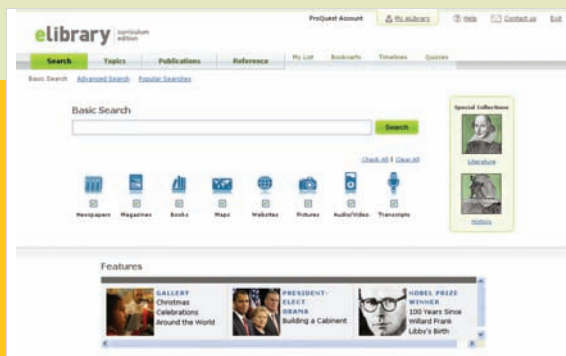




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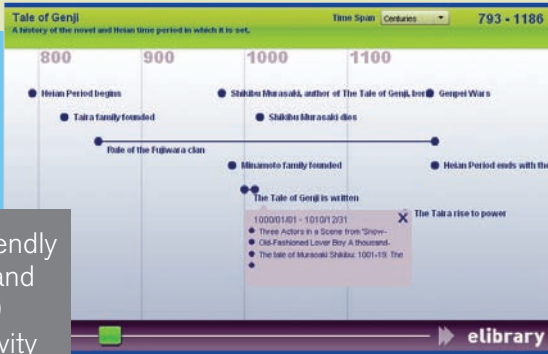
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**Tokugawa Japan, 1603-1868**

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The Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868) provided Japan with its longest period of uninterrupted peace, and the isolationism of the country during this time allowed for the flowering of Japanese culture. A rigid class system existed during this period, with the samurai (the warrior class) at the apex, followed by farmers, artisans, and merchants. Although Tokugawa rule remained stable over several centuries, its position declined following the deterioration of the government's finances. The social structure and hierarchy also started to break down as merchants grew in influence and some samurai became financially dependent on them.

Towards the end of the 1700s, foreign nations started to exert an increasing amount of pressure. Russia was the first to try to establish trade contacts, although it was eventually America, through the efforts of Commodore Perry in the 1850s, which forced the opening of Japanese ports for trade after signing the Perry Convention in 1854. In 1867-68, the Tokugawa shogunate collapsed after peasant revolts, samurai unrest and financial problems, leading to the restoration of the Meiji emperors in 1868.

Image © Getty Images Japanese Women and Child This is an example of the popular eighteenth-century Japanese woodblock print, in this case featuring two Japanese women and a child in a domestic setting.

Highlights

- Excerpt from the Narrative of Captain Golownin's Cruise to the East Indies, 1805-1806 (Page 3 of 3)

History Study Center™ and ProQuest® Learning: Literature cover critical areas of research

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**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Religion in the New Frontier: Randall Balmer  
Religion in Twentieth Century America 12-01-2001

In the best tradition of African-American call and response preaching King unleashed an extemporaneous riff. "I have a dream," he cried, and the crowd began cheering. "I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit together at the table of brotherhood." The audience responded: "I have a dream," he continued, shouting down the thundering waves of applause, "that even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with people's injustices, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice."

read the entire article

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