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Why did Japan end its isolation? Why did Japan industrialize during the Meiji Period?

Objectives: Students will examine the causes for industrialization in Japan.

Introduction

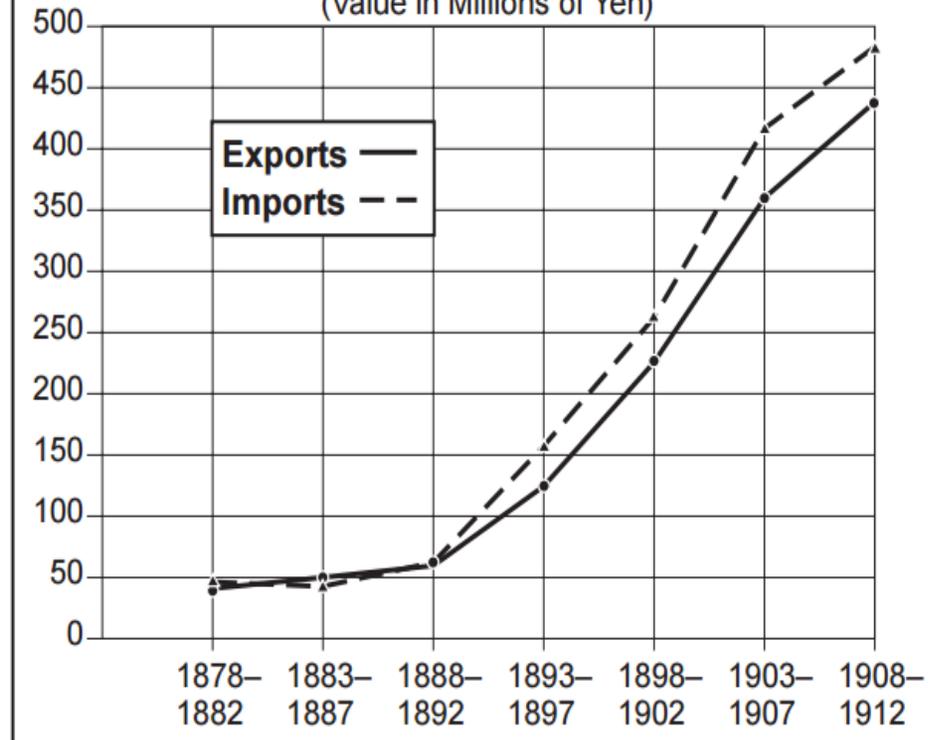
Directions: Examine the two documents below and answer the questions that follow.

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.
- Source: January 2002 Global History and Geography Regents Exam.

Exports and Imports During the Meiji Rule (1868–1912)

(Value in Millions of Yen)



Source: January 2002 Global History and Geography Regents Exam.

Japan Opens Up

Japan, under the rule of the Tokugawa clan (1603 to 1867), experienced more than 200 years of isolation. 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 his power.

Japan's isolation came to an end in 1853 when **Commodore Matthew Perry** of the United States Navy, commanding a squadron of two steam ships and two sailing vessels, sailed into Tokyo harbor. He sought to force 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, and thus they had to agree 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 defend the nation against a threat from the Western powers. Convinced that modernization depended on abolishing the Shogunate and the feudal order, a group of middle-ranking samurai overthrew the military government of the Shogun in 1868 and set Japan peaceably on a course of radical modernization perhaps unparalleled in history. Carried out in the name of restoring rule to the emperor, who then took the reign name "Meiji" meaning "enlightened rule," the **Meiji Restoration** was in many ways a profound revolution.



Landing of Commodore Perry, officers & men of the squadron, to meet the Imperial commissioners at Yoku-Hama July 14th 1853. Lithograph by Sarony & Co., 1855, after W. Heine.

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Commodore_Perry_exposition_LOC-USZ60-3319.jpg

Sources: Adapted from http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Edo_period#Economic_Development, http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/tps/1750_ip.htm#edo, http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/special/japan_1750_perry.htm

How did industrialization affect Japan?

Objectives: Investigate the social, political, and economic impacts of industrialization on Japan.

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



A sketched portrait of the Emperor Meiji, 1888.

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Meiji_1888.jpg

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, though 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)



Illustration of the public acceptance of the Meiji Constitution (1889)

Source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kenpohapu-chikanobu.jpg>

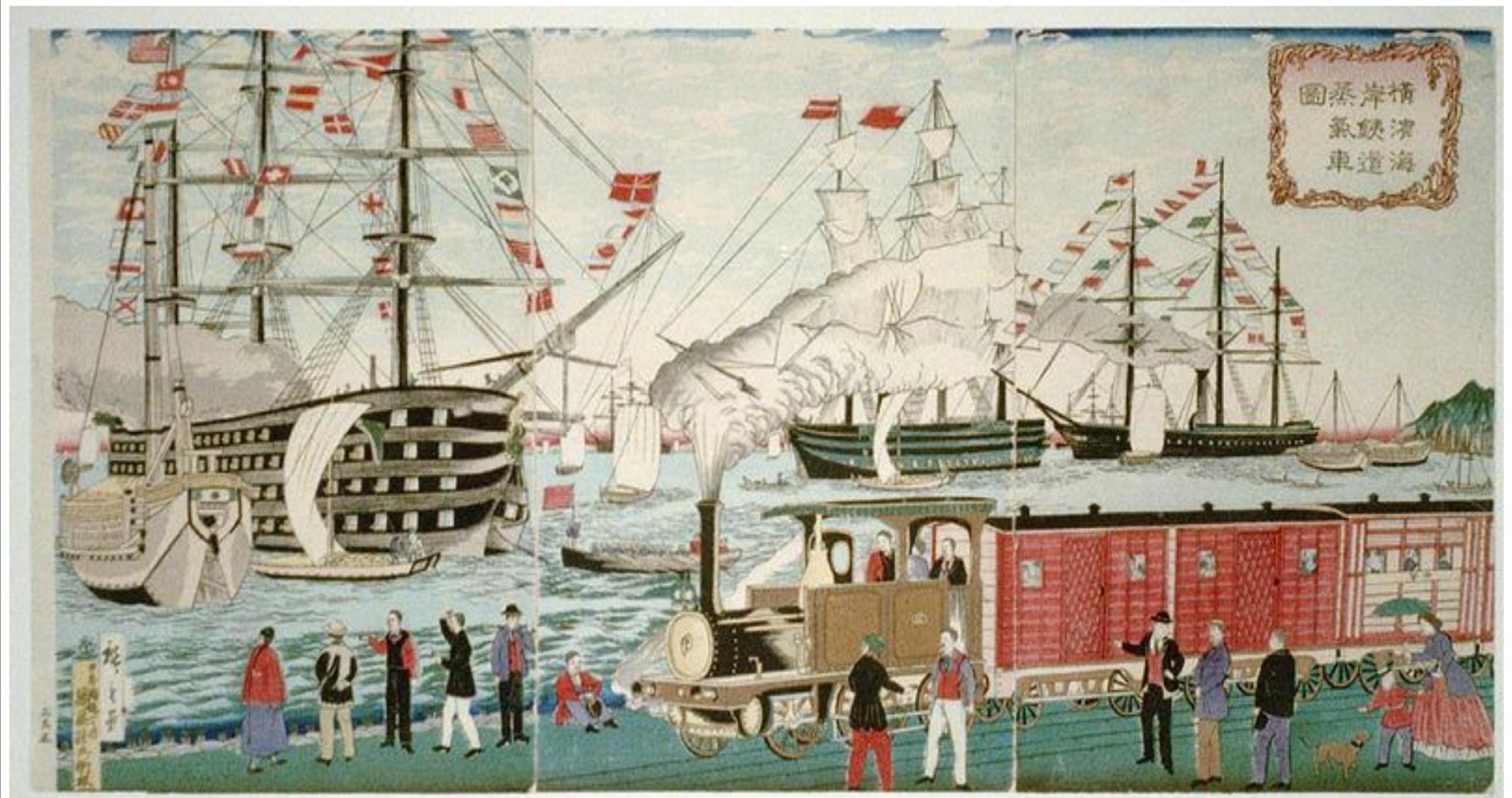
After the Meiji Restoration (1868), Japan's leaders sought to create a constitution that would define Japan as a capable, modern nation deserving of Western respect while preserving their own power. The resultant document was influenced by European style governments and included a bicameral parliament (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 privy council composed of the Meiji genro, created prior to the constitution, advised the emperor and wielded 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.

Source: Adapted from *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, s. v. "Meiji Constitution", accessed December 08, 2015, <http://www.britannica.com/topic/Meiji-Constitution>.

Document Set 2

The political transformations of the Meiji period were mirrored by economic and social changes. 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.

Source: Adapted from "Meiji Restoration." New World Encyclopedia. http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Meiji_Restoration



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

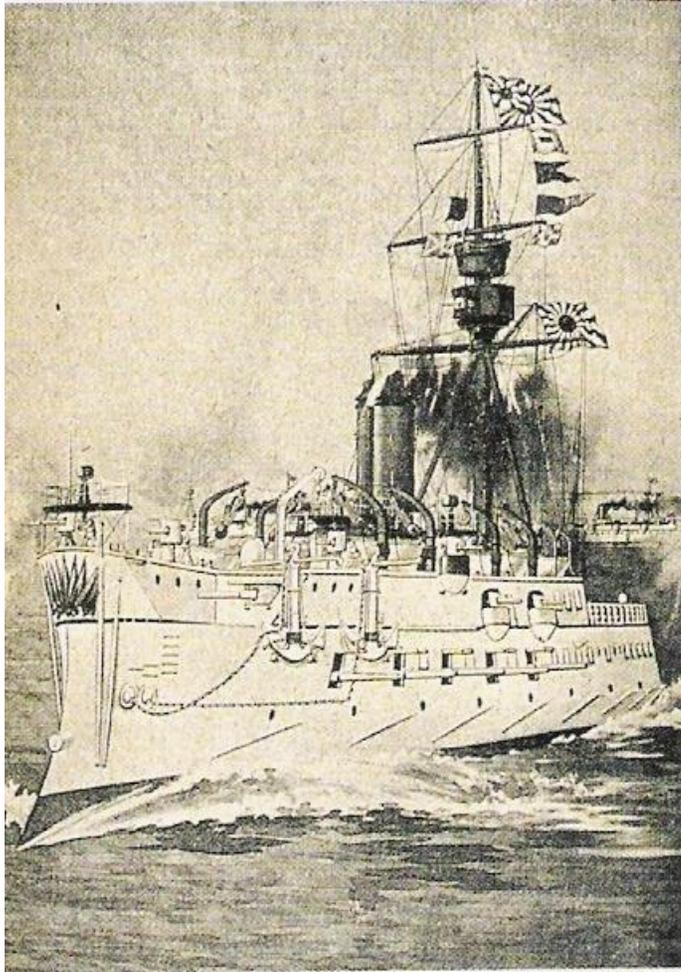
Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Yokohama_Railway_1874.jpg



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.

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 above), 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.

Source: Adapted from “Meiji Restoration.” New World Encyclopedia. http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Meiji_Restoration



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

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Y%C5%8Dsh%C5%AB_Chikanobu_Asukayama_Park.jpg



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

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1939_Family_photo_from_Nagano.jpg

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How did industrialization differ in Great Britain and Japan? How was it similar?

Objectives: Compare and contrast the Industrial Revolution in Great Britain and the Meiji Restoration.

Compare and Contrast Industrialization in Great Britain and Japan

Directions: Use your knowledge of industrialization in Great Britain and Japan to fill out the Venn Diagram below.

