

# VARIOUS TERMS FOR JAPAN'S MIDDLE PERIOD

Chūsei / Middle / sometimes called Medieval 1180s-1603

**Kamakura**  
(governing shōgunate is in Kamakura)  
1180s-1333

**Muromachi**  
(governing Ashikaga shōgunate is in Kyoto Muromachi district)  
1336-1573

*Hostilities lead to collapse of imperial control in Heian with new military govt in Kamakura:*  
1156 Hōgen wars  
1159 Heiji Wars

*Buddhist Reformers (sects):*  
Hōnen (Pure Land)  
Shinran (True Pure Land)  
Eisai (Rinzai Zen)  
Dōgen (Sōtō Zen)  
Nichiren (Nichiren)

Yoshino  
Nanboku chō  
"North-South Imperial Courts"  
1336-1392

Sengoku  
"Warring States"  
1467-1568

Azuchi-Momoyama  
1568/1573 - 1603/1615

**1333 collapse of Kamakura military govt**  
very late 1300s into first half of 1400s  
Kitayama bunka  
"Northern Hills Culture"  
centers around patronage of the arts by Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu  
1358-1409, in office 1368-94  
but particularly from the establishment of Kinkakuji in 1397 until the death of Ashikaga Yoshinori in 1441

NORTHERN HILLS

EASTERN HILLS

**Regional warlords competing for power**  
Begins in earnest after Onin Disturbance of 1467, flourishing after construction of Silver Pavilion in 1482, fading shortly after Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimasa's death in 1490  
Higashiyama bunka  
"Eastern Hills Culture"  
centers around patronage of the arts by Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimasa  
1435-90, in office 1449-73

**1336 split into Ashikaga and imperial govts**

**The north (Kyoto) branch of the imperial line supported by Ashikaga family vs. the south (Yoshino) branch supported by Emperor Go-Daigo**

**South line loses**

**In power: Oda Nobunaga, then Toyotomi Hideyoshi, then Tokugawa Ieyasu**

**The Momoyama period is calculated from the arrival of Nobunaga to the capital (Kyoto) or when he overpowers the shogun Ashikaga Yoshiaki until the beginning of the Edo government or the death of Ieyasu and is named after the castles Nobunaga and Hideyoshi built**