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Good work

2) Samurai were indeed a class of their own. However, they were considered of high ranking and connections to a more powerful resource, the Japanese government or "lords of the land". The samurai were recruited to uphold or serve an even higher power, whether it came from the Emperor or the Daimyō. The samurai controlled their status by controlling the people of a lower rank, such as farmers or merchants. If the aristocrats or government saw any situation that did not fit their liking, the samurai were sent to fix the issues around what land was owned by farmers or lower class citizens. I believe this is a big influence on the society of the populace because of the power given to the samurai. The samurai would not haste to kill if ordered. All four classes of society were living in conditions where status meant everything. All of the classes of rank and status were either seen as power or seen as that of scum. Besides the fact of at least 250 of peace, anyone of these village residents, at the time, were too afraid to step up outside of their belief for a better life due to such conditions. It was either be satisfied with your rank or be killed by a higher ranking group. However, the educated samurai began to offer classes to read and write and was trading back and

forth with merchants for loans when famines and economically difficulties began to brew for even them. In turn, farmers began to write "how to" manuals in effective agriculture technique. In considering the peace and output on the land increasing, the Japanese population grew stridently. Eventually, the samurai were either connected with personnel that included such groups as artisans, bureaucrats, or traders or the class of the samurai died and these skilled men became the bureaucrats, having much influence on the disbursement of culture and social communities. This was a progressive movement of art and literature in addition to agriculture. Early 1700's, Samurai and merchants were placed in equal rolls. The earlier status of the samurai was to oversee the bureaucratic administration. The later status was to manage the economic affairs that were most important to the entire society.

I believe that the Samurai Legacy had shaped or greatly influenced the way Japanese culture is viewed by the way they portrayed in history. The image of samurai displayed an image of protection, loyalty and honor. Their positions in military or "the lone warrior" is an attribute rarely seen in any other culture. This specific warrior went to great lengths to protect their "lord" or "paid employer". The samurai have a great impact on Japan's culture because for a long period of time, Japan was ruled by the samurai. The samurai took pride in their existence and there were willing to die by their hand so that no "outsider" would take their life unless otherwise in battle. I feel Japan has cherished that concept. Japan and its citizens are humble and loyal to their customs.

Japan's culture has revolved around ideas led by experienced men in battle, but also brilliant individuals that have created an economy that has flourished due to trade and fantasies of a better future.

3) The "Modern Girl" is seen at the woman with idealistic goals and a prominent idea of individualism. Before the Meiji transition began to revolutionize, women were not thought of as much with independence or work-ethic in the outside world. Farming women or household women stayed in the countryside or took care of the members within the household. Until the 1930's, only then were women mainly occupying factories and such. Women were seen everywhere. They were "streamed" to areas that involved mostly entertainment roles of the working class. This includes place such as dance halls, bars, service to the sex trade and much more. As the process of modernization was underway, the "idea" of life in the city for woman was that of the "modern girl". The "modern girl" included financially independent, socially autonomous and politically active. A new world of independence and dominance was offered to a forming feminizing culture. Further along, the expanding cities, such as Tokyo and Osaka, was exporting a fantasy of a "modern life". This concept portrayed ideas of a innovative life promising new commodities, new social relationships, identities, and experience. This version of cultural living began to flood the mass media through television, magazines, advertisements, radio and movies. The lifestyle of the "modern girl" continue to infect the women's desire to stand out, to possess an identity

and even get more satisfaction out of life with options. However, with every great “product” comes great “sacrifices” or “change”. Women mostly inhabited the family needs of the household. The women were isolated and secluded. With the work force opening its doors to women to live the “modern life”, they were able to get an education, social connections, learn about life outside of what the home. Soon, western style commodities were in trade in Japan. The constant advertisements progressed the need to possess the newest and hippest product from either western influence or home base in the minds of women. This had the culture even more rapidly modernize. Constant trade, work ethnics and ideas continued to grow more and more in depth of what it meant to be “modern” . Traditional forms of the Japanese culture were slowly diminishing as the new forms of morality and social structure were taken its place. The modern life is the idea of keeping up with the ever changing world in equality of social status. It all comes down to status of the individual.