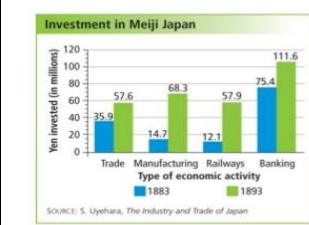


Aim #19: How Does Japan Resist European Imperialism & become imperialist?



The emperor Meiji wrote a poem to provide inspiration for Japan's efforts to become a modern country in the late 1800s:

"May our country,
Taking what is good,
and rejecting what is bad,
Be not inferior
To any other."



Mini Lecture

- Japanese industrialization occurred under very different circumstances than those of the Western world- as it had isolated itself from the outside world from the early 17th century.
- Japan did not end its isolation by choice. Western countries were eager to set up ports in Japan to refuel their ships & trade w/ the Japanese. They pressured Japan to open up diplomatically.
- While Japan resisted diplomatic efforts, it was fearful because of what happened to its larger neighbor China during the Opium Wars & its downfall because of its refusal to adopt Western culture & technology.
- So when the U.S. sent warships into Tokyo Bay in the 1850s to force Japan to accept foreign trade, they knew resistance would be a war they would lose.
- To protect their independence & traditional culture, some decided they had to adopt Western ideas, specifically ones that would strengthen their military.
- In 1868, the power of the Shogun came to an end and a young emperor, **Mutsuhito**, was placed in power. He adopted the title Meiji, "enlightened ruler" and will drastically renovate Japanese society, economics, and politics during the **Meiji Restoration** period (1868-1912).
- The emperor, committed to modernization, instituted reforms in line with the practices & ideals of Western powers- they will rapidly industrialize & Westernize by making the following changes:
 - Abolished feudalism & cruel punishment and equality before the law.
 - Remodeled the military based on the Prussian army, built a new navy, & instituted a conscription.
 - Created a new educational system modeled after Western systems. Opened up technical schools & universal education
 - Promoted industrialization & financed it w/ government funding creating new jobs in key industries of tea, silk, weaponry, shipbuilding.
 - Modernized a railroad network & roads across the country.
 - Instituted religious freedom.
- The education and economic reforms worked well- literacy rates went up and Japan became wealthier as industries flourished & private investments from overseas grew.
- Life in Japan changed dramatically with modernization. The development of better public health measures to dispose of sewage, provide clean water, & fight the spread of disease combined with advances in medicine increased life expectancy.
- Political reforms were less successful as military officers remained powerful.
- Meiji emperors wanted citizens who were educated and competent but also loyal & obedient.
- The once highly respected Samurai class came to end in this era of industrialization because there was relative peace and a new modernized & mechanized army. They could no longer legally carry their swords or fight.
- While the Samurai class lost their power, a new class of leaders emerged- a new elite. It consisted of wealthy industrial leaders, educated professionals, military & government leaders. Unlike earlier Japanese society, where prestige reflected one's birth, this new class's prestige reflected their accomplishments.
- Japan's push for modernization prompted it to also become imperialist. It increased nationalism as Japan wanted the respect of Europeans. Population growth and economic needs also contributed to Japan's desire to expand- needed more raw materials & new markets.
- Two wars promoted Japan's. The **Sino-Japanese War** of 1895 ended in Japanese victory, gaining control of Taiwan & a sphere of influence in China. The **Russo-Japanese War** of 1905 ended in Japanese victory, gaining Manchuria & Korea. Japanese victory over Russia shocked the world as it was the first victory by an Asian country over Europeans in modern times. Japan was accepted as an imperialist power.

China and Japan Confront the West

China

- Remains committed to traditional values
- Loses numerous territorial conflicts
- Grants other nations spheres of influence within China
- Finally accepts necessity for reform

Both

- Have well-established traditional values
- Initially resist change
- Oppose Western imperialism

Japan

- Considers modernization to be necessary
- Borrows and adapts Western ways
- Strengthens its economic and military power
- Becomes an empire builder

Reforms Under the Meiji

The Meiji reformers wanted to replace the rigid feudal order with a completely new political and social system and to build a modern industrial economy.

GOVERNMENT	ECONOMIC REFORMS	SOCIAL CHANGE
Adopted the German model of government Set forth the principle that all people were equal under the law Established a western-style bureaucracy Used western technology to strengthen the military Ended the special privilege of samurai under bushido	Encouraged Japan's business class to adopt western methods Built factories and sold them to wealthy business families, known as zaibatsu	Ended legal distinctions between classes Set up schools and a university Hired westerners to teach the new generation modern technology

Review Questions:

1. What changes did the reforms of the Meiji Restoration bring about in Japan?
2. How did industrialization help start Japan on an imperialist course?

Enduring Issue:

Industrialization and Imperialism.

Why did Japan industrialize during the Meiji Period? How did industrialization affect Japan?

