Lesson 8-3 Homework Questions, part 1

Answer the following questions.

1. After Prince Shotoku died, what happened to the emperor? What is a figurehead? Who became the real power in Japan? (Page 267)

2. Why did the government become weaker? (Page 267)


4. What did a small landowner have to do to win the aid of a more powerful lord? (Page 268)

5. What was a vassal? How did the lord-vassal system affect Japan? (Page 268)

What is feudalism? The great French historian Marc Bloch defined it this way: "A subject peasantry; widespread use of the service tenement (i.e. the fief or land) instead of a salary...; supremacy of a class of specialized warriors; ties of obedience and protection which bind man to man...; [and] fragmentation of authority - leading inevitably to disorder." In other words, there are peasants who are tied to the farm land and work for protection plus a portion of the harvest, rather than for money. Warriors dominate the society and are bound by codes of obedience and ethics. Finally, there is no strong central government; instead, lords of smaller units of land control the warriors and peasants, but these lords owe obedience to a distant and relatively weak duke, king or emperor.

6. Identify three groups and their role in the feudal system?

7. In what way are peasants like slaves?