

15.6

The Modernization of Japan

As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- Identify the problems faced by Tokugawa Japan.
- Explain how the United States opened Japan to the outside world.
- Analyze the causes and effects of the Meiji Restoration.
- Describe how Japan began to build an empire.

Unrest in Tokugawa

1603 Tokugawa Ieyasu becomes Shogun & reimposes feudalism

1637 Japan closes Japan to foreigners & forbids travel, only travels with the Dutch

Strains on the country arose due to a stagnant economy focus on countries own domains

1800s, groups in Japan begin to become discontent with the old Samurai Feudalistic ways



Opening of Japan

1853- Commodore **Matthew Perry** from the United States sails into Tokyo bay demanding trade rights

Japan refuses & Perry opens fire leading to the Treaty of Kanagawa, U.S. trade opens in 3 ports

The rest of Europe begins to demand equal trade & Japan is humiliated with unequal trade

Emperor **Mutsuhito** is given power & makes **Tokyo** the capital



Meiji Restoration

**Emperor takes the term Meiji meaning
“enlightened rule”**

Meiji Restoration- Period from 1868-1912
where Japan sought to strengthen their
country from the West

**New leaders began to study Western ways &
materials from the Dutch to suit them to
Japanese needs**

**Japan began to bring experts in from Western
countries & sent young samurai to study
abroad**



Transformation

After studying other government styles, Japan adopts a model based on Germany

All citizens were equal, but the emperor had unlimited power

Diet- Legislature made up of one elected house & one house appointed by the Emperor

The military was modernized & the way of the samurai was forgotten, all men could be in military



Industrialization

The government developed factories & then sold them to wealthy business families to grow quickly

Zaibatsu- Powerful banking & industrial families in Japan

By the 1890s industry was booming & Japan had become an industrial powerhouse

Government set up universities & created social changes, but women had rights taken away & shared rights with minors



Building an Empire

Homogenous Society- A group of people that share a common culture & language

1890s Japan was able to force the West to revise treaties & build its own empire

First Sino-Japanese War- War with China for resources taking control over Taiwan

Russo-Japanese War- War with Russia in Manchuria, first defeat of a European country by an Asian power



Japan's Empire in Korea

Korea was overtaken by different nation until it was brought under control of Japan

While Japan greatly industrialized Korea, most of the profit & benefits went to Japan

The March First Movement challenged Japan's power over the course of 35 years

Japan would eventually set its sights on more power in the Pacific Ocean