836-891)
  - Yoshifusa's son
  - 876: regent to 8-years-old Yōzei
  - Creation of regency for adult emperors (*kanpaku*)
- Fujiwara no Michinaga (966-1027):  
“...this world is indeed mine.”



# Fujiwara Connections



# “Retired Emperors”

- 1068: Go-Sanjō becomes emp.
  - 35 yrs old, no Fujiwara mother
  - Resigns in 1072: BUT controls succession
- 1072: Emperor Shirakawa
  - Resigns in 1086: becomes more powerful
  - Beginning of *insei* (“cloistered gov,” “rule by retired emperor”)



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# Heian Politics

- Significance of private assets
- “Shared Rulership” (JE, p. 130)
  - Imperial/noble, religious, military aristocrats
- A highly competitive and flexible society

# Rise of the *Samurai*

- From *saburau* (“to serve”)

## Two Key Periods

- Insei (“cloistered rule”) era
  - 1086 Shirakawa retirement ~1185
- Kamakura Shogunate
  - 1185-1333



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# Heian Privatization

- Why militarize?
- Governance (enforcing laws, tax)
- *Shōen* administration
- Kyoto patronage: limits of military power
  - Taira no Masakado's failed rebellion (935-940)

Until 12th century: effective containment of warriors by Kyoto aristocracy.

# *Insei* (Cloistered Government)

- Shirakawa's "retirement" as "privatization" of imperial rule:
  - r. 1072-86, *in.* 1086-1129)
- Fateful consequences
  - Factional disputes within and outside the imperial family: emperor vs. retired emperor(s)
  - Dependence on armed allies like.....



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# Minamoto and Taira

- Militarization at the top
- Minamoto (源氏 Genji!) and Taira (平氏 Heishi or 平家 Heike): surplus royals
- Bureaucrats, governors, and many warriors
- In general: Minamoto/Fujiwara vs. Taira/retired emperors



The burning of the Sanjō Palace as depicted in the *Picture Scrolls of the Tale of Heiji* (13th century)

# Biwa Monks



# Towards *Samurai Wars*

- Rise of Taira (Heike)
  - 1156, Hōgen Incident
    - Factional conflict within both the imperial family and Fujiwara clan
    - Emperor Go-Shirakawa (r. 1156-58; *in.* 1158-92) wins with support of Taira no Kiyomori (1118-1181)
  - 1159, Heiji Incident
    - Go-Shirakawa rescued by Kiyomori again
    - Taira vs. Minamoto/Fujiwara

# Taira no Kiyomori

- Chancellor in 1167
- Daughter=imperial consort
- Grandson (Antoku) on the throne (1180)
- But...growing resentment
  - 1177: Go-Shirakawa plot
  - 1180: call to arms by an imperial prince



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# *Tale of Heike*

- Completed ca. mid. 13 c.
- Rise and fall of Heike (Taira)



# Battle of Dan no ura (1185)



# Battle of Ichi no tani (1184)



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Screen painting [right of a pair of Scenes from the Tale of the Heike], mid 17th century, Kanō School (Minnesota Institute of Art)



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21H.154 / 21G.554 Inventing the Samurai  
Fall 2022

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