

Lecture 09

Family Court Politics

0. Intro

- The consolidation of the Fujiwara and the erosion of direct imperial rule

1. Married to the (Imperial) Mob

- a. Fujiwara “marriage politics”
- b. The northern branch (**hokke**) of the Fujiwara clan most important
- c. Fujiwara dominate 2 posts: **Sesshō** and **Kanpaku**
(jointly referred to as **sekkan**, so that the Fujiwara branch family that holds these positions is referred to as “**Sekkanke**”)
- d. Peak Fujiwara power under **Michinaga** (late 10th early 11th centuries)

2. Court Ranks and Familial Interest Groups

- a. About 20,000 people within aristocratic class; about 50 uji
- b. 9-rank system of courtiers
- c. **Kugyō** (1st to 3rd rank) compose the highest levels

3. The Emperors Strike Back

- a. Emperor Go-Sanjo (1068): a break in Fujiwara connections to throne
- b. In 1069 Go-Sanjō issued edict against the shōen
- c. The consolidation of the **insei** (system of retired/cloistered emperors):
 - Emperors: Shirakawa (r. 1073-87; d. 1129),
Toba (r. 1107-23; d. 1156)
Go-Shirakawa (r. 1155-58; d. 1192)