

**Aim: Tokugawa Japan – A Period of Isolation and Stagnation OR a Period of Dynamic Change?? OR was it something in between??**

### **What characteristics reflect the Tokugawa Era as a time of Isolation and Limited Change?**

- What role did the shogunate play?
- How were the daimyo controlled?
- Why was Christianity considered so dangerous?
- Why were Europeans in general considered dangerous?
- What steps were taken to limit contact with the outside world and/or keep European influences out?
- What was **“Native Learning”**? and How did it reflect Japan’s growing xenophobia?
  - The desire by the Japanese to establish a Japanese identity. Acknowledge debt to China (Confucianism, Buddhism, language, writing) but stress folk traditions, literary classics, Shintoism. Glorify the superiority Japanese society and culture.

### **What characteristics reflect the Tokugawa Era as a time of Change?**

- In what ways was Japan never really able to isolate itself? What areas had great influence on China? How?
- What was **“Dutch Learning”**? How did this contradict the notion of isolation?
  - The Dutch were the main avenue of outside information and news – a window to European learning. Japanese scholars learned Dutch to communicate. Translation of scientific, medical texts.
- What Economic and Demographic changes were happening during this time?
- What changes were occurring to the Japanese Social structure? What group most represented these changes?
- What were the **“Floating Worlds”**? How does this represent changing attitudes and culture?
  - Urban areas that reflected the interests of the new emerging middle class. Areas of escape and diversion from the social responsibilities and rigid rules of conduct in Japan. Entertainment, theatres, teahouses, baths, brothels. Money to spend.