

Lecture 04 Continental Impact

0. Intro

- Ordering domestic society through foreign models.

1. Continental importations of cultural and political technology

- Korean peninsula and people provide crucial continental connections

2. Writing

- a. Brought by Korean scholars as early as 5th century, limited to court scholars
- b. Official documents come to be written in Chinese (= prestigious, civilized)
- c. Writing system takes off in earnest among elite with intro of Buddhism c. 552

3. The Magic & Politics of Buddhism from c. 550 to 645.

- a. Buddhism based on teachings of Siddhartha Gautama in India c. 500 BC
- b. **Four Noble Truths; nirvana, sutras**
- c. The king of Paekche's gift to "Emperor" Kimmei, c. 552AD.
- d. Pro- and anti-Buddhist conflicts: **Soga** vs. **Mononobe** clans
- e. **Prince Shôtoku** and the founding of **Hôryûji** (607)

4. Confucianism comes to Japan

- a. Socio-political philosophy based on teaching of Confucius, (551-479BC?)
- b. One of its basic political principles: rulership comes from morality
- c. 5 basic relations: ruler-subject, husband-wife, father-son, elder bro-younger bro; friend-friend

China-inspired political reform dominated the Islands in the 7th century, inspired by Prince Shôtoku and his followers. This is the topic for next session.