

# Periodization in Premodern & Early Modern Japan

## Secondary Sources

Berry, Mary Elizabeth. "Defining 'Early Modern.'" In *Japan Emerging: Premodern History to 1850*, edited by Karl F. Friday, 42–52. New York: Westview Press, 2012.

Duus, Peter. *Feudalism in Japan*. 3rd Edition. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1993.

Friday, Karl. "The Futile Paradigm: In Quest of Feudalism in Early Medieval Japan." *History Compass* 8, no. 2 (2010): 179–196.

Friday, Karl F. "Sorting the Past." In *Japan Emerging: Premodern History to 1850*, edited by Karl F. Friday, 16–20. New York: Westview Press, 2012.  
**Note:** this article contains a useful chart that breaks down different forms of periodization.

Goble, Andrew Edmund. "Defining 'Medieval'." In *Japan Emerging: Premodern History to 1850*, edited by Karl F. Friday, 32–41. New York: Westview Press, 2012.

Goble, Andrew Edmund. "Medieval Japan." In *A Companion to Japanese History*, edited by William M. Tsutsui, 47–66. Malden: Blackwell Publishing, 2009.

Hall, John Whitney. "Feudalism in Japan—A Reassessment." *Comparative*

*Studies in Society and History* 5, no. 1 (October 1962): 15–51.

Hall, John Whitney. "Terms and Concepts in Japanese Medieval History: An Inquiry into the Problems of Translation." *Journal of Japanese Studies* 9, no. 1 (January 1983): 1–32.

Keirstead, Thomas. "Inventing Medieval Japan: The History of Politics and National Identity." *The Medieval History Journal* 1, no. 1 (1998): 47–71.

Keirstead, Thomas. "Medieval Japan: Taking the Middle Ages Outside Europe." *History Compass* 2 (2004): 1–14.

Laffin, Christina. "Histories of Periodization: Demarcations, Blurred Boundaries, and New Perspectives." In *Interdisciplinary Edo: Toward an Integrated Approach to Early Modern Japan*, edited by Joshua Schlachet and William C. Hedberg, 199–217. Routledge, 2024.

Murata Shōzō. "Nihon hōkenseiron: Chūseishi kenkyū o chūshin ni." In *Kōza nihonshi*. Volume 9, edited by the Historical Science Society of Japan/Japanese History Research Association, 109–148. Tokyo: University of Tokyo Press, 1974.

Ōyama Kyōhei. "The Fourteenth Century in Twentieth-Century Perspective." In *The Origins of Japan's Medieval World: Courtiers, Clerics, Warriors, and Peasants in the Fourteenth Century*, edited by Jeffrey P. Mass, 345–365. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1997.

Piggott, Joan R. "Defining 'Ancient' and 'Classical.'" In *Japan Emerging: Premodern History to 1850*, edited by Karl F. Friday, 21–31. New York: Westview Press, 2012.

Reischauer, Edwin O. "Japanese Feudalism." In *Feudalism in History*, edited by Rushton Coulborn, 26–48. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1956.

Walley, Akiko. "Stepping out of the Shadow of Imperial Monochrony: A Place-centric Approach to Decolonizing Japanese Art History." In *The Routledge Companion to Decolonizing Art History*, edited by Tatiana Flores, Florencia San Martin, and Charlene Villaseñor Black, 139-150. Oxfordshire: Routledge, 2023.

Yasuda Motohisa. "History of the Studies of the Formation of Japanese Hōken System (Feudalism)." *Acta Asiatica* 8 (1965): 74–100.

### **Additional Readings of Interest (non-Japan):**

Abels, Richard. "The Historiography of a Construct: 'Feudalism' and the Medieval Historian." *History Compass* 7, no. 3 (May 2009): 1008–31.

Davis, Kathleen. *Periodization and Sovereignty: How Ideas of Feudalism and Secularization Govern the Politics of Time*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008.

Le Goff, Jacques. *Must We Divide History into Periods?* Translated by Malcolm DeBevoise. New York: Columbia University Press, 2015.

Reynolds, Susan. *Fiefs and Vassals: The Medieval Evidence Reinterpreted*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994.

### **Notes:**

This reading list was initially provided by [Paula R. Curtis](#).

### **Suggest Additions:**

If you would like to suggest additions to this list, you may do so on [this page](#).