

F E U D A L I S M



 FREEMAN-PEDIA

WESTERN EUROPE

- Had example of Roman Imperialism
- Could **NOT**
 - Organize or afford necessary armies
 - Agree on Standardized laws
- Lacked means to support an independent bureaucracy

JAPAN

- Had example of Chinese Imperialism
- Attempted to use Confucianism to create a bureaucracy
- Centralized administration could not be established

BOTH LATER DEVELOPED MORE CENTRALIZED POLITICAL SYSTEMS

- Japan drew on Confucian precedents
- Western Europe built on Nation States
- Each had to incorporate centuries of feudal heritage, therefore unable to replicate imperial political structures of China and Rome

S I M I L A R I T I E S

- Experienced Long periods of semi-centralized rule
- Claims of Central authorities are not matched by effective power
- Regional leaders have own armies and administer own localities
- Kings have to make deals with regional leaders
- Political values embraced most participants
- Aristocratic lords controlled the peasant masses
- Idea of mutual ties and obligations
- Both were **HIGHLY** militaristic:
 - Frequent and Bitter internal warfare/military virtues impeded development of centralized gov't
- Military Feudalism survived the feudal eras
 - Japan had trouble controlling the Samurai class
 - West could not rid itself of the warrior ethic that the central purpose of the state was to make war

- West emphasized contractual ideas more strongly than the Japanese
- Legacy= Parliamentary Institutions

- Japan relied more heavily on group and individual loyalties not confirmed by contractual agreements.
- Legacy= Individuals functioning as part of collective decision teams linked to the state

BOTH HAVE BEEN UNUSUALLY SUCCESSFUL IN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Adept at running capitalist economies
2. Propensity for imperialist expansion
3. Resort to war to solve conflicts with foreign powers
4. Feudalism was possibly a basis for later Economic Dynamism