The Emergence of Warrior Society
Context for Emergence of Warriors

• Heian (Kyoto): Emperor dominated by Fujiwara nobles
• Shôen: private estates or manors
• Provincial governors: from overseers to tax farmers (zuryô)
Rise of Warrior (Bushi)

• Warrior groups (*bushidan*) emerge
• 2 Warrior types:
  – Warriors from court aligned with local elites
  – Warriors from wealthy peasants and low ranking elites
Two Types of Bushidan

• Model A:
  – Zuryô and shôen administrators
  – Myôshu: “head of a named rice paddy”
  – Local gentry
  – All possessed own armed groups

• Bushidan = shifting alliance among all three over wide region
Bushidan (cont.)

• Model B:
  – Independent *myôshu* alliances

• Taira and Genji *bushidan*: imperial descendents who went to provinces

• Court increasingly surprised by rebelliousness of *bushidan*
The Retired Emperors

• Emperors begin to assert power over Fujiwara nobles in 1070s
• Shirakawa forms *In no chô* (cloister government) in 1086
• Forms alliance with mid-level nobles, *bushidan*, and temples
Emperor Go Tôba

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Woodcut depicting the Emperor Go Toba.
Rise of the Taira

- Hôgen Uprising (1156)
- Heike gain prestigious guard posts
- Heiji Uprising (1159)
- Fujiwara use Genji in unsuccessful revolt
- Emergence of Taira no Kiyomori power
Genpei Wars

• Kiyomori places Go Shirakawa under house arrest for failed revolt
• 1180: Prince Mochihito issues call to arms
• Yoritomo consolidates East from Kamakura: turns officials into his own vassals
• Bushidan uprisings in central Japan: Kiso Yoshinaka
Genpei Wars (cont.)

- Death of Kiyomori in 1181
- Heike attack Kiso and defeated
- Kiso chases Heike out of Kyoto
- Heike flee west with child Emperor Antoku
- Kiso’s bored soldiers loot/terrorize Kyoto
Gempei (cont.)

- Go Shirakawa asks Yoritomo to drive out Kiso, who sends Yoshitsune
- Yoshitsune defeats Heike at Ichinotani
- Yoshitsune ambushes Heike at Yajima and finally defeats them at Dannoura naval battle
- Empress commits suicide with Antoku