

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____



myWorld Activity Support

Guidelines Analysis

Guidelines for Government

Directions In his Constitution of Seventeen Articles, Prince Shotoku offered guidelines to strengthen the central government at a time when warlords and clans held power. Read the articles below. As you read, underline the part that tells you why the guideline should be followed. Then explain what the guideline means. Finally, on a separate piece of paper, write three to five guiding principles that would make any government better.

1. Deal [fairly] with the legal complaints which are submitted to you. If the man who is to decide suits at law makes gain his motive, and hears cases with a view to receiving bribes, then the suits of the rich man will be like a stone flung into water, meeting no resistance, while the complaints of the poor will be like water thrown upon a stone. In these circumstances the poor man will not know where to go, nor will he behave as he should.

2. Ministers and officials should attend the Court early in the morning and retire late, for the whole day is hardly enough for the accomplishment of state business. If one is late in attending Court, emergencies cannot be met; if officials retire early, the work cannot be completed.

3. Know the difference between merit [good behavior] and demerit [bad behavior], and deal out to each its reward and punishment. In these days, reward does not always follow merit, or punishment follow crime. You high officials who have charge of public affairs, make it your business to give clear rewards and punishments.

