Handout for Early Shinto and Yamato

Shinto 神道

Izumo 出雲 Izumo taisha 出雲大社

Ise jingu 伊勢神宮

*Kojiki* 古事記 (712)

Japan's oldest extant chronicle, recording events from the mythical age of the gods up to the time of Empress [Suiko](http://na.jkn21.com/cgi-bin/auth/common.cgi?CONFFILENAME=common.conf.jkc_user&TEMPLATE=wood_eoj.html&ExternalFlag=1&Search_Ext_Type=DicX&Search_From=0&Key=000016HS004703) (r 593−628). The compiler, [Ō no Yasumaro](http://na.jkn21.com/cgi-bin/auth/common.cgi?CONFFILENAME=common.conf.jkc_user&TEMPLATE=wood_eoj.html&ExternalFlag=1&Search_Ext_Type=DicX&Search_From=0&Key=000016HS004602), states in the preface that it was presented to the reigning empress, Gemmei (661−722; r 707−715), on 9 March 712. The oldest surviving manuscript of the *Kojiki* is a scroll copied in the years 1371−72. Most scholars accept that these oral traditions were first written down in the mid-6th century. It was not studied with great interest until the late-18th century, when Motoori Norinaga made it the focus of his “national learning” (*kokugaku*), an attempt to locate a pure Japanese community in the ancient past.

*Nihon shoki* or *Nihongi* 日本書紀 (720)

The oldest official history of Japan covering events from the mythical age of the gods up to the reign of the empress [Jitō](http://na.jkn21.com/cgi-bin/auth/common.cgi?CONFFILENAME=common.conf.jkc_user&TEMPLATE=wood_eoj.html&ExternalFlag=1&Search_Ext_Type=DPAL&Search_From=0&Key=000016HS004303) (r 686−697). The *Nihon shoki* was completed on 1 July 720. The *Nihon shoki*'s 30 volumes plus 1 volume of genealogical charts are the work of many people. Although the official name of the work was *Nihongi*, other early documents refer to it as *Nihon shoki.* The *Nihon shoki* was read and studied widely by government officials and intellectuals, and was more influential than the *Kojiki*. It is generally understood to be more historically reliable than the *Kojiki* as well.

*Uji-Kabane system* 氏姓制度

Uji 氏: a royally recognized lineage.

Be 部: a specialized worker community that provided services to the Yamato throne, to a senior consort or prince, or perhaps to an *uji* in the fifth through seventh centuries.

Kabane 姓: noble titles granted by the Yamato ruler to those who served him. Such titles—examples include *omi* 臣, *muraji* 連 (core), *sukune* 宿禰, *miyatsuko* 造 (periphery), *kimi* 公, *atai* 直, and *obito* 首—were subsequently used by those who descended from the original recipient, that is, members of his lineage.

* + - 国造*Kuni-no-miyatsuko*: a country chieftain.
    - 伴造 *Tomo-no-miyatsuko*: royal vassals of the Great King who generally resided in the countryside and performed various types of service for the Yamato ruler.