

CLASS:-11TH, HISTORY NOTES

Political System

- Japan became a modern country from the days of petty *daimyo* of Japan.
- In the twelfth century the imperial court lost power to shoguns, who in theory ruled in the name of the emperor, with the help of *samurais* (the warrior class) and *daimyo* with their capital in Edo (modern Tokyo).
- In the sixteenth century, Samurai insured peace and order.
- Japan was divided into more than 250 domains under the rule of lords called *daimyo*.

In the late sixteenth century, three changes laid the pattern for future development.

1. The peasantry was disarmed and only the samurai could carry swords. This ensured peace and order, ending the frequent wars of the previous century.
 2. The *daimyo* were ordered to live in the capitals of their domains, each with a large degree of autonomy.
 3. The land surveys identified owners and taxpayers and graded land productivity to ensure a stable revenue base.-
- By the mid-seventeenth century, Japan had the most populated city in the world – Edo – but also had two other large cities – Osaka and Kyoto.
 - Growth of a commercial economy and a vibrant culture blossomed in the towns, where the fast growing class of merchants patronised theater and the arts.
 - Increased use of money and creation of stock market led the economy in new ways.
 - Social and intellectual changes took place – such as the study of ancient Japanese literature – led people to question the degree of Chinese influence and study of ancient Japanese literature promoted.