Directions: Read the document and text below and answer the questions that follow.

The Tokugawa Shogunate was the government that ruled Japan from 1600 to 1868.

Tokugawa Laws of Japan in 1634

- Japanese ships shall not be sent abroad.
- No Japanese shall be sent abroad. Anyone breaking this law shall suffer the penalty of death...
- The arrival of foreign ships must be reported to Edo (Tokyo) and a watch kept over them.
- The samurai shall not buy goods on board foreign ships.

1. Based on the Tokugawa Laws of Japan in 1634 what was the Tokugawa Shogunate's point of view concerning people outside of Japan?
2. Explain the historical context for the issuing of the Tokugawa Laws of Japan in 1634.
3. What effects do you think the Tokugawa Shogunate's policies had on Japan?

Why did Japan end its isolation?



Landing of Commodore Perry, officers & men of the squadron, to meet the Imperial commissioners at Yoku-Hama July 14th 1853.

The Tokugawa Shogunate (1603-1867) isolated the island nation of Japan from the rest of the world for more than 200 years. During this period, the emperors ruled in name only. The real political power was in the hands of the shoguns all of whom were from the Tokugawa family. The Tokugawa maintained a feudal system in Japan that gave them, and wealthy landowners called daimyo, power and control. After negative experiences with Europeans in the 1600s, the shoguns were extremely resistant to trade because they viewed outsiders as a threat to their power.

Japan's isolation came to an end in 1853 when **Commodore Matthew Perry** of the United States Navy, commanding two steamships and two sailing vessels, sailed into Tokyo harbor. He forced Japan to end their isolation and open their ports to trade with U.S merchant ships. At the time, many industrialized nations in Europe and the United States were seeking to open new markets where they could sell their manufactured goods, as well as new countries to supply raw materials for industry. The Japanese, because of their years of isolation, had no navy with which to defend themselves, so they agreed to the demands of the United States. In 1854, the Treaty of Kanagawa was signed which permitted trade and opened Japanese ports to merchant ships.

Commodore Matthew Perry's actions showed that Japan's ruling Shogunate was weak and unable to defend the nation against a threat from the Western powers. Convinced that modernization depended on abolishing [getting rid of] the Shogunate and the feudal order, a group of middle-ranking samurai overthrew the military government of the Shogun in 1868 and set to modernize and industrialize the country. The period of industrialization in Japan starting with the fall of the Tokugawa Shogunate is known as the **Meiji Restoration (1868-1912)**.

1. Before 1867, what was the political structure of Japan like? Who had the power?
2. Why did the Tokugawa government distrust foreigners?
3. Why did Commodore Matthew Perry enter the Tokyo harbor with military ships?
4. What were the effects of Commodore Matthew Perry's demands?

The Meiji Restoration (1868-1912): Japan Industrializes and Modernizes

The arrival of warships from the United States and European nations, their advanced and formidable technology, and their ability to force the Japanese to agree to trade terms that were unfavorable for Japan sparked a period of rapid industrialization and modernization called the Meiji Restoration. This reaction was called the Meiji Restoration because *Meiji* (meaning "enlightened rule") was the name taken by the emperor, and during this period he was "restored" as the leader of the nation, but like in monarchs of England or France at the time, he had very little real power. Under the slogan of "National Wealth and Military Strength," the Meiji government adopted a number of ideas from European countries and the United States relating to government, and technologies to bolster industry, communication, and transportation that greatly impacted Japanese and global history.



Directions: As you examine the following documents related to the Meiji Restoration, fill in the graphic organizer below with evidence of the effects of industrialization on Japan during this period.

Social Effects	Political Effects	Economic Effects

Document Set 1

The Constitution of the Empire of Japan: The Meiji Constitution (1890-1947)

During the Meiji Restoration, Japan’s leaders sought to create a constitution that would define Japan as a capable, modern nation deserving of Western respect while preserving their own power. The resultant document was influenced by European style governments and included a bicameral parliament (the Diet) with an elected lower house and a prime minister and cabinet appointed by the emperor. The emperor was granted supreme control of the army and navy. A small council of powerful leaders who helped overthrow the Tokugawa Shogunate advised the emperor and had actual power. Voting restrictions, which limited the electorate to about 5 percent of the adult male population, were loosened over the next 25 years, resulting in universal male suffrage.

Excerpts from the Meiji Constitution (1889)

CHAPTER II. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF SUBJECTS

Article 20. Japanese subjects are amenable [open] to service in the Army or Navy, according to the provisions of law.

Article 23. No Japanese subject shall be arrested, detained, tried or punished, unless according to law.

Article 27. The right of property of every Japanese subject shall remain inviolate [untouchable].

Article 29. Japanese subjects shall, within the limits of law, enjoy the liberty of speech, writing, publication, public meetings and associations.

