

Imperialism in Japan?

©LMS/10

Matthew Perry

- Starting in 1603, the Tokugawa Shogunate closed its doors to the outside world. Japan remained largely isolated for more than 200 years!

- In 1853, Commodore Matthew Perry of the United States sailed into Tokyo Harbor and demanded trade concessions from the Japanese.



- The Japanese decided that the best course of action was to agree to Western demands for trade, and then begin to modernize their nation as quickly as possible. The ***Treaty of Kanagawa*** (1853) granted the United States trading rights to 2 ports.

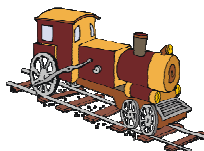
Modernizations

- The Japanese began to scour the globe for the best of Western ways, and then adapted those ways to their culture (*selective borrowing*). They also invited Western 'experts' to come to Japan and offer advice on how best to modernize.

- From the Germans, they borrowed their idea of a strong central government and a disciplined army. From the British, they adopted naval technology, and from the United States, they adopted a system of universal public education.

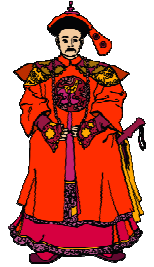
- Although Japan had been isolated with NO mechanized industry until 1868, the government actively promoted both traditional (silk & tea) and modern (steel) industries.

As a result, the Japanese built their first railroad line in 1872, and by 1914, they had more than 7,000 miles of railroad!



Meiji Restoration

- During the Tokugawa Era (1603-1868) the Shogun was the most powerful figure in the government. Although the position of Emperor was technically higher than the Shogun, the Emperor served a largely ceremonial role in the Japanese government.



- Many Japanese were angry with the Shogun for giving in to the Westerners, and they turned to the Emperor for leadership. The Shogun stepped down, and in 1868, the young emperor, Mutsuhito, took control. He called his rule ***Meiji***, meaning, "enlightened rule".

- The Meiji period of Japanese history (1868-1912) was one of the most dynamic in history, as the Emperor was determined to modernize Japan politically, economically and socially.

Results?

- Japan's rapid industrialization was even more impressive because Japan was NOT blessed with a lot of industrial raw materials like coal, iron ore or petroleum. They had to trade for almost everything!



- As a result of this, Japan would become an imperialist nation, just like the Westerners.

- Also, the Japanese were anxious to prove their equality with Westerners. They believed their fellow Asians were weak, and were anxious to be seen as modern and Western, and this led to military aggression, and subsequent wars with China, Russia and Korea.

Imperialism in Japan?

1. What was Japan's foreign policy in the Tokugawa Era?

2. How did things change in 1853?

3. What did the Treaty of Kanagawa do?

4. During the Tokugawa Era, what was the relationship between Shogun and Emperor?

5. How and why did things change in 1868?

6. What does Meiji mean?

What is the Meiji period characterized by?

7. Define: Selective borrowing -

8. List 3 ideas borrowed, and the nations borrowed from.

Idea	Nation

9. What role did the Japanese government play in industrialization?

10. How much progress had Japan made by 1872? By 1914?

11. Why was Japan's rapid industrialization especially impressive?

12. Explain why Japan became an imperialist nation. (2 reasons...)

Imperialism in Japan? Key

1. What was Japan's foreign policy in the Tokugawa Era?

The Tokugawa Shogunate closed its doors to the outside world. Japan remained largely isolated for more than 200 years !

2. How did things change in 1853?

In 1853, Commodore Matthew Perry of the United States sailed into Tokyo Harbor and demanded trade concessions from the Japanese.

3. What did the Treaty of Kanagawa do?

It granted the United States trading rights to 2 ports.

4. During the Tokugawa Era, what was the relationship between Shogun and Emperor?

The Shogun was the most powerful figure in the government. Although the position of Emperor was technically higher than the Shogun, the Emperor served a largely ceremonial role.

5. How and why did things change in 1868?

Many Japanese were angry with the Shogun for giving in to the Westerners, and they turned to the Emperor for leadership. The Shogun stepped down, and in 1868, the young emperor, Mutsuhito, took control.

6. What does Meiji mean?

Enlightened rule.

What is the Meiji period characterized by?

Modernization of Japan politically, economically and socially.

7. Define: Selective borrowing – choosing certain customs or practices to adapt

8. List 3 ideas borrowed, and the nations borrowed from.

Idea	Nation
Strong Central Government	Germany
Naval Technology	British
Educational System	United States

9. What role did the Japanese government play in industrialization?

The government actively promoted both traditional (silk & tea) and modern (steel) industries.

10. How much progress had Japan made by 1872? By 1914?

The Japanese built their first railroad line in 1872, and by 1914, they had more than 7,000 miles of railroad !

11. Why was Japan's rapid industrialization especially impressive?

Japan's rapid industrialization was even more impressive because Japan was NOT blessed with a lot of industrial raw materials like coal, iron ore or petroleum.

12. Explain why Japan became an imperialist nation. (2 reasons...)

1) To gain natural resources.

2) The Japanese were anxious to prove their equality with Westerners. They believed their fellow Asians were weak, and were anxious to be seen as modern and Western, and this led to military aggression, and subsequent wars with China, Russia and Korea.

Legal Disclaimers

Thank you for your purchase. If you found this work useful, please consider rating this work and purchasing other readings by the same author. Also, please consider recommending this author's work to your colleagues.

©2010 Lauri Secker: The Lady Lion. All rights reserved. Reproduction of this work in another form, in part or in whole, is prohibited. Purchase of this unit entitles the purchaser the right to reproduce the pages in limited quantities for classroom use only. Duplication for an entire school, an entire school system or commercial purposes is strictly forbidden without written permission from the publisher. Electronic distribution limited to classroom use only.

All images are property of Jupiterimages and are licensed for use in this work only. Any other use of these images without proper license is unauthorized and prohibited. For licensing information, see www.clipart.com