Ashikaga Shogunate and the Era of Rival Imperial Courts

21H.154, Session 8
Today

- Fall of Kamakura Shogunate (-1333) and Rise of Ashikaga Shogunate (1338-1573)
- Thursday: Ōnin War (1467-1477) and the Start of the Warring States Era (1467-1573)
The Fall of Kamakura Bakufu

- Growing pains of an expanding warrior class
- Discontent with Hōjō rule
- Emperor strikes back (third time’s the charm?)

Emp. Go-Daigo (r. 1318-1339)
Kenmu Restoration (1333-36)

- Go-Daigo defeats Kamakura with Ashikaga Takauji’s help
- Attempts direct rule
- Takauji rebels in 1336
- 1336-1392: era of rival courts
- Takauji establishes his own bakufu in 1338
Kusunoki Masashige (Imperial Palace, Tokyo)
Ashikaga Bakufu

- 1338-1573
- In Kyoto (Muromachi): collapse of diarchy
- No land base = reliance on shugo (mil. gov.)
- Rise of elite samurai culture
- Adopt another Buddhist sect: Zen
Ashikaga and Zen

- *Chán* (Chinese)
- Benefits of a newcomer religion
- Warrior attraction
- Income
- Education
- Extension of Ashikaga power
Muromachi Pleasures

• Tea ceremony
• Reintroduced by Eisai in late 12 c.
• *matcha* (powdered, green tea)
• *chanoyu* (‘tea ceremony’; late. 14 c.~)
Muromachi Pleasures

- Zen gardens, Ryōanji, Kyoto
Muromachi Pleasures

- Ink paintings (*suiboku-ga*)

Sesshū (1420-1506)
**Nō Play**

- Slow and symbolic
- Both noble and humble origins
- *sarugaku* (‘monkey dance’)
- Kan’ami (1333-84) and son, Zeami (1363-1443)
- 1375, patronage by Ashikaga Yoshimitsu
- “Atsumori”
Economic Development

• Dramatic increase in rice production
• New land
• New tools
• New methods
Emergence of Guilds (Za)

- Demand for specialty products
- Organization of producers from 11 c.
- Protection from elites
- Sake brewers and storage houses=moneylenders
- New trades and crafts for women
Other Economic Developments

- Monetization of economy
- China/Korea trade
- Emergence of new cities
- Sakai
Muromachi Economy

• Trade continues to expand
• Kyoto thrives with exception
• Better transportation
  • Wakō, “Japanese pirates”
Social Change

- Inheritance practices
- Increased *jitō* pressure on farmers
  - 1260s~70s: peasant bands
  - *ikki* ('leagues')=uprising
  - part of emerging trend of *gekokujō* (lower overturning those above)
Other Forms of Gekokujō

- Competition among merchants: new vs. old za
  - Independent manufacturing and trade
- Rural communities
  - Stratified inside: *myōshū* > tenant > workers
- Cultural developments: “monkey dance”
- Marginalized groups
  - *Eta* (‘much uncleanness’)  
  - *Hinin* (‘non-people’)  
    - Towards the era of “Warring States”
Decline of Ashikaga Rule

- Reliance on shugo
- 1441: shogun #6 assassinated
- Bakufu lose control of shugo
- Shugo remain in Kyoto