CHAPTER III. THE IMPERIAL DIET

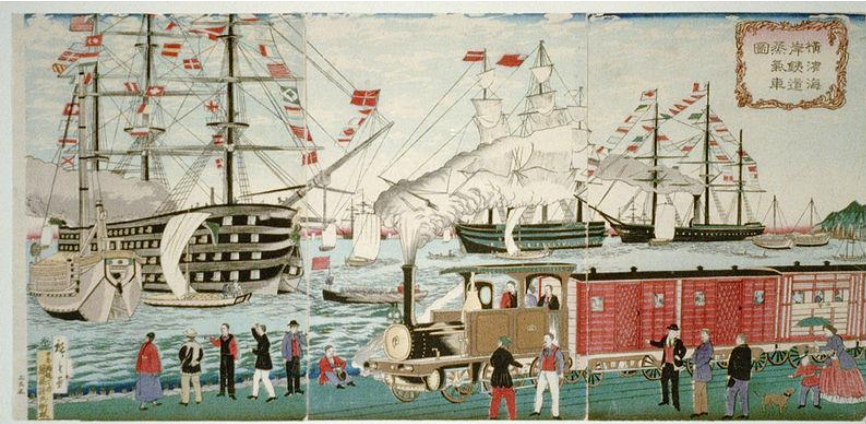
Article 33. The Imperial Diet shall consist of two Houses, a House of Peers and a House of Representatives.

Article 34. The House of Peers shall, in accordance with the ordinance concerning the House of Peers, be composed of the members of the Imperial Family, of the orders of nobility, and of those who have been nominated thereto by the Emperor.

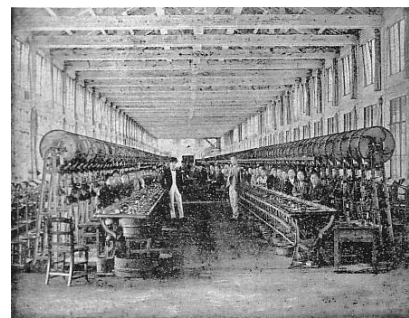
Article 35. The House of Representatives shall be composed of members elected by the people, according to the provisions of the law of Election.

Document Set 2

In addition to political changes, Japan changed economically and socially during the Meiji Restoration. The economy remained dependent on agriculture, but the government directed the development of strategic industries, transportation and communication. The first railroad was completed in 1872, and by 1890 there were more than 1,400 miles (2,250 kilometers) of railroad. All major cities were linked by telegraph by 1880. The government gave financial support to private companies and instituted a European-style banking system in 1882.



The picture of the steam locomotive railway at Yokohama seaside, drawn by Utagawa Hiroshige III, 1874.



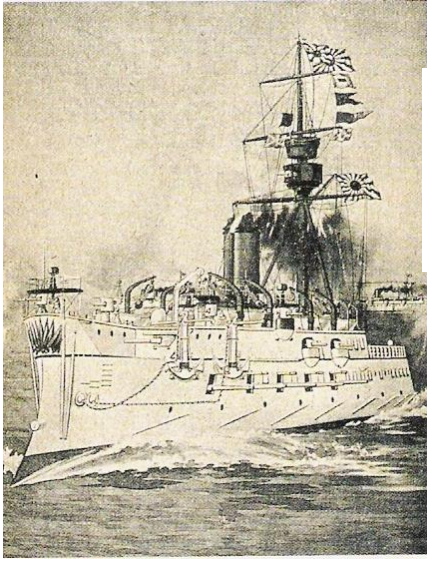
Photography of a Japanese silk factory in the early 1900s. The first factory of its kind was the Tomioka Silk Mill established in 1872 by the government to introduce modern machine silk reeling from France and spread its technology in Japan.



Photograph of the first automobile introduced to the Japanese in 1898 by the French.

Document Set 3

Their inability to defend themselves from Western nations inspired the Meiji Government to invest heavily in modernizing the country's military.



The Matsushima (pictured), a Japanese warship built in 1885, was an example of the new Japanese fleet. Japan's new navy was built by Japanese engineers and architects who were trained by French naval experts.



The Japanese asked several Western governments to help them modernize their military. The first country to do so was France. Above, is an image of a Japanese infantryman painted by one of the French men who trained the soldiers.

Document Set 4

Western science and technology were imported, and a program of "Civilization and Enlightenment" (bunmei kaika) promoted Western culture, clothing, architecture and intellectual trends. In the 1880s, a renewed appreciation of traditional Japanese values slowed this trend. An educational system was developed which, though it made use of Western theory and practice, stressed traditional samurai loyalty and social harmony. Art and literature turned from outright imitation of the West to a synthesis of Japanese and Western influences.



Woodblock print of Emperor Meiji and his family on a walk in a park, 1890.



Photograph of a family from 1939 demonstrating the mix of Western influence and traditional Japanese dress that started during the Meiji Restoration.