

HOW DID JAPAN RESPOND TO WESTERN IMPERIALISM?

Document #1

In 1853, Commodore Perry of the US Navy led an expedition of four of America's most advanced warships to Japan. He carried with him a letter from the US President to the Japanese shogun, demanding that Japan open its ports to trade with America. Anchored near Tokyo harbor, Commodore Perry had his ships fire their cannons several times as the shogun looked on. Like China, Japan had isolated itself from contact with Western nations, and therefore it lacked modern weapons. As a result, the shogun decided to 1) _____ because
2) _____

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate phrases.

1. Fact or Opinion. Before 1853, Japan had little contact with Western nations. _____
2. Fact or Opinion. Commodore Perry was an immoral man. _____
3. Fact or Opinion. Japan's policy of isolation was stupid. _____

Document #2

Results of Commodore Perry's Trip: As Japan was 1) _____ up to trade with America, other
2) _____ also demanded trading rights with Japan. Many Japanese citizens were
3) _____ that their shogun had not stood up to the Western imperialists. Many powerful lords
decided to 4) _____ the shogun and install an emperor, chosen by them, to rule Japan. In 1868, the
5) _____ no longer ruled Japan.

Fill in the blanks 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
4. _____ 5. _____

Document #3

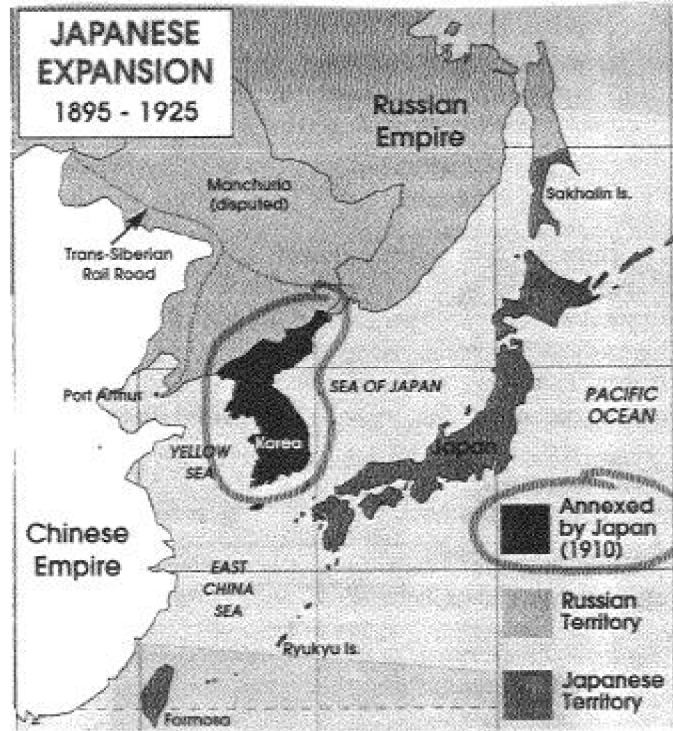
The Meiji Restoration: Having chosen a 15 year old boy to rule as emperor (Meiji), the Japanese lords realized that since Japan had fallen so far behind Western nations' technology, Japan must A) _____ as quickly as possible. But how? Japan sent students all over the world to learn about all the new technologies that Japan had missed out on. Soon they adopted methods of mass production in B) _____, built railroads, and created communication systems using the telegraph. Within fifty years, Japan had caught up with Western nations.

Fill in the blanks. A _____ B. _____

Document

#4

How **ironic** ! Remember, Japan's isolation had been ended by Western imperialists seeking trading rights in Japan. Now that the Meiji Restoration had modernized and advanced Japan; Japanese industrialists realized that they needed _____ to keep their factories running and _____ to turn into manufactured goods, such as clothing and steel. Where would they find them? Japan has few natural resources. Check out the map.



. What do you think "annexed" means? _____

Were the Japanese justified in "annexing" Korea? _____ Why? _____

The Modernization of Japan

In 1636, Japan had cut off all contact with the outside world. Over 200 years later, in 1853, **Commodore Matthew Perry** and his warships reached Tokyo. He demanded that Japan trade with the United States. The next year the shogun who ruled Japan reluctantly signed the Treaty of Kanagawa opening Japan's ports to foreign trade. Trade treaties were also signed with European nations.

If we try to drive them away, they will immediately begin hostilities, and then we shall have to fight. In time, the nation will incur vast expense, and the people [will be] plunged into misery. Rather than allow this, as we are not the equals of foreigners in the mechanical arts, let us have relations with foreign countries, learn their drills and tactics, and it will be not too late then to declare war.

View expressed by those Japanese leaders who favored signing the Treaty of Kanagawa

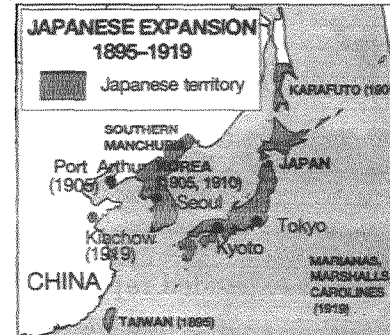
The shogun was overthrown by a group of senior samurai in 1868. The young emperor in whose name they seized power was called the Meiji (enlightened one). The samurai who were the real rulers of Japan were also known as Meiji. They enacted a series of reforms that turned Japan from a feudal aristocracy into a modern state. They persuaded great landowners to exchange their lands for high government office. By imposing universal military service, they reduced class differences and encouraged nationalism. Under the influence of Western culture, the Meiji adopted a constitution that empowered the emperor to appoint a prime minister and to disband Parliament. They also created a civil service based on talent.

To make Japan economically competitive with the West, the Meiji visited European factories and hired Westerners to teach industrial skills to the Japanese. They created a huge demand for industrial goods by building up the military, investing in heavy

industry and mining, and modernizing communications. Modernization was financed by the government, not by foreign capital. Japan did not want to become indebted to the West. A universal system of education and a high birth rate provided industry with a plentiful, cheap, and skilled labor force.

By 1890, Japan had become a world industrial power. Since its own natural resources were meager, it looked for overseas

sources of minerals and metals. Japan won control over Taiwan and Korea following a war with China. In 1902, it signed a naval alliance with Britain. In the Russo-Japanese War of 1905 it won Port Arthur and southern Manchuria from its humiliated opponent. In World War I, Japan fought on the allied side and was rewarded with some of Germany's Pacific colonies.



Why might those Japanese who favored the Treaty of Kanagawa support industrialization?