

CE the first organized state appeared in Japan in an area on the Yamato peninsula on the island of Honshu, close to the Chinese mainland. This civilization is known as the Kofun. The rulers of the Kofun period built huge, elaborate burial mounds that still stand. In the sixth century Japanese leaders interacted with Korea and China, bringing artists and craftsmen to the islands. The Japanese also imported writing and the religions of Buddhism and Confucianism about this time.

In 604 CE the Japanese Prince Shotoku adopted a constitution for Japan based upon the Chinese style of government. The document is called the Seventeen Article Constitution. The goal of the constitution was to unify the clans in Japan and create a single government for the islands. The Japanese constitution includes the belief of the Confucian religion that the universe is composed of three realms: Heaven, Man, and Earth and established the emperor as the supreme leader of Japan. The emperor is placed in charge of Man by the power of Heaven. The Japanese emperor remained the political leader of Japan until the end of World War II in 1945.