

## Lecture 08

### What does a shôen look like?

#### 0. Intro

- The apex and erosion of the ritsuryô system of imperial rule
- **Heian** (“Peace & Tranquility”) period (794–1156): peace and relatively little foreign influence

#### 1. The move to Heian and layout of the capital

- a. Buddhist patronage gone overboard
- b. **Emperor Kammu** moves the capital
- c. Introduction of new Buddhist Sects:
  - i. **Tendai** sect, est. by **Saichô** (766-822) at **Enryakuji** complex on Mt. Hiei
  - ii. **Shingon** sect, est. by **Kûkai** (744-835) at **Mt. Kôya**, 60 miles SE of Heian

#### 2. Legal, economic, landholding aspects of the shôen (“estate”) system

- a. **shiki** (“rights” to the produce of farmland)
- b. **menden** ([tax] “exempt-field”)
- c. **kishin-gata** (“commendation-type”)

#### 3. Social & cultural aspects of the shôen system

- a. Framed the arena of definition & action for elites and peasants
- b. Break between early (pre-12<sup>th</sup> century) and later types of shôen
- c. **Fujiwara** Regent and imperial estates accumulated rapidly c. 